

Responding To Your Prophecy

Jeremiah 29:11-14a (NKJV) For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find *Me*, when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from your captivity;

...

- Several other translations say “plans”.
- The Israelites had just gone into the Babylonian captivity for their idolatry and other sins. God had just told them that they would be there for 70 years.
- The point of this is that God’s thoughts toward them – even in their present circumstance - are shalom. More on this in a little bit
- God is looking at their future, not their past. Do we let our past interfere with our future?

Some of us can’t get into our future because we’re stuck on our past

Philippians 3:12-14 (NKJV) Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

- Many have spent YEARS developing their unbelief in what Jesus did or will do for them.
- our sin is behind us
 - Crucified (Gal 2:20), buried (Rom 6), risen (Col 3:1) and seated (Eph 2:6) with Christ
 - He blotted it out (Acts 3:19), cast it into the sea (Mic 7:19), removed east-west (Ps 103:12), washed it away with the blood (1 John 1:7), with his own blood (Heb 9:12).
 - We are uncondemned (Rom 8:1-2) and unaccused by God (Rev 12:7-11)
 - Any time we do sin, we confess it to cleanse OUR hearts – 1 John 1
- **The finished work of Christ is complete. It took care of everything related to our redemption. Our good works cannot add to it, and our sins cannot subtract from it.**

Get over your past, your sin, your mistakes, your bad judgment! Paul for ex.

How God sees us now

- Identified with Christ, not with Adam – Rom 5
- As a child he loves equally with Jesus – John 17:23
- As a joint-heir to all that Jesus has now – Rom 8:16-17
- Redeemed from the curse – Gal 3:13 – cf Genesis 3, Deut 28
- The body of Christ, individually and corporately, sent and empowered to represent Him in the earth – John 20:21, 1 John 4:17

(stand up, stretch, etc)

God is looking at our future, and it’s a good one!

Shalom (Jer 29:11) is Hebrew for peace. Strong's concordance (H7965) says it means not only peace, but prosperity, good health, safety, and rest. The NIV and NLT also translate it success (1 Chr 12:18), and good (NLT, Jer 29:11). Billye Brim stated that a Hebrew textbook used in Israel translates it "nothing missing, nothing broken".

What ways does God speak to our future?

- The Bible, both in general terms, and in verses that somehow "speak" to us individually. Ps 35:27 for example
- Every adverse situation against us is one that God can turn around – tomorrow.
- The gifts, talents, and callings He places in our lives.
- The prophetic words we've received.

I've got a prophetic word that speaks to my future, now what?

- We've all been told what to do when we receive a prophetic word
 - Write it out – Graham Cooke recommends two writings, one verbatim and another with bullet points for the phrases.
 - Note correspondence with/confirmation of other prophecies you've received – bullet points help here. My call to pastor.
 - Discuss it with your spiritual leadership
 - Don't interpret it according to the desires your flesh
 - Obey if there is instruction in it
 - Look for confirmation if it requires significant response (ie relocation)
 - Recognize that there is often a time period between the word and its fulfillment
 - Meditate on it
 - Recognize that it's partial, progressive, and conditional, etc.

A prophetic word often requires a response. This is "warring with your prophecy".

1 Timothy 1:18-19 (NKJV) This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck,

- We cannot fulfill our own prophecies.
- I can't do God's part, and God won't do mine! Personal prophecies don't "just happen". Passport example. Finances example.

What do I have to do in order to be ready for God to do his part?

What type of man or woman must I become in order to see this word fulfilled? God measures by growth, not by time - Graham Cooke

What character do you have to develop? What negative character traits need to be changed in order to fulfill it? Jacob had to get past being "the deceiver". Gossip is another one. Another is exaggeration. **Your character has to be as deep as the height to which God wants to take you. 40 story buildings need deeper foundations than two story houses.**

You may face adversity between now and the fulfillment. Joseph. John Wimber healing example. We'll talk about that tomorrow. God can win with a pair of two's – Bill Johnson.

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Are you procrastinating or squandering your time, your thoughts, etc? When you turn away from the battle you're assigned to, you face the battle you're not equipped for - Bill Johnson – David and Bathsheba, for example (2 Samuel 11)

Your prophecy may affect your attitude or mindsets. What attitudes do you have to develop? If your attitude says "I can't" or "I don't want to", you have to change it. Why did God change Abraham's name? Me pastor. Spouse vs attitudes on sex and dating.

If you keep an attitude that things won't change, you are saying "God isn't big enough to do what He said he wants to." Too often we underestimate – not give enough esteem, place too low a value on ourselves.

Don't look at your own resources! Whatever God has called you to do, He will provide the resources. Our job is to learn how to draw on those resources. Car paid cash, for example.

Do your habits – eating, clothing, hygiene, sleep, housekeeping – need to change?

Your prophecy may call for you to take specific actions

- Brazil mission field example – passport, language, geography, demographic, etc.
- Call to ministry – discussed it with your pastor, recognize what your call is, what are your options for training, how does it affect your spouse or dating
- Abraham had to have sex with Sarah!

Your prophecy may require you to develop particular skills - Joseph had to learn how to run a household, then a business (prison), then a country.

Are you faithful in little? Matt 25:14-30

If you lack boldness, pray for it - **Acts 4:24, 29-31 (NKJV)**

So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, You *are* God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them ... Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus." And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

What scriptures support my prophecy? For example, if you have a fivefold ministry call, then study what responsibilities are on that type of minister, study biblical examples, etc. If you're called to a healing ministry, then what do you know about biblical healing? If you're called to business or finance, what do you know about finance and prosperity and godly dealing with others and wisdom?

Regularly review your prophecies, particularly recurring points.

Meditate on them. See yourself in them. Jacob didn't put the peeled sticks out for the sheep's benefit, and they weren't like some voodoo thing. They were a visualization and reminder of God's promise to prosper him. Rodney Howard-Browne and Todd Bentley.

Application and prophetic ministry time.

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