

UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES - Part 5: God's Heart For Seers

Now these were the numbers of the divisions that were equipped for war, and came to David at Hebron to turn over the kingdom of Saul to him, according to the word of the LORD...of the sons of Issachar who had **understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do**, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their command. (1 Chr 12:23, 32 NKJV)

"We're going to have to give ten times more attention to what God is doing than what the Devil is doing if we are going to understand these times."

Rick Joyner ~ Prophetic Perspectives ~ March 4, 2015

Spiritual Maturity...Knowing who you are, what you're here for,
and how life in the kingdom of God works!

Ten-Week Study on UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES

- Week 1: Seeing "The Big Picture" **DONE**
- Week 2: God's Kingdom vs. The Culture **DONE**
- Week 3: The Fear of the Lord Is The Beginning of Wisdom **DONE**
- Week 4: God's Word Is the Plumb Line For Everything **DONE**
- Week 5: God's Heart For Seers **TONIGHT**
- Week 6: Desiring the Greater Gifts
- Week 7: Old Testament vs. New Testament Prophets
- Week 8: Interpreting What You See
- Week 9: Applying What You've Interpreted
- Week 10: Walking In Discernment

God's Heart For Seers

- The "water level" of spiritual maturity is rising.

- People are figuring out **who they are in Christ**...

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! (2 Cor 5:17 NLT-SE)

- Many are beginning to see that we are **here for a reason**...The move to Sunday mornings...for a reason!

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. (Eph 2:10 NLT-SE)

- And, we are seeing **how it all works together** in a way that reveals God's Kingdom to people...All of us want to be part of something that's inspired by hope, not habit!

There is a divine mystery— a secret surprise that has been concealed from the world for generations, but now it's being revealed, unfolded and manifested for every holy believer to experience. Living within you is the Christ who floods you with the expectation of glory! This mystery of Christ, embedded within us, becomes a heavenly treasure chest filled with the riches of glory for His people, and God wants everyone to know it! (Col 1:26-27 Passion)

- As the **water level rises** of spiritual faith and growth, everyone tends to rise with it!
 - **Everybody** has a role, so nobody gets left out.
 - **Competition** tends to fade as we honor each other.
 - **Expectations** of what God can do in us and through us rises exponentially.
- **God is healing and restoring the eyes, ears and hearts** of His church, the family of God!
 - **Isaiah prophesied it...**

Harden the **hearts** of these people. Plug their **ears** and shut their **eyes**. That way, they will not see with their **eyes**, nor hear with their **ears**, nor understand with their **hearts** and turn to me for healing.” (Is 6:10 NLT-SE)

- **Jesus quoted it...**

For the **hearts** of these people are hardened, and their **ears** cannot hear, and they have closed their **eyes**—so their **eyes** cannot see, and their **ears** cannot hear, and their **hearts** cannot understand, and they cannot turn to me and let me heal them.’ (Matt 13:15 NLT-SE)
- **I believe we are now in the age Paul was trying to describe to the young church in Corinth...**

When I first came to you, dear brothers and sisters, I didn't use lofty words and impressive wisdom to tell you God's secret plan. For ***I decided that while I was with you I would forget everything except Jesus Christ, the one who was crucified.*** I came to you in weakness—timid and trembling. And my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, ***I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit.*** I did this so you would trust not in human wisdom but in the power of God.

Yet when I am among mature believers, I do speak with words of wisdom, but not the kind of wisdom that belongs to this world or to the rulers of this world, who are soon forgotten. No, the wisdom we speak of is ***the mystery of God—his plan that was previously hidden***, even though he made it for our ultimate glory before the world began. But the rulers of this world have not understood it; if they had, they would not have crucified our glorious Lord. That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, “No **eye** has seen, no **ear** has heard, and no **mind** has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.”

But it was to us that God ***revealed these things by his Spirit.*** For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets. No one can know a person's thoughts except that person's own spirit, and no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit. And ***we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us.*** (1 Cor 2:1–12 NLT-SE)

- **So, this is what we're after.** We want to forget everything except ***Jesus Christ***...Relying only on the power of the ***Holy Spirit***, so we can...***Hear*** what He's saying to the people of God...And ***see*** what He's about to do!
- **He is after our hearts!** He wants our hearts like he had the Apostle John's heart. Every opportunity that John had to make reference to himself seemed to be an opportunity to celebrate his intimacy with Jesus, but he was no sentimental weakling. **The two most important things to John were truth and love!**
 - After Jesus had said these things, He was troubled (disturbed, agitated) in spirit and said, I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, one of you will deliver Me up [one of you will be false to Me and betray Me]! The disciples kept looking at one another, puzzled as to whom He could mean. ***One of His disciples, whom Jesus loved [whom He esteemed and delighted in], was reclining [next to Him] on Jesus' bosom.*** So Simon Peter motioned to him to ask of whom He was speaking. ***Then leaning back against Jesus' breast, he asked Him, Lord, who is it?*** Jesus answered, It is the one to whom I am going to give this morsel (bit) of food after I have dipped it. So when He had dipped the morsel of bread [into the dish], He gave it to Judas, Simon Iscariot's son. (John 13:21–26 AMP)
 - This is the same disciple who, at 86 years of age, the last remaining apostle, imprisoned on the island of Patmos and left to die, **was show the greatest revelation ever given to man** (Rev 1).
 - **John was a seer.** Not the only seer in the Bible, but a seer none-the-less. It begs the question,

“What is a seer and how does Jesus feel about them?”

- Let's talk a little bit about what it means to **see** and **hear**.
- **How does God feel about His prophetic people?** Is it important to Him that we desire after things that seem hidden? Are there things He wants to reveal to us today?

For the LORD is the one who shaped the mountains, stirs up the winds, and reveals his thoughts to mankind. He turns the light of dawn into darkness and treads on the heights of the earth. The LORD God of Heaven's Armies is his name! (Amos 4:13 NLT-SE)

- **God is always looking for prophets, people who will communicate His heart to His people...**And the LORD said to them, "Now listen to what I say: "If there were prophets among you, I, the LORD, would reveal myself in visions. I would speak to them in dreams. (Num 12:6 NLT-SE)
- **His "Plan A" has always been to reveal His plans to us through prophetic people...**The Sovereign LORD never does anything until he reveals his plans to his servants the prophets. (Amos 3:7 NLT-SE)
- **When the time comes for revelation to be released, time for change or transition, God typically speaks through His prophets...**God did not reveal it to previous generations, but now by his Spirit he has revealed it to his holy apostles and prophets. (Eph 3:5 NLT-SE)
- **Our role is to not just wait for Him to reveal His heart to us, but to sincerely seek Him...**It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out. (Prov 25:2 ESV)

"Prophecy is a phenomenon that results directly from the access the Holy Spirit has to our minds, whereby He can create pictures in our imagination and supernatural dreams while we are asleep. He can put words, ideas, or scriptures into our heads with such force that we know that there is something weighty and unforgettable going on, something that carries with it the responsibility to pass on and relay what the Holy Spirit has communicated."

~ *Moving in the Prophetic: A Biblical Guide to Effective Prophetic Ministry Today*, By Greg Haslam

- **God's Prophetic People:** God reveals Himself and His will prophetically in three primary ways...through the **Scriptures**, through **creation**, and **prophetically**. Prophecy functions in two distinct ways...through **prophets** and through **seers**. Many teachers of biblical prophecy make the point that , "**All true seers are prophets, but not all prophets are seers.**" Let's look at what distinguishes a prophet from a seer...
- **Prophet vs. Seer: The same function or different?**
 - The Old Testament uses two words primarily to refer to a **seer**: *ra'ah* and *chozeh*.
 - **Ra'ah** literally means "to see," particularly in the sense of seeing visions. Other meanings include "to gaze," "to look upon," and "to perceive."
 - **Chozeh** literally means "a beholder in vision" and can also be translated as "gazer" or "stargazer."
 - The **word prophet** appears over 300 times in the OT and over 100 times in the NT. The OT Hebrew word that is used mostly is **nabiy**, which means "flowing fourth," or "bubbling like a fountain."
 - With these definitions in place, the distinction between a **prophet** (*nabiy*) and a **seer** (*ra'ah* or *chozeh*) becomes a little clearer.
 - **Key:** When it comes to prophetic revelation, a **prophet** is primarily an inspired hearer and then speaker, while a **seer** is primarily visual. In other words, the primary function of the prophet is to **communicate**, and the function of the seer is to **receive** from the Lord.
 - It's clear that **nabiy** emphasizes the active work of the prophet in speaking forth a message from God, **ra'ah and chozeh** focus on the experience or means by which the prophet "sees or perceives" a message.
- Here's what the late **Bob Jones**, himself a seer, said about seers...

"What is a seer? A seer is everything. Prophets are the eyes, but seers are the entire head: eyes, ears, smell, taste, and feelings.

It takes longer to become a mature seer than it does to become a mature prophet, because all five senses are involved. You have to learn how to discern your feelings, because there will be times when feelings come to you in ministry and they're not your feelings. And if you take them personally, you won't be active.

The prophet can speak the future, but the seer can see what the people need to let go of in the past, tell them what the Lord is saying to them today, and declare what the Lord is offering them tomorrow. You can go right into their minds and see where the pain is coming from and what is still affecting and controlling their lives. Seers can help people forgive — usually themselves, help clean their minds out, and invite the Lord there.

Seers are kicked out of a lot of churches, because you are the least understood of all the gifts. You are the one who feels like you don't fit any place except with other seers. Because of your revelation and dreams and the way God communicates with you, people think you're loony. But when churches reject you, they're bidding good-bye to their own mercy. As a seer, you are there for mercy. You are there to help bring healing to the people and show them what God is doing.

It is time for the seer to come forth. The Church needs you. It is time for the seer to mature and be used.

- **Are these gifts available to all believers?** Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant. (1 Cor 12:1 NIV)
 - In the New Testament, the focus is not so much on the **office** of prophet or seer, as on the **function** of those prophetic gifts in and through the church.
 - Since Holy Spirit is orchestrating the **dispensing of these gifts**, let's look at this very familiar section of scripture in 1 Cor 12, intentionally remove the list of actual gifts themselves, and observe what Holy Spirit is doing behind the scenes:

Now, dear brothers and sisters, regarding your question about the special abilities the Spirit gives us. I don't want you to misunderstand this...There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all...A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other...It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have. (1 Cor 12:1, 4, 7, 11 NLT-SE)
 - So, **the gifts ARE NOT given to us, for us.** Holy Spirit gives these "special abilities" to members of the body of Christ "so we can help each other." **He will give any gift to any member of the body of Christ** who is willing to receive it and willing to use it to communicate God's love!
- **What is God's heart for seers?** He is a true Father, so it pleases the Lord when we truly honor one another and the gifts (abilities) Holy Spirit is giving us to help each other. It makes no difference what gift it is; prophecy, evangelism, serving, giving, discernment, or any of the other multitude of abilities the Holy Spirit gives us to empower us to love. **When we receive them and use them to love each other, God smiles, He is pleased.**
- I believe **God delights in those who want to see what He sees.** Seers are not special people. All of us can be seers. You will see whatever you are willing to see. But it really does matter, "who has your heart."
- God has **hidden some specific things** that will be revealed by Holy Spirit to the generation on the earth when Jesus returns. He wants us to seek Him for revelation. He wants us to say what He's saying, and see what He's doing. He DOES NOT want us to merely take notes, so we can pass the test later. **Holy Spirit wants to dance!**
- **The healing is coming! In fact, it's already begun.** All you have to do is take the words Jesus spoke in Matt 13:15 and turn them inside-out to reflect a people who **don't hesitate to turn to Him**, believe Him, and allow His Spirit to work in and through them.

"For the **hearts** of these people are soft and pliable, and their **ears** can hear everything I say, and they have opened their **eyes**—so their eyes can see everything I'm doing, and their ears hear me clearly, and their **hearts** understand Me completely, because they have turned to me and let me heal them."

There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now **you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me.** (John 15:13–15 NLT-SE)

"Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and **we will share a meal together as friends.** (Rev 3:20 NLT-SE)