

Spirit of Prophecy 1 of 4

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Study Given by W. D. Frazee—January 1, 1973

More and more God is impressing me with this simple but wonderful fact: I need Him, and He needs me. I need Him for my friend, but He needs me for His friend. I knew for a long time that I couldn't get along without Him, and it's a wonderful thing to find out that He can't get along without me. He wants me for fellowship.

Of course, this involves communication. To be a friend to somebody means that I listen to him and I talk to him. That's the way it is with Jesus. He's my friend, and I talk to Him. He talks to me.

I am interested in *every method* of communication that He uses. I like to keep in touch. I love these green-covered hillsides and the opening buds of spring. I love to hear the bird songs. They're all messages of love from Jesus to me. They're all telling me that He is *interested* in me, that He likes to *please* me.

I like to sit down at a good table, spread with the delicious foods that God has made. I enjoy eating, don't you? And in it, God is talking to me about how He likes to make me happy. He made these taste buds, and He made something that *pleases* those taste buds. And so, with *all* the senses that He's given. All of these are agencies through which He's telling us of His love.

In the Bible, we get a clearer revelation of Himself and His love than we can get in nature. Nature needs an interpreter. Many things in nature speak of hate and cruelty. But in the Bible, we find that the Creator is a God of *love*. He explains the cause of the sorrow and the misery, the pain and the woe, that are in the world around us.

The Bible tells us of a time when Eden bloomed on earth, and everything was peace and love. The Bible tells us what it was that entered and spoiled that plan—it was sin, the transgression of God's law. And the Bible tells us that God sent His only Son into this world to show us how to live in a world of sin without sinning; to show us how to live in a world of sorrow without losing heart; to show us how to be obedient to God's holy law.

And when He had lived that life, then He died for us upon the cross: that our sins might be forgiven, that our debt might be paid, and that we might be *changed* and become like Him. He's in Heaven tonight, praying for us. "He ever liveth," the Bible says, "to make intercession for us." He's coming soon. And friends, I'm so glad He's coming for me.

When He made this world, He was thinking of me. When He came down and lived here in this world and died upon the cross, He was thinking of me. In the

sanctuary above, tonight, He's thinking of me. And when He comes with ten thousand angels, He's coming for me, and I'm going with Him, to be with Him always.

Oh, I'm so glad for such a Friend! Is He *your* Friend? Yes. Yes. And remember, He not only is *your* Friend, He wants you to be *His* friend. He needs you. He wants you with all His heart!

As I said a moment ago, friendship involves communication. And Jesus has been speaking all down through the ages through His appointed channels of communication. In the last book of the sixty-six books that make up this volume, in Revelation 19:10, I read what to me is a very interesting expression. It's the last line of this verse; Gabriel is speaking. He's talking to John there on the Island of Patmos. He says:

"The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy"
Revelation 19:10.

Now I'd like to read that again, and I'd like to have you read it or recite it with me:

"The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy"
Revelation 19:10.

Together:

"The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy"
Revelation 19:10.

Again:

"The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy"
Revelation 19:10.

What is the testimony of Jesus? It's the spirit of prophecy. Then what is the spirit of prophecy? Thank you. Indeed, it's the testimony of Jesus.

Then if somewhere in this world I can find the spirit of prophecy, I have found the testimony of whom? Of Jesus. Well, what *is* a testimony? A testimony is something that somebody speaks, somebody testifies. We think of a witness testifying in a court trial. He's there, and he's asked certain questions, and he gives certain answers. That's his testimony, his witness.

Does *Jesus* have any testimony to give? Oh yes. Would you like to hear Jesus testify? Well, the testimony of Jesus is what? The spirit of prophecy.

"The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy"
Revelation 19:10.

Now, I mention, that if we can find that somewhere in this world, we will find the place where Jesus is speaking, where He's testifying. We will find a message from *Heaven*.

Turn now back just a few pages to Revelation 12:17. Will you read this verse with me?

"And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" Revelation 12:17.

Well here's this testimony of Jesus Christ. Who has it? The *remnant* of the *seed* of the woman. And who is this woman? Oh, the woman is the church. This entire 12th chapter of Revelation tells the wonderful story of the great battle between *Jesus* and His *church* on one side, and the dragon, the Devil, fighting on the other.

This war began in Heaven as the seventh verse says. But the dragon was defeated there and so he transferred down to this world, and here he's been making his headquarters all these ages. But friends, he's going to be defeated. Jesus is going to win on earth as He won in Heaven. And you and I are privileged to win with Him. I want to share in that final triumph, don't you?

Now, let's look at this 17th verse. This 17th verse is the last verse of the chapter, and it talks about the last of the church. And what attitude does it say the dragon has toward it? The dragon was what? Wroth. What's that mean? That's right mad, angry. He's upset. He *hates* them.

"The dragon was wroth with the woman..."

The church.

"...and went to make war with the remnant..."

The last.

"...of her seed..."

Her children

"...which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" Revelation 12:17.

Now, what did we read over there in Revelation 19:10? That the testimony of Jesus is? The spirit of prophecy. And here, this testimony of Jesus, which is the spirit of prophecy, is said to be held by the church, which keeps the commandments of God here in the remnant of time. They *have* the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Wouldn't it be a wonderful thing to find that church? Well friends, I'm so glad we can find it. It has these two identifying marks: it keeps the commandments of God, and has the testimony of Jesus Christ. And the testimony of Jesus is what? The Spirit of Prophecy.

Now as I have said, in all ages God has used this wonderful channel. You see when sin came in back there in the Garden of Eden, God could no longer communicate directly with man. And Christ became the mediator between the Father and this world. Through the ages, Jesus has selected certain men and women called prophets, and He has revealed to them His special message.

Let's turn to 2 Peter, where we shall read about this. 2 Peter 1:21:

"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man:
but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the
Holy Ghost" 2 Peter 1:21.

Now there are certain things a man can choose to be. A man can choose to be a carpenter or a bricklayer. A man can choose to be a lawyer. A man can choose to be a farmer. We can make a long list of things that men may choose to be. But my dear friends, no man can choose to be a prophet. This is by God's choice entirely. No matter how much a man might want to be a prophet, how could he have a vision? God must give him that vision. And so this says:

"The prophecy came not in old time by the will of man:
but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the
Holy Ghost" 2 Peter 1:21.

That is why it is called the spirit of prophecy. It is the Holy Spirit resting upon a prophet giving him visions, and moving him to speak and to write the message that has come from Heaven.

Now notice how certain this makes those who accept it. The nineteenth verse, Peter says:

"We have also a *more sure* word of prophecy" 2 Peter 1:19.

More sure than what? If you read the verses just before, you see that Peter is telling about that wonderful time on the mountain when they saw Moses and Elijah there with Jesus. They heard the voice of God saying, "This is My beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased."

Peter says, [paraphrase] "We know that Jesus is the Son of God. We saw Him there in glory on the mountain. We heard the voice of God saying, 'This is My beloved Son.' We know this is God's Son." And besides that, he says, there's something even *more certain* than what we saw on the mount.

What is it, Peter?

The sure word of prophecy. The prophetic gift is greater and more certain evidence than anything we can see with our eyes or hear with our ears.

Were you ever fooled with something you thought you saw with your eyes? Were you ever mistaken in something you thought you heard with your ears? It can happen. Probably all of us have been mistaken, maybe more times than we remember. The eye can be fooled. The ear can be mistaken. But my dear friends, prophecy, God's testimony from Heaven, is lifted above that. And so Peter says, "We have something more certain than the evidence of our eyes and ears. We have a more sure word of prophecy."

And may I tell you friends; ahead of us is a great crisis where the only people who go through will be those who accept the testimony of the sure word of prophecy, instead of what they *think* they see with their eyes and hear with their ears. Satan is coming with all kinds of miracles to deceive if possible the very elect. But God's children will not be deceived because they depend upon the testimony of Jesus instead of the evidence of their own senses. It is a wonderful thing to be that *certain* of the prophetic gift.

When the person is sure, he is not bothered with doubts about it, friends. And oh I trust, that in this series of studies which we're going to have this weekend, all of us shall have our faith strengthened and that we shall come through with faith so strong that nothing can shake it. This is my hope friends. Because it is wonderful to be certain in an uncertain world. Isn't it? Yes. And you can be. You can know without any question, that God has a church in this world with this gift of prophecy; that Christ has spoken from Heaven to His commandment-keeping people, and that the testimony of Jesus, which is the spirit of prophecy, has been manifested in this latter days.

Now the whole Bible is the testimony of Jesus. Turn please to 1 Peter 1:10–11. As you read these verses, you will notice, that the eleventh verse says "the Spirit of Christ was in *them*" and the "them" is the prophets, as the tenth verse says. All down through the ages, the prophets: Moses, Samuel, David, Isaiah, Jeremiah, they prophesied because this says the spirit of Christ was in them.

It was the testimony of *Jesus* that made Noah certain as he preached about the coming flood. It was the testimony of *Jesus* that gave Abraham a message for his generation, and Moses in the exodus movement. It was the testimony of Jesus that was speaking through Daniel and Hosea and all the other prophets. So in the Old Testament, as this verse says, it was the spirit of Christ in the prophets that was speaking.

Now in the New Testament, we see Jesus speaking, we hear His words in the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Then we see Jesus going back to Heaven. Does He speak to His church anymore? Oh yes, through Peter and through Paul, through John and through James and other prophets, Jesus continues to speak to His church. He sends His *angel* out there to rocky Patmos and there John is given wonderful visions of eternal things and writes those things out for the church.

So I repeat, the whole Bible is the testimony of Christ. But did you notice that in this last book of the Bible, the book of Revelation, we read that the very remnant of the church down here in the last days would have this same testimony of Jesus that was given back there in the Bible times?

And shouldn't it be that way friends? Oh yes. Wouldn't it be a strange thing if Jesus should love His people so much that He would speak to them for four thousand years through this gift, and then, He would be silent and never say anything again? Wouldn't that be strange?

Ah somebody says, "But I think He said enough in the Bible."

Oh yes, I am sure He said enough friends. But tell me something Do you have anybody that you love? A son or a daughter? A husband or a wife? A father or a mother? A brother or a sister? Do you have anybody you love? Do you ever tell them you love them? Or did you quit that 40 years ago? Oh friends, it is a wonderful thing to keep telling what has been told before. This is the essence of friendship and love. Is it not? Why yes. What a shame it would be if the only thing we ever got in a letter from home, was something we had never heard anything about before.

So friends, Christ delights to keep in touch with His people, His church, with you and me—not simply that He might tell us some new thing. But that He might tell us again and again how much He loves us, and how much He wants to keep in touch with us and guide us in the peculiar problems of this last generation. What do you say? Do you see what I mean, friends? Oh, how good God is to keep the lines of communication open!

And so this evening, it is my privilege to tell you some of the wonderful things that God has done in these latter days in the prophetic gift, just as in the ancient Bible times. And let me make very plain friends that these messages that God has sent are in fulfillment of the Bible prophecy itself. I read the prophecy: The *remnant* that keep the commandments of God will *have* the testimony of Jesus. If that prophecy's true, and if we've come to that time, there should be a church that has this gift. Thank God it has!

From the *rise* of this great second-advent movement in 1844 on down to the present, God has ministered to His people through this gift. In various parts of the world, at different times, He has given visions and dreams as He did back in Bible times. The *special* manifestation of this gift was received by a young woman named Ellen Harmon, beginning in December of 1844.

Ellen was seventeen at the time this first revelation came to her. Many of God's people had been looking for Christ to come at that time. They'd been disappointed. *Jesus* gave her a vision, and as a result, she was enabled to explain the disappointment and cause God's people to look *once again* toward Heaven, with hope and with courage.

In a second vision given not long after the one in Portland, Maine, Ellen was told that God wanted to give her these messages from time to time and that He

wanted her to write them out. Ellen shrank from this responsibility. She was young, as I've mentioned. She was sick. She'd had an accident at an early age which left her more or less an invalid. She hadn't been able to go beyond the third grade in school. And while she loved the Lord and wanted to do anything to please Him, she didn't see how she could do the work of a messenger for Jesus.

But Christ encouraged her and told her that He would be with her. The angel told her, "Write the vision."

And she said, "You know, I cannot write because my hands tremble, and I cannot trace the words upon the paper."

But in obedience to that command from Heaven, those fingers took up the pen and she began the work of writing out the messages, which for seventy years she received from Heaven and wrote out for the benefit of God's people.

And now we have a wonderful library, as the result of these visions that Ellen Harmon White received from Heaven. Thousands upon thousands of pages written by inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

How shall we know? This is what I want to study with you, friends. God does not want us to be gullible. He says:

"Prove all things, hold fast that which is good"
1 Thessalonians 5:20.

But I suggest to you friends, that if this is *indeed* the testimony of Jesus, the spirit of prophecy, then we have a marvelous gift in our midst. If this is *indeed* a message from Heaven, then we have something in our time, in our language that helps to apply the truths of the Bible to the particular and peculiar problems of this generation.

And friends, I am so glad that thousands upon thousands have *tested* for themselves, and *tasted* for themselves, and they *know* that this is indeed a message from Heaven; the fulfillment of the Bible that in the last days, God would give His people this prophetic gift.

Tonight, I want to introduce some of those evidences. One of the greatest evidences is the books *themselves*. You know, someone, when asked how He knew the Bible was inspired, said, "I know the Bible is inspired because it inspired me." I think that is a good answer, friends. I know that bread is food because it gives me the energy to do work. And so as I find in the Bible inspiration, I find similar inspiration in these wonderful books.

God has put within these books evidence of wisdom far beyond the human. Take for instance this book *Education*. Imagine a woman who had never gone beyond the third grade in education, imagine her attempting to write a book on education which would be used as a textbook for training teachers. This book on education is a classic. The commissioner for education under three presidents of the United States, the honorable P. T. Claxton of Tennessee, read this book through

twice and said, "That is the greatest book on education ever written." And he told the truth.

More recently, Dr. Florence Freidermeyer in charge of the teacher training program at Columbia University (a member of the Roman Catholic Church, by the way) was introduced to this book. She read it through and commented on how marvelous it was that this book, written at the turn of the century, had so many concepts concerning education that are now coming to be appreciated in the educational work.

How is this explained my, friends? It's explained very easily when we understand, that back of Ellen White as she wrote this book and developed these concepts was Jesus by His Holy Spirit, imparting to her revelations from above and guiding her mind as she penned these statements.

This book is available, not only to professors at Columbia University; it is available in every school, in every church, in every home, to every individual. You and I can read this book. We can be guided in our *own* education. We can be guided as parents in the training of our children. Isn't this indeed a precious gift, friends, a wonderful privilege? How blessed we are! Oh, I'm thankful for this book!

Then here is a book dealing with the special problems of young people, *Messages to Young People*. Five hundred pages, nearly, of precious instruction for the teenagers and those in their twenties dealing with the things that young people are interested in: messages from Jesus, the testimony of Jesus which is the spirit of prophecy.

Then we have books here for parents. Here is this book, *Adventist Home*, and *Child Guidance*, companion volumes, nearly a thousand pages written especially to help parents know how to train their children in the things of God, and dealing with the peculiar problems of this last generation. Oh, I'm so thankful, friends, for what these books have meant to me, what these testimonies have meant to me; as a young man growing up, as a parent, as a minister, as a worker in God's church. I'm so thankful for these precious gifts!

The Lord has given us also, much precious instruction on the question of health. I brought along a couple of old volumes. Here is a little volume published in 1864, printed on the steam press of the Seventh-day Adventist publishing association in Battle Creek, Michigan, 1864. I believe that's a hundred and nine years ago, isn't it? A hundred and nine years ago. Well, in this we have a wonderful chapter on health. It is the first extensive article on this subject written by Sister White. You see it was in June 1863, up in Michigan, that Jesus gave Sister White this *wonderful* revelation on the question of health. And as a result, she wrote for many years on this subject. But this is her first writing on it.

Now you can read through this chapter on health here in this book *Facts of Faith*, and you'll be struck with how many things that were written back there over a hundred years ago, are becoming *more* and *more* appreciated today. Paul Harvey, the news commentator, has called attention in his public broadcast to the prophetic statements of Ellen G. White on the questions of diet and health, and how science

has confirmed and *is* confirming many of them. He's not a Seventh-day Adventist, but he knows a fact when he sees it.

Now, here is another little book that was published over a hundred years ago, *How to Live*. Isn't that a nice title, *How to Live*? Here Ellen White wrote on disease and its causes. She gave instructions that God had given her in vision on diet; on dress; on the use of air and sunshine in preventing sickness and curing disease; on the dangers in drug medication; on the value of a vegetarian diet; on the importance of exercise; the use of water, and the importance of trust in God, not only for spiritual benefit, but for physical health as well. All these are included in these little volumes printed over a hundred years ago, and written as the result of the inspiration of this prophetic gift.

And do you know, friends, that the people who have read and followed this instruction live several years longer than their neighbors who have not read and followed this instruction. A study of hundreds of thousands of cases in California reported in the public health journal, has shown that Seventh-day Adventists live from six to eight years longer than the average of the population around. Why? Because they read and *follow* these instructions. I'll say *this* dear friends, if all of God's people read all these instructions and followed them fully, the difference would be still greater.

Well, I can only introduce these things to you tonight. We are going to have some more very interesting and wonderful things to tell you tomorrow morning and tomorrow afternoon, and tomorrow night.

But friends, I want to ask you something: Do you know what food is for? Yes, you and I know. It is to eat, isn't it? To enjoy and to get nourishment from. Jeremiah says:

“Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word
was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart”
Jeremiah 15:16.

Oh my friends, this precious library is like a great table spread before us filled with all kinds of delicious and nutritious foods. Are you getting fed? Have you become acquainted with that masterpiece, *Steps to Christ*, the one that tells the way to eternal life? Do you have *Ministry of Healing* in your home, and in your head, and in your heart—that book that shows how to live? Do you have this conflict series, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, *Prophets and Kings*, *Desire of Ages*, *Acts of the Apostles*, *Great Controversy*—this wonderful commentary on the *whole* field of Scripture history from before the creation of the world on down through to the closing events ahead of us and into the earth made new? These thousands of pages; how valuable they are to us!

I ask again, friends. Are you getting your share of this wonderful thing? Are you one of those mentioned in that text in Revelation, the remnant who keep the commandments of God, and *have* the testimony of Jesus Christ? Oh, I trust that every one of you is, or will be. It's for you.

Remember, through it Jesus is speaking. He wants to communicate with you. He wants you to know that the One who loved you enough to die for you, loves you enough to *live* for you and to send you these precious messages.

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