

BLESSEDNESS OF THE TRUTH: EVERY BELIEVER A PROPHET

Intro: - We share Christ's anointing. The precious ointment that flows down from the head flows down the beard and down to the skirts of the garment. The ointment of the Spirit flows down upon all the members of Christ. Ordained in eternity, equipped by the Spirit.
-The idea of anointing is that we are servants and workers.

I. THE CALLING TO BE A PROPHET.**A. God's good creation.**

1. Adam was created to stand in an office as a friend of God and a servant and worker in God's kingdom.
2. This servant/worker role was three-fold:
 - a. with the intellectual side of his nature to know God and declare his praises.
 - b. with the volitional side of his nature to will the will of God and consecrate himself and all things to God.
 - c. with all his power to subject himself and all things to the living God and rule over the visible world for God.
3. How wonderfully Adam knew God from his wonderful creation and because God came and spoke to him each day.
4. Adam was God's prophet: knowing God and in loving adoration declaring his wonderful virtues.

B. Humanity's awful fall.

1. The knowledge of God was not only lost but worse: subverted into its very opposite: darkness and the love of the lie.
2. Even with 'natural light', fallen humanity has become servants/workers of sin.
3. Fallen man does not have the right or ability, will or desire to appear as God's representative to speak to or for God.
4. Darkened in his understanding, perverse in heart, hating God he holds the truth under in unrighteousness.
5. Through sin, people become false prophets, who lie about the living God. And this lie develops through history.

C. Moses' burden:

1. Moses complains of the burden of caring and leading such a rebellious people in the wilderness.
2. God hears and provides for Moses 70 elders to help him, giving them of Moses' spirit.
3. Two of those elders were not at the tabernacle, but also were given the Spirit, and work mightily in the camp.
4. Young Joshua is jealous for Moses' honor and glory and wants Eldad and Medad to be silenced.

D. Moses' desire:

1. Moses speaks prophetically: "Would God that all the LORD'S people were prophets..." (Numb.11: 29).
2. This was realized in the new dispensation in our Lord Jesus Christ.
3. Christ is the Anointed of God. He is exalted and received the Spirit, which he poured out on Pentecost.
4. Moses wish is fulfilled as Christ pours out his Spirit not on a few, but all of his people (Joel 2:28).

II. THE WORK THAT THE PROPHET PERFORMS.**A. God's people as true prophets know God.**

1. Christ reveals the Father unto us.
2. Christ instructs us by his Word and Spirit.
3. Christ delivers us from the darkness of our understanding and perverseness of mind, that we might have true knowledge.
4. Now we have this only in part, we see as in a glass dark, soon perfectly when we see him face to face.
5. Even as the 70 elders did not detract from the glory of Moses, so every Christian as prophet does not rob Christ of glory.

B. As prophets, we know God in order that we may speak **to him.**

1. We speak to God as we call on his name. We pray for more revelation and greater knowledge: "Speak Lord..."
2. We speak to God as we extol his virtues and praises: "I will extol thee O my God, and praise thee O my King...everyday.
3. We do this because God is great and greatly to be praised.

C. As prophets we know God in order that we may speak **about him. This is our privilege and calling!**

1. We speak out in the congregation and before the world, confessing Christ as Lord (Matt. 10:32,33 Rom 10:8-11).
2. We do this to our selves when despairing. We have soul-talk: "O my soul, why art thou grieving...hope thou in God."
3. We speak to our children, instructing them in the fear of the Lord: "Each generation to the next shall testimony bear."
4. We do this in the midst of the congregation to comfort, encourage, admonish and warn, instruct and train.
5. We do this in the midst of the world antithetically holding forth the Word of life over against the lie of sin.
6. Individually and collectively as a church we witness and bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

III. THE PURPOSE OF OUR CALLING.**A. Negatively: not in pride or to show off.**

1. Joshua was concerned that Eldad and Medad were showing off, stealing the honor from Moses.
2. The Apostle writes to the Corinthian Church because there was trouble with members using their gifts for self.
3. Today too we must be careful as a pastor or members of Christ's church that we do not use spiritual gifts in pride.
4. That which we know and that which we speak is given and worked by the Holy Spirit.

B. Positively:

1. Moses and the 70 elders were given the gift of prophecy for the benefit and edification of God's people.
2. Eldad and Medad, called and equipped, speak over against the weeping, murmuring to teach and admonish.
3. In the Corinthian church, the Apostle has pointed out the greatest spiritual gift is love (I Cor, 13).
4. All of the other spiritual gifts (including using foreign languages) are to be used to edify others.
5. Of those spiritual gifts, it is especially the gift of prophesy that the Apostle desire for God's people.
6. In prophesying we "speak unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort (I Cor.14:3)."
7. Paul speaks of himself that he would rather speak five words to teach that ten thousand words that do not edify (vs.19).

C. In love and for the glory of our God.

1. A sacred calling: make known the greatness and glory of our God.
2. A wonderful privilege: chosen and equipped to be mouthpieces to declare what the Lord hath done for our souls.