

Prophecy: A View through the Lenses of Faith Pt 3

How to Apply Prophecy to my Life!

- We have all heard the saying “**that it is one thing to know something but a whole different thing to do it**” in other words knowing a thing is not enough, I must do the thing that I know in order for it to benefit me. So in the last couple of weeks we’ve learned **what Prophecy is**, and **why it is necessary**, (that’s the knowing) now we need to understand how to use what we’ve learned for God’s glory, and for our growth as a Christian and apply these things to our lives.
- First and foremost we need to always remember that the central focus of all Bible Prophecy is a **Person** and never the events or the after effects. You see it’s all about Jesus, He is the primary theme of scripture, the Bible is His story, so it begins and ends with Him > **Heb 10:5-7**- the writer of Hebrews in speaking of Jesus says when He came into this world He wasn’t after anything that we could do for Him, but it was all about what He can do for us, as God sent His only Begotten Son into the world to save those who would repent and surrender themselves to Him, and if you want to know all about it He has graciously left us His autobiography free of charge.
- **Rev 22:18-21**- Because we have His Word one would think we should never misunderstand what He has said or expects right? Scripture warns people not to add or take away from the Bible is telling us that people will do this exact thing, so it’s imperative for us to learn what the scriptures say so that we can protect ourselves and others from false teachers and false teachings that would lead us astray from God’s truth. You have all kinds and types of counterfeits out there masquerading as God’s Word and His truth, so how can we know which is authentic? Jesus tells us, the one that lifts Him up as God the One true Savior of the world.
- All the other books or teachings which claim to be writings from God somehow either include man as some co-redeemer or diminish Jesus as less than God but not really the One we have to answer to. Scripture on the other hand says it’s all about Jesus which is why salvation is defined by a person who gives their lives to Jesus > **Heb 12:2** says He is the **Author** and **Finisher** of our **faith**, it all starts with Jesus and t ends with Jesus, for what He began in us He will complete it > **Philip 1:6**- it’s all about the Lord, so anytime anything discredits Jesus you know it’s counterfeit.
- Remember we learned that biblical prophecy is not just someone speaking about future events yet to come, but also someone giving a clearer understanding and interpretation of already given truth spoken in scripture, which explains what Peter was saying in > **2 Pet 1:19-21**- which says proclaim the written Word of God in the Wisdom and Power of the Holy Spirit, with clarity, so that it gives light in dark places, Prophecy is linked with light that gives light in dark places.

- If we want to **light up the darkness**, it comes from **studying** and **learning God's Word**, so that we can **know His will**, and **discern** whether or not it is His voice that is speaking to us or something else > **2 Tim 3:16-17**- it is the scriptures that inspire, correct, and instruct, which matures us, by equipping us, for every good work God has for us to do. An Example: Peter
- **Acts 3:1-10**- Peter and John are found together a lot, they ran a fishing business together > **Lk 5:10**, they prepared the last Passover together **Lk 22:8**, they ran to the Tomb on Easter Sunday **Jn 20:3-4**, here they are on their way to the temple before being used by God to start a revival.
- Here's a man born unable to walk and therefore he cannot provide for himself leaving him poor and destitute, so he is asking others for their help just so he can survive in this hopeless condition. Folks this is what salvation looks like, we also are born lame unable to spiritually care for ourselves, and so we are also destitute and bankrupt spiritually as well. We at times tried to place ourselves in the right position asking for help, but more times than not we didn't get it, until one day God sent someone who actually knew the truth and was willing to share it with us.
- He's an outsider separated from everyone because of his condition, but the God of reconciliation sees him and wants to bring him into His family and so He sends Peter and John his way and he is healed. Once he is he begins to use things he'd never used before his legs and feet to glorify and praise God and it caused others to do the same. **V11-12** the man is clinging to Peter and John and when a crowd gathered Peter began to speak, **V13-21**- he is prophesying by speaking light into darkness and telling them all about Jesus and His wonderful love-forgiveness.
- I love how Peter is telling them not only what to do but also how to do it, we need to take note of this as this is how prophesy is suppose to bless both the user and the hearer. **Acts 4:1-4** it's not without opposition but it's worth it as we see also the blessing **V4**, those who heard the truth acted on the truth. **V8-14** it's one thing to know something but a whole different thing to do it, look at the blessing of application, Peter is filled with the Spirit to address his accusers as it astonished them, for they realized this was only possible because Peter had been with Jesus.
- **V15-22 Persecution**, is going to come when you begin to learn and apply God's Word to your life, the question is are you going to allow it to stop you or are you going to continue to trust God with the outcome? **V19-20** Peter and John let their accusers know that no matter what they do to them they are going to continue to listen and obey the Lord. **V23-30 Prayer**, they get with those of like mind and instead of having a gripe session they lay it all before the Lord, crying out to Him , sharing their petitions, giving the problem to the problem solver, and look at the results
- **V31-37 Power**, God filled them with the Holy Spirit, and the people came together in unity and support, and the ministry of Prophecy continued as they spoke the written Word to all who would hear and God's great Grace was upon them all as the generosity overflowed as people saw the needs grow they began to empty themselves to fill it and in turn God filled them.