

Jack Michael Outreach Ministries

A Ministry of the Watchman on the Walls, preparing God's People for the End Times

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Word from the Watchman – He still speaks

I once belonged to a church, which believed God no longer speaks to people, other than through his written Word (the Bible). Their doctrinal understanding was as follows: Although God spoke to people by his Holy Spirit (or angels, or prophets, or even donkeys) in days gone by; now that the Bible has been completely written, and is available to all, God no longer speaks directly to people.

I now disagree with such teachings, having heard directly from God many times by his Holy Spirit. Also, nowhere in the Bible is there any Scripture, which says God has, or will someday stop speaking directly to his people. So, with that in mind, listen to Hebrews 1:1-2:

“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.” (NKJV).

OK, so since God is speaking to us in these last days by his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, let us listen to what Jesus said about the Holy Spirit:

*“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, **HE WILL GUIDE YOU INTO ALL TRUTH**; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears **HE WILL SPEAK**; and **HE WILL TELL YOU THINGS TO COME**. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.” (John 16:13-14 NKJV).*

Notice these words above in **bold**, CAPITALIZED letters: **“...HE WILL TELL YOU THINGS TO COME...”** I like how this reads from The Message Bible (the Bible in Contemporary Language). Referring to the Holy Spirit, it says: **“He will make sense out of what is about to happen.”**

I have been teaching a series, entitled: *Signs of the End Times*, and quite frankly, to the natural man – the person who does not have the Spirit of God, and does not know the Word of God – what I have been teaching makes no sense!

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Now, please look again at John 16:13-14 (previous page ◀), and notice that it also says of the Holy Spirit: ***“...He will guide you into all truth...”***

Thank God for his written Word. The Lord has done a marvelous work of preserving his written Word throughout the ages. Yet, we also need the Holy Spirit to guide us in understanding the truth of God’s Word. Otherwise, we are trying to figure out what God is saying to us with only our intellect. For confirmation, listen to 1 Corinthians 2:12:

“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.” (NKJV).

Thank God also for our intellect. He has done a marvelous work of creating us human beings (see Psalm 139:14). Yet, if we leave out the Holy Spirit, and try to *“reason out”* what God is saying only from our intellect, we will fail to truly know the truth of God’s Word.

As I said earlier, often times, the things that are happening in our world – the Signs of the End Times – make no sense. But, while the world is trying to rely upon science to explain things, and the laws of man to fix things, we who know the Lord can be listening to the Holy Spirit, and discerning the signs of the times!

Furthermore, the Holy Spirit is not limited to helping us understand the written Word of God. On a daily basis, he can guide us to be where we ought to be, and to avoid where we ought not to be!

“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye” (God’s seeing, not man’s seeing). (Psalm 32:8 NKJV).

The Holy Spirit can tell us where we ought to be – to give assistance to those in trouble, and offer hope to those who are confused. Yet, he can also tell us where we ought not to be – for our own protection.

Learn to rely upon the Holy Spirit. Pray to our Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, and tell him you are relying upon his Holy Spirit to **SPEAK TO YOU**, and **TELL YOU THINGS TO COME**, and help you make sense out of all that is happening in our world in these last days.

Signs of the End Times

APOSTASY

*"Now, brethren, **CONCERNING THE COMING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST AND OUR GATHERING TOGETHER TO HIM**, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit, or by word, or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless **THE FALLING AWAY** (the apostasy) **COMES FIRST...**" (from 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 NKJV).*

By researching various Bible study helps (concordances, dictionaries, lexicons, etc.), the biblical definition of apostasy is as follows...

- ⇒ A falling away from the faith.
- ⇒ A revolt against the truth.
- ⇒ A defection from the truth.
- ⇒ A departure from the faith.

In 1 Timothy 4:1-3, the Apostle Paul warned us about apostasy in these End Times:

*"Now the Spirit (God's Holy Spirit) expressly says (or, very clearly says) that **IN LATTER TIMES SOME WILL DEPART FROM THE FAITH**, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth." (NKJV).*

The Apostle Paul identified a member of his missionary team, who had forsaken him, and may have committed apostasy:

"For Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica..." (from 2 Timothy 4:10 NKJV).

Other scriptures also warn about apostasy:

*"Holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have **SHIPWRECKED THEIR FAITH**. Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme." (1 Timothy 1:19-20 NIV).*

Please turn the page over ➤

Teacher's Notes:

I find it interesting that the Holy Spirit - in inspiring the Apostle Paul to write the previous Scriptures - saw fit to include the names of Hymenaeus and Alexander in the eternal Word of God (see Isaiah 40:8).

Of course, the ages are filled with godless people who have turned away from the Lord, and/or rejected his Son, Jesus Christ. Many such names could have been recorded in the Bible, but in those days, God saw fit to make a strong example of these two individuals, and consequently, their names are forever recorded in the eternal Word of God.

It is important to have a correct understanding of **APOSTASY** in these End Times. As stated in the above Teacher's Notes, many people have turned away from God throughout the ages. However, apostasy in these End Times is a turning away from God by someone who formerly confessed Christ as Savior.

A reputable Bible dictionary defines apostasy as: *"The determined, willful rejection of Christ and His teachings by a Christian believer."*

In my lifetime, I have personally witnessed **APOSTASY** unfolding before my very eyes. Churches, and in fact, entire denominations have split over issues such as whether to accept homosexuality in the church, or hold fast to the truth of God's Word (please refer to Romans 1:24-28, and to 1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

There are ministers - who were once considered as bastions of the faith - who have yielded to sin, turned away from the truth of God's Word, and denied Jesus Christ as the only way to God (see John 14:6).

Sad to say, I personally know people, who once declared Christ as Savior, but are now spiritually cold, and have denied Jesus Christ.

We must guard against being like Hymenaeus and Alexander. As we proceed further into these End Times, there will be many schemes by the devil to entice us into **APOSTASY**. Let us be diligent to hold fast to faith, and a good conscience.

NOTE: I once wrote and published a book, entitled: ***The Great Apostasy***. The book is no longer available in hard copy, but for those who desire to study more about this subject, you can download it from my Website.