

Holy Spirit, Part 9 – Building People
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June 2, 2019

Introduction

Apostle Paul loved unsaved people, he loved to preach the gospel to the gentiles and he loved to see people who rejected Christ receive Christ. He had the same passion and desire for finding people who already have accepted Jesus, and making sure they also have the Holy Spirit.

Acts 19:1-6 [NIV]

¹ While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples ² and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” ³ So Paul asked, “Then what baptism did you receive?” “John’s baptism,” they replied. ⁴ Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” ⁵ On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

The premise of Acts 19, there was a culture in the early church that people were always talking about the Holy Spirit. They made him a very important part of the Christian life. The Holy Spirit wasn't put on the back burner. He wasn't put on the shelf. He was at the forefront of the early church, and should be at the forefront of our lives as well.

Prophesying

Biblically defined '*Prophesy*' – the speaking forth of the mind and counsel of God.

In the *Old Testament* the prophets spoke on Gods behalf.

In the *New Testament*, every child of God, can get a word from God and also give a word from God as the Holy Spirit leads.

Prophetic words have two main functions: Fortelling and Forth-telling.

Fortelling – is the prediction of future events.

There is between 1500-2500 prophecies in the Bible.

The entire book of revelations talks about things that are to come.

Examples of prophecies that Jesus has already fulfilled that was written hundreds of years before he was even alive:

- He would be born in Bethlehem – Micah 5:2
- He would be born of a Virgin – Isaiah 7:14
- He would be rejected by his own people – Isaiah 53:1-3
- He would be betrayed by one of his followers – Psalms 41:9
- He would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver – Zechariah 11:12

Fulfilled prophecies are one of the greatest signs that Jesus is the real deal.

Forth-telling – is the power of the Holy Spirit to call things that be not as though they are until they are.

The best example of this is in Ezekiel 37, God takes Ezekiel and tells him to prophesy over the valley of dry bones. The example lets us know that God gives us the power in our words to create life.

This principle can be seen in the beginning in Genesis 1, darkness was upon the face of the deep. God didn't say man its dark out here, no he said light come forth.

A few Keys to Victory:

- Don't talk about what we see - Talk about what we want to see.
- Don't look at the darkness and say man its dark - Speak life into the darkness.
- Don't look at the dry bones and say man look at this mess – Prophecy over the bones until life comes back into them.

The revelation is that we have been made in the image and likeness of God and we have power in our words. Might not happen overnight. But all heaven begins to move our direction when we begin to speak Gods word.

Lesson in Prophecies

1. The Holy Spirit is the originator of all prophetic words

2 Peter 1:21 [NKJV]

²¹ for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

2. There is a difference between prophecy in the *Old Testament* and prophecy in the *New Testament*

Prophecy in the *Old Testament* could have some doom and gloom with it. Nathan prophesied the death of David's son because of his sin with Bathsheba [2 Samuels 12]

1 Corinthians 14:3

³ But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.

In the *New Testament* prophecy comes to:

- Edify – build up
- Exhort – encourage
- Comfort – console

We are not obligate to receive anything from anyone that does not come to edify, exhort and comfort.

Corrections and warnings should mostly come from the inside more than the outside. If they come from the outside they should come from mentor, pastor or trusted advisor or spouse.

3. Prophecy's main objective is to Build the Church

1 Corinthians 14:1-5 [NKJV]

¹ Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. ² For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. ³ But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. ⁴ He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. ⁵ I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.

- Edification – built up
- Building People
- Building the Church – Speaking to people's destinies; Divine encouragement; and Life giving atmospheres with life giving words – *Building People*.

Practical for today's time:

- Believing in people, seeing things in them that they don't see in themselves, and speaking to people destinies and people potential.
- We should speak life over our families and those who are around us.
- We should share when the Lord shows us, that it's going to be all right.
- That fight that they are in right now is fixed, and the Lord will bring them out on the other side better and stronger.
- People might leave you, but God never will. We might feel forsaken or abandoned, but we are not, we should lift up our eyes. There is more working for us than against us.
- Some might have left us but God has not, and as long as God before us who can be against us.

God gives us beauty for ashes. He is taking our embarrassments and giving us boldness to share our story. Through this we will find that we are not alone, and there is a safe place for others who have experienced the same.

The best people we can be around are those who believe in us, those who lift us up, and those who see something in us that we don't see in ourselves. If we always lead off with life giving words we will build his church because it builds people.

Ephesians 4:29 [NIV]

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Discussion Questions

1. An example of prophecies that Jesus has already fulfilled? [one would be how He would be betrayed by one of his followers – Psalms 41:9]
2. What does the book of Revelations speak of? [things to come.]
3. Biblically speaking, what does it mean to Prophecy? [speaking forth of the mind and counsel of God]
4. In the Old Testament who spoke on Gods behalf? [the prophets]