

June 2014

New Name Ministries



P.O. Box 11694 Fort Worth, Texas 76110



Herding Sacred Cows

The Prophetic

When people hear someone mention "The Prophetic" they may think of Old Testament characters like Elijah or Isaiah. Or, they might think of today's fortune tellers* or story's of strange goings on in Pentecostal, Charismatic, or Spirit-Filled churches. Many good-hearted Christians run from such out of fear (False Evidence Against Reality). The prophetic gifting was obviously still in effect during the writing of the New Testament (NT)
Continued on next page

Please join us in welcoming our newest arrivals:

- John Walker Mar. 21, 2014
- Levi Merritt Mar. 27, 2014
- Michael Money Apr. 11, 2014
- Craig Garber Apr. 17, 2014
- Stuart Jones Apr. 21, 2014
- David Kalin Apr. 23, 2014
- Edwin Tucker Apr. 23, 2014
- Billy Adams May 9, 2014
- Jamie Cotton May 28, 2014
- John Dry Jun. 2, 2014

Pray that our recent graduates will walk in their God-given talents for His glory:

- Paul Shelton Apr. 5, 2014
- Johnny Moody May 20, 2014



Most of this newsletter is taken up with one article: a collaboration between Pastor Jon and Chuck. The article is so lengthy, we had to shrink the font to make it fit. So, you are invited to put your reading glasses on and see if you can

figure out where the "left field" style of Chuck ends and the Father's heart of PJ begins. This article takes aim at a few sacred cows. If one of yours gets shot, consider whether or not you really needed a cow in your house anyway.

From The Left Field Side Of The Father's Heart

By Pastor Jon Cordeiro and Chuck Bittrick

Rules vs. Relationship

From the beginning the relationship between God and man has been strained at best. In the Garden of Eden, God wanted to hang out with man in the cool of the day, let him name the animals and do a little gardening. The Lord had provided everything for health and well being and only had a few rules to govern man's life: have sex and multiply; rule everything in, on and under the earth; and don't eat the fruit of that one particular tree. The life of man was pretty simple.

relationship. God has Moses gather all of the people to the foot of the mountain with instructions to go no further until the trumpet sounded; then they were to go up and have a mountain top experience with God. Next, God declares the Ten Commandments in the hearing of all of the people. God started with about three rules, bumps it to ten, which still isn't overbearing, but nothing compared to what's to come after the next assassination attempt on Gods' character.

It didn't take long for man to become dissatisfied with such a heavenly arrangement. Dissatisfaction manifested with the character assassination of God. The serpent told Eve, "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil (the rules)." Eve, being deceived that God was withholding, came into agreement with the accuser, and bought (bit into) the lie. Adam followed suit and with that one choice, discovered even more dissatisfaction with their condition: they found themselves naked (and needing covering).

After the people heard the voice of God they said to Moses, "Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die. (20:19)" So, God goes to the trouble of having the people gather at the foot of a mountain in preparation of connecting with them at the top of the mountain (like Moses had been doing) and they accuse Him of having a murderous heart! To be honest, He was plotting their demise, but they were only half right. God wanted them to die to self, so as to learn to live. Yet they chose to cling to what they knew (limited life) rather than pursue a personal relationship with the Father (abundant life). This created a demand for more rules, spoken from the mouth of middlemen. And more rules they got! By one Old Testament count, they required 600 more than they already had. But these don't come until after God presents the people the Ten Commandments written on tablets of stone; reflecting their stony hearts.

The assassination of the character of God grows in the next chapter when Cain and Abel offer sacrifices. If you'll reread up to that point you'll find nowhere where God has demanded a sacrifice. Somehow man got the brilliant idea that God demanded something more than someone to hang out with and someone to care for what He created. God responds out of the nature demanded of Him, judging the sacrifices accordingly. The wrong hearted man's response was resentment, leading to murder, lies, lack of accountability and ending in a curse.

Unlocking the Old Testament truths with the New Testament Keys

Later in the book of Exodus (19:10 - 20:21 KJV), we find man at it again when Father God tries to draw the children of Israel into

We see in the parable of the talents (Luke 19:12-26) how God responds to these character assassinations. In verse 22 He states, "I will judge you by your own words, you wicked servant! You knew, did you, that

Continued on next page

For information about New Name Ministries please visit our website at www.newnameministries.org

The Prophetic continued

and, the NT makes clear that the prophetic gifting is to remain in operation to build up and encourage the body of Christ until His return. Many in the church today have forfeited the blessing of the prophetic due to unhealthy perceptions, misunderstandings and misguided leadership. We invite you to search the Word out for yourself and let the witness of the Holy Spirit be the compass of truth since He alone administers the gifts of God. Simply invite Him, the Holy Spirit, to teach you and remind you of all things true and beneficial.

For our introductory purposes, we include prophecy, words of knowledge, words of wisdom, and discerning of spirits in the realm of the Prophetic. Under the umbrella of The Prophetic, we ask the men at New Name to care about others enough to hear from God on another's behalf so they can speak life into them (the power of life and death is in our words). In The Prophetic, we seek to strengthen, encourage, and comfort. When dealing with the deep wounds that lead to negative behavior and living below our potential, there are times we need someone who is willing to see things in us that cannot be seen without the discerning of the Spirit. This "seeing" must come from the Spirit of God, not the spirit of the world which only mocks God.

To operate in the prophetic, we have to care about others more than our fear of making a mistake or of being rejected for speaking that which the Spirit has revealed. It takes courage and boldness motivated by a love for another that can only come from the heart of God (compassion). At NNM we desire to be used in calling out the greatness in each man God has sent us. The tools of this world are sorely insufficient for the work; and the Word of God is not good news without the power of His Spirit.

Continued on right column

Rules vs. Relationship continued

I am a hard man, taking out what I did not put in, and reaping what I did not sow?" Mankind has been judged out of our judgment of God's character since the Garden of Eden. God has repeatedly shown us His desire for us to live in right relationship with Him. Yet we still judge Him by demanding middlemen (pastors, teachers and prophets) to uphold our relational responsibility with the Triune God. We ask "them" to do the "heavy lifting" of relationship when the Lord has clearly shown His desire to have a personal relationship with each of us. Mistrusting the nature of God by likening Him to the capacity and character of an unapproachable and insensitive taskmaster has yielded the fruit of our own judgments; bondage to lies.

JUDGE NOT, LEST YOU BE JUDGED. FOR THE MEASURE YOU USE SHALL BE MEASURED BACK TO YOU.

In the midst of our misgivings and poor judgment, we have an advocate whose final blood sacrifice can cover the multitude of our sins, within, and without. Yet, we have to honor (accept and obey) the rules established by God for our instruction. Not to be confused by man's rules that would have us second guessing God, ourselves and others (e.g. knowing how to predict the future by having the correct interpretation of prophecy, using the right magical words and amount of water necessary to be baptized so as to get into Heaven, and untold other demands we place on each other in an attempt to please a tyrannical old white man on his throne with a beard and a scowl).

The first step in aligning ourselves with God's desires is to realize that He created us for intimate relationship with himself. We need to be careful not to confuse man's use of rules with God's use of rules. Man wants to rule others for man's pleasure, where as God wants us to rule for His pleasure. Man's laws imprison and God wants to set us free. Man's laws burden, God's heart blesses.

The second step is to stop limiting God based on our experiences and understanding. Often we transfer our earthly image of a father on to the Heavenly Father, creating a man-sized God capable of making mistakes and unable to fix them. This limits our ability to trust, love, honor, and obey God so as to live in righteousness, peace and joy. To achieve and receive our full inheritance in Christ

Rules vs. Relationship continued

we must repent, pursue the Kingdom of Heaven first in all things and let our minds be renewed through the washing, and application, of the Word in all areas of our lives.

"The last step, is to follow Christ's interpretation of the most significant law in which he holds up two as though one (God really is trying to make this easy for us)."

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself."
Matthew 22:37 & 39

One would think that being whole hearted in our love toward God would encompass our soul and mind too. There may be subtle nuances between the three, but in the Hebrew culture when something was addressed three times, it was absolute and imperative. Interesting that Jesus, after clarifying the depth of love we are to have toward God, places our need to love others as ourselves in the shadow of this ultimate law of love.

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ"
Galatians 6:2

Choosing to follow Christ is more than changing our words and behavior. These should be the result of hearts being right before God, Who knows who we really are, even if we don't. He will gladly lead us in the ways we should go. But know this: we do not go alone. Taking His hand while grabbing our brother's hand, too; relationships will rule in His love.

The Prophetic continued

*The Word of God states that the gifts and callings of God are irrevocable. What we choose to do with those gifts either glorify God or others (self/Satan). Fortune tellers/psychics are those who are gifted but have perverted the gift given them – putting themselves in the place of being influenced by world powers rather than Kingdom Powers. To be sure, Satan will always sandwich a lie between truths; God never lies!

As always...

We appreciate your continued prayers and financial encouragement for this ministry. Our current needs include volunteers who have a heart for this ministry, financial support for administrative staff and gainful employment for our men.