

REVEALING HEARTS

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July 27, 2012

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I am going to continue on this week writing about the Word of the Lord, the Bible. What an awesome book it is! So full of wisdom for us to help develop wisdom and serve the King of Kings if we will partake of this Bread of Life each day.

The Lord wakes me up quite a bit between 3 and 4 A.M. to speak to me or have me pray; sometimes He just puts something on my heart or else He places people there that He wants me to pray for. Often He gives revelation and this morning I feel impressed to share one of the greatest revelations I've received about the Word. Now it's not *the* greatest revelation but it's one of them. We speak about the Eye of the Eagle often because the Spirit gave us that term about 15 years ago in Montana and most of you know that the eagle is not only a symbol of the prophet's office but also another prophetic symbol for the Lord Jesus. Of course when He walked the earth Jesus often ministered in the Office of Prophet. In fact, of all the Five-fold offices Jesus ministered from—and He was anointed for all five—He

mostly ministered under the Five-fold anointings of Prophet and Teacher. And as I tell Christians all the time, it's important for you to learn to discern the anointing on people not only in your church services but also in the Scriptures. When you read the Gospels and the rest of the New Testament, for example, try to discern what specific Five-fold anointing or Gift of the Spirit is functioning through a person.

My pastor, John Osteen, used to say all the time: "How many of you would like to know the greatest thing that I've ever learned about Jesus?" And of course we'd all heard this a zillion times (even though I'm an engineer I still don't know how many zeroes are in a zillion) everybody would always scream out that they did want to hear it, except for Dodie Osteen, his wife, who would often turn off the lights in the church at this point probably because she'd heard this a zillion and one times. Well, Brother John always said the same thing: "The greatest thing I've ever learned about Jesus is that He's smarter than I am."

Now I never asked Brother John when we were alone if this was really the greatest thing that he'd ever learned about Jesus because I suspect that it was not. Brother Osteen was a great teacher of the Word and he got a lot of revelation from the Lord but I do share in our personal

testimonies on this website the greatest thing I've ever learned from the Lord and it concerns the way He often revealed Himself in the Old Testament, e.g., to Moses.

The greatest thing I've ever learned about the Lord Jesus is concerning this Name—I AM—or the Hebrew can also be translated, “I AM that I AM.” Jesus is I AM or He is who *we believe Him to be* and He will “BE” who we believe Him to BE. That's why faith is so important and why you must develop your faith—through the Word because “faith comes by hearing the Word”—for example, in the area of healing if you expect and believe Jesus to be your Healer. Now Jesus is my personal physician—He's the only doctor I ever go to and I've never been inside of a hospital except to pray for other people since I received the Baptism of Power in 1978 and began to understand that divine healing had not passed away as we'd been taught in the Baptist church.

So Jesus is I AM in the area of physical healing and perfect health for me and many other Christians; however, many Christians die early before their time because although they know Jesus as their Savior—He's their I AM in the area of salvation—unfortunately, they don't know Jesus the Healer. I've learned, particularly since 1997 when the Lord shut us up in Montana and began to reveal the false church system that Satan has erected, that *all* of the false gospels being

preached in or out of churches don't know or acknowledge the I AM of the Scriptures. Paul confronted this problem during his ministry in the 40s and 50s A.D. and we catch glimpses of it through his writings, particularly in Galatians which as I've written and preached before completely annihilates any idea that the Church is under the Law.

But the false gospel as we see from Galatians always portrays "another Jesus" and "another spirit" who is not the Holy Spirit. This "other" Jesus is never the Jesus revealed from the Word but is a Jesus incapable of performing works of power, etc., that the Word portrays for the real Jesus.

Now in this teaching article I want to discuss another aspect of the I AM that was and is a great revelation to me from the Holy Spirit because it is still applicable today and if you have the Eye of the Eagle you will see it in operation in your own life from time to time. So open your Bible to the Book of Luke, chapter 2. There is a man mentioned here in the Scriptures named Simeon (v. 25) and the Bible says that he "was righteous and devout." Now it doesn't say that he was a prophet but it's quite clear that he was prophesying over the Lord Jesus in vv. 34-35 (you should understand that there are three levels of the prophetic) so whether or not he was a prophet is irrelevant because he was definitely operating in the Gift of Prophecy. And as I wrote earlier we

should look for the anointing of the Spirit upon people when we are reading the Word each day because it will help us understand the anointing better and learn to associate why the Holy Spirit does what He does.

Also, it's obvious from the text that Simeon had received a promise from the Lord (*cf.* v. 29) that before he died he would physically see the Messiah promised by the prophets of old but in this teaching I want to focus on what Simeon prophesied because I've found it to be significant, not only because we see his words come to pass in the life of the Lord Jesus but also because this prophecy pertains to you and I as Christians today.

“This child is destined to cause the falling and Rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that Will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of Many hearts will be revealed.” Ω Luke 2:34-35

Now notice that two very important statements are made in this prophecy concerning the life of the Lord Jesus and, of course, we must *not*—and this should teach you something about the Gift of Prophecy—just confine this prophecy to His life here on the earth: (1) that He would cause “many in Israel” to rise and fall, and (2) that He would “be a sign” and not only would He be a sign but He would “be spoken against.” And why does the Scripture say this would occur? So that “many hearts will be revealed.”

Now we must understand that God is most interested in the condition of a person's heart and their character—and as Evie preaches all the time our character, specifically how much and to what extent we manifest the Fruit of the Spirit, reveals how much like Jesus we truly are.

When you understand the prophetic it's a very interesting exercise to follow the history of a person's life in the Scriptures; however, as the Lord Jesus showed me one time when He appeared to me holding a golden scroll of parchment in His hand, sometimes you have to spend a great deal of time in the Scriptures to figure these things out. There are many examples of this I could give but basically we often find information concerning individuals, e.g., Abraham and Elijah, in the New Testament that is not even mentioned in the Old Testament.

Stephen stated many facts about Abraham in Acts 7 that are never mentioned in Genesis and, in the Scripture I mentioned last week, James 5 we learn exactly how it was that Elijah was able to appear out of nowhere before a wicked, apostate King Ahab in 1 Kings 17 and make the statement: "... there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word" because this information in James is not mentioned in the Old Testament concerning Elijah.

In the Gospels we certainly see Simeon's prophecy about Jesus come to pass yet it still occurs today because His life, teachings and indeed the whole Bible—the Word—reveals the hearts of people.

Back in 2004 the Lord gave me a message I ministered at our church in Montana titled "The Message and the Sign;" sometimes I refer to it as "The Prophet and the Sign" because the message deals with a fact we often find in the Scriptures concerning the lives of God's prophets in the Old Testament, and obviously Jesus of the New Testament. Not always but often the lives of the prophets are "signs" of something God is either doing or going to do and sometimes, like in the case of Ezekiel, when the Lord is pleading with His covenant people through a prophet to repent so that He can postpone judgment. God uses prophetic metaphors and acts in order to convey His ideas to His people of what is coming if they don't heed the word of the Lord.

So Jesus' life was "a sign" and when we understand this important prophecy from Simeon then we should be on the lookout for times when Jesus' actions and words were "a sign" and, in fact, some of these are spoken of as a matter of fact. For example, Jesus spoke about the religious leaders "asking for a sign" and He replied that the only sign given to them was the sign of Jonah speaking of His

resurrection three days after He was laid in the tomb. But to those with the Eye of the Eagle there are many, many more times in the Gospels where Jesus not only fulfilled Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah but He also was “a sign.”

He raised Lazarus from the dead as a sign to prove His words: “I am the resurrection and the life” (there’s that I AM again). Jesus multiplied the physical bread on several occasions to prove His words: “I am the Bread of Life—the true Manna that came down from Heaven.” Now this particular “sign” Jesus also alluded to on at least one occasion when He was being confronted by the religious spirits of His day in the Pharisees.

In John 6 we have an account of this occasion when Jesus fed 5,000; He was trying to teach them several things from this miracle but they were resisting the Holy Spirit like many in the Church do today. The Spirit of the Lord is strongly upon me now and the Lord Jesus wants you to spend some time reading and meditating in John 6 because, like Romans 8, it’s one of the great chapters in all of the Bible, especially for helping you develop The Eye of the Eagle because there are so many principles of God outlined here. So even though this may be long, permit me to do some expository teaching from this chapter.

- 1. The people were following Jesus “because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick.” (v. 2) Now as I shared in the message “The Message (Prophet) and the Sign,” a principle of God from the Scriptures that is crystal clear is that He gives the *sign* by the Prophet to establish that person as a genuine prophet of the Lord but His purpose in doing this is so that the people will listen to the words of the prophet and know that they are indeed from God. Unfortunately, throughout most of the Bible and it’s still true today, people love the physical sign that they can see—being healed or fed—but they reject the Word of the Lord to them. Now, what does this do? It reveals their heart, doesn’t it? And if they are wise they will “pray into” the situation and understand spiritually what is going on—they will strive to develop The Eye of the Eagle.**
- 2. The Passover was at hand (v.4) and we all know the significance of that for us today but for them this event, especially the significance of the Blood and the unleavened (speaking of the sinless nature of the Lord Jesus) Bread is about to be revealed through a sign!**
- 3. In vv. 5-7 the Apostle Philip receives a test which he fails miserably, not having the Eye of the Eagle yet, concerning the upcoming sign.**
- 4. The Bible says in v. 12 that all the people “ate their fill”; in other words there was plenty of fish and bread to go around and in vv. 12-13 Jesus had His disciples gather up what was left, why? Jesus told them “so that nothing**

may be lost.” The leftover provision represents the fact that Jesus is *always*—in every situation of your life—more than enough! Even if there had been a million people there the same result would have occurred—there will always be leftover provision. This physical provision was also a sign of spiritual provision—the Gospel of the Kingdom that Jesus and the Apostles were preaching—and hence it should never be wasted; therefore, Jesus told them to gather up the provisions that were leftover.

5. The numbers 5 and 12 are significant in v.13 because 5 is the number of grace—the people didn’t *do* anything to merit being fed but Jesus saw their need and His grace provided for them. The number 12 of course represents God’s government and the fact that He established the Church through His teaching via “the Apostles’ doctrine” (Acts 2:42). As I’ve preached and taught for years, of the four things mentioned in Acts 2:42, all false religions—including the false church Satan has raised up—practice 3 out of 4 of these. The one that they omit is “the doctrine of the apostles.” So we have a picture of God’s grace and the Gospel of the Kingdom being established on the earth by God’s government in the Church that He established. One of the reasons that most churches flounder today is that they are not operating according to God’s established government.
6. Now v. 14 shows that they plainly saw that Jesus was the Messiah and this no doubt led to the confrontation

between Jesus and the religious spirits that occurred the next day in Capernaum.

- 7. We begin to see another principle of God I've preached and written often about. Jesus was the Word and because He was (is) the Word He is also Truth (cf. John 14:6) and the Truth must always confront error! Most of what Jesus said to the religious leaders of His time—the Pharisees, Sadducees, and Lawyers—He said because He was confronting an error in their thinking and misunderstanding of God and the Scriptures, e.g., the Sabbath. If they had had the Eye of the Eagle by the Holy Spirit instead of their religious spirit from the Dark Kingdom they would have said: “You know, this Sabbath thing keeps coming up every time we run into Jesus. Maybe I should pray about that; maybe I'm in error.”**
- 8. They had already seen and heard about many signs that Jesus did but they did not understand because the physical signs were at conflict with what Jesus was teaching and they didn't understand another principle of God that I've learned through many years of ministry—God often sends a physical sign that contradicts the spiritual sign! He does this to encourage us to develop the Eye of the Eagle because if you don't you will always believe the physical sign. Remember, Nicodemus was a Pharisee and “a ruler of the Jews” (John 3:2) meaning he was one of the religious leaders (a member of the Sanhedrin) of Jesus' day. He made the statement: “Rabbi, *we* (italics added for emphasis)**

know that you are a Teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that you do, except God be with Him.” Then why didn’t they believe Him? Again, another example of believing the physical sign but rejecting the Word of the Lord that the Prophet Jesus was bringing. Instead, they kept asking Him for more signs. In other words, can’t you just give me a sign that doesn’t conflict with my goofy interpretation of Scripture?

- 9. But instead Jesus amplifies the meaning of the sign—the feeding of the 5,000—that He had performed the day before and many of them had seen in response to their words: “What sign do you then show, that we may see, and believe you? What work do you perform?” (6:30)**
- 10. Jesus tries to make them understand that He is the true Manna that came down from Heaven which the Father provided. Yes, Moses gave their fathers manna—physical manna—but they all died! Yet those who partake of the Heavenly Manna—the Lord Jesus will never die. But their hearts were revealed and they rejected His statement, “I am the Bread of Life” (v. 35) and began to grumble and murmur (v.41). Whenever you begin to murmur and grumble or complain about or against the Lord Jesus, my brothers and sister, then your heart is being revealed and you’d better do something about it—like repent right away and learn something!**

11. One of the ways that people justify their murmuring and complaining is clearly seen here and is a proof text of the principle I mentioned earlier—God often sends a physical sign that (seemingly) contradicts the spiritual sign—the same thing happens today. They *believed* the physical sign (v. 42); Jesus was born of Mary and Joseph (and of course we learn from other scriptures that they believed Jesus was not really Joseph’s son so they accused Him of being illegitimate) so they rejected Jesus’ words—that He came from Heaven. Again, remember this principle and apply it to your life today, especially if you receive a word from a true prophet of God, people normally embrace the “sign” of the prophet but then reject the Word of the Lord through the prophet. Moses was given two “signs” and the number 2 means God is going to do it quickly (although not always as we define quickly).

12. This statement by Jesus, “I am the Bread of Life” begins a series of 7 (the number of completion; Jesus is complete—He’s the Great I Am who is all we’ll ever need and He is more than enough to meet your every need! Hallelujah!) “I AM” statements Jesus makes about Himself and they’re all in the Book of John. Now isn’t that interesting! They’re asking Him for signs but they can’t see that HE is the Sign! The Great I AM who spoke with Moses that they so revered is standing right there talking to them but they don’t see it! Remember and learn from what I wrote earlier and I’ve preached

for years—the greatest thing I’ve ever learned about Jesus is that He is the I AM and He is who we believe Him to be. Praise the Lord! Don’t have hardness of heart and not believe in the Great I AM, the Lord Jesus. He is well able to provide any need you have in your life.

13. Although this is parenthetical to John 6, I’m going to give the other 6 “I AM” statements Jesus made.

- **“I am the light of the world” (John 8:12, 9:5)**
- **“I am the door of the sheep” (John 10:7,9)**
- **“I am the good shepherd” (John 10:11,14)**
- **“I am the resurrection and the life” (11:25)**
- **“I am the way, the truth and the life” (14:6)**
- **“I am the true vine” (15:1)**

14. Now back to John 6 where the Scriptures don’t end well for many who were following Jesus because The Word and The Truth and The Light and The Way revealed their hearts. “Many, therefore, of His disciples, having heard this, said, ‘This is a hard saying! Who can hear it?’ ... From this time many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with Him.” (vv. 60-66)

Revealing Your Heart and the Hearts of Others

Now it's important for you to meditate this chapter, John 6, several times and then ask the Holy Spirit to show you your heart—areas where perhaps your heart has been wounded or hardened because of broken promises, sin—your sin and the sins of others that have wounded you, etc. One of the metaphors for the Word of God is water. The washing of the water of the Word purifies us as we allow the Holy Spirit to use the Word to conform us to the image of Christ Jesus by revealing our hearts.

As I've shared for many years, and remember we see a clear example of it in John 6 because Jesus made a statement to "test" Philip, God tests us just like He tested Abraham but it's not to find out what you're going to do because He already knows. These tests are to reveal our hearts to ourselves so that we will do something about it!

Remember Paul's words to Timothy concerning becoming a vessel of gold in 2 Timothy 2:20. We have to "cleanse ourselves"; we have to do something once the Holy Spirit has revealed a character defect or problem in our heart.

So you need to understand that the word prophesied over the Lord Jesus when He was a baby still stands today—He is still searching and revealing hearts today by His Spirit. The question is, what are you doing about it? Are you allowing Him to mold you into the image of Christ or are you resisting Him? My wife and I see this principle at

work in the lives of Christians every week, often in the form of a test or trial that the person doesn't perceive has spiritual value but I'd encourage you to recognize it and understand that it's part of "discipline" (Hebrews 12) and the work of a true Father so that you will produce the fruit of the spirit and be a sweet fragrance to the Lord.