



NightLight

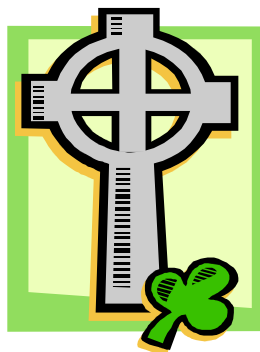
A NEWSLETTER OF McLEAN MINISTRIES

"take heed....as to a light that shines in a dark place." II Peter 1:19

Volume 226 • March 2012

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Discerning Prophecy	1, 2
What If...	3
Closing Thoughts	4



Dear Friends,

The testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy....

Revelation 19:10

I've heard a few bizarre interpretations of this seemingly cryptic verse. Where prophecy becomes an over focus, all sorts of unique twists can be given to what is a really straightforward statement. As has been said and always bears repeating: the best commentary on Scripture is Scripture. Four times the book of Revelation makes reference to 'the testimony of Jesus.' In each case and collectively, these all refer to our being faithful to the true message of the gospel which Jesus died to ratify and rose again to enforce. The true 'spirit of prophecy' agrees with Him. However, prophecy can evidently become something people lose confidence in and can even begin to consider despicable. We know that, because Paul instructed the Thessalonians to 'hold fast what is good' and to 'resist and refrain what is bad.' Both of these statements refer to prophecy. We are not to 'despise prophecy', but to be aware that there are bad forms of it out there, and learn to discern the difference between the good and the bad.

The writer of Hebrews tells us that any young believer should be approaching the place of being able to discern the difference between what is good and what is evil because they have fed on the Word of God itself. (Hebrews 4-5) God evidently expects the function of prophecy to be abundant in the life of the church according to I Corinthians 12. Yet it is to be judged (discerned) concerning its accuracy and relevance. This is to help the entire church to grow in wisdom and discernment. We are not to be overprotected in some kind of spiritual hothouse where we are never confronted with murky mixtures. We must grow up and learn to tell the differences.

Continued on page 2

Prophecy can mean one of two things: fore telling or forth telling. It may or may not have a supernatural predictive element in it. But whether it is predictive or not, if it is truly in the 'spirit of prophecy' that is testifying of Jesus, it will have an anointing that lifts it far above the average communication. Some preaching is simply flat and dead, or worse, condemning or self serving. It may communicate a certain truth but motivated by a spirit that is not from Jesus. For instance, I sat in a service once where the pastor was explaining to his flock that if they broke covenant with him that it was the same as breaking covenant with God. He added that if they left his supervision their lives would be cursed! No wonder Paul warns us not to get to where we 'despise' prophecy. That tripe I just quoted is obviously self serving, manipulative, fear inducing witchcraft, and would make prophecy despicable to us if we weren't careful to discern. It doesn't pass the test of the true spirit of prophecy.

Paul tells us that real prophecy will edify, exhort, and comfort. That means that even if a message is a spiritual 'spanking,' it will ultimately bring the fruit of righteousness which is peace. I have known times when I was tempted to reject a message because it was hard, discomforting, or even a bit frightening. But after praying and reconsidering, I would realize that the message was true, given in love, and calling me to a place of repentance, which ultimately

produced a deeper peace in me. Such a hard message passes the test of true prophecy.

Your recorded message this month is almost entirely my sharing with you from two prophecies. They are more than preaching. They are warnings of the future. I have the utmost confidence in the persons these messages came through. They are separated time wise by over a decade, the first given in the mid 60s and the second in the mid 70s. But they are referring to a time which was for them decades away. I believe the times they referred to are here, now. So I want to share them with you. They will not at first feel comforting. But they will begin with exhortation and if heeded, will result in edification and that will result in comfort. Therefore I believe they are valid, and more than valid, desperately needed.

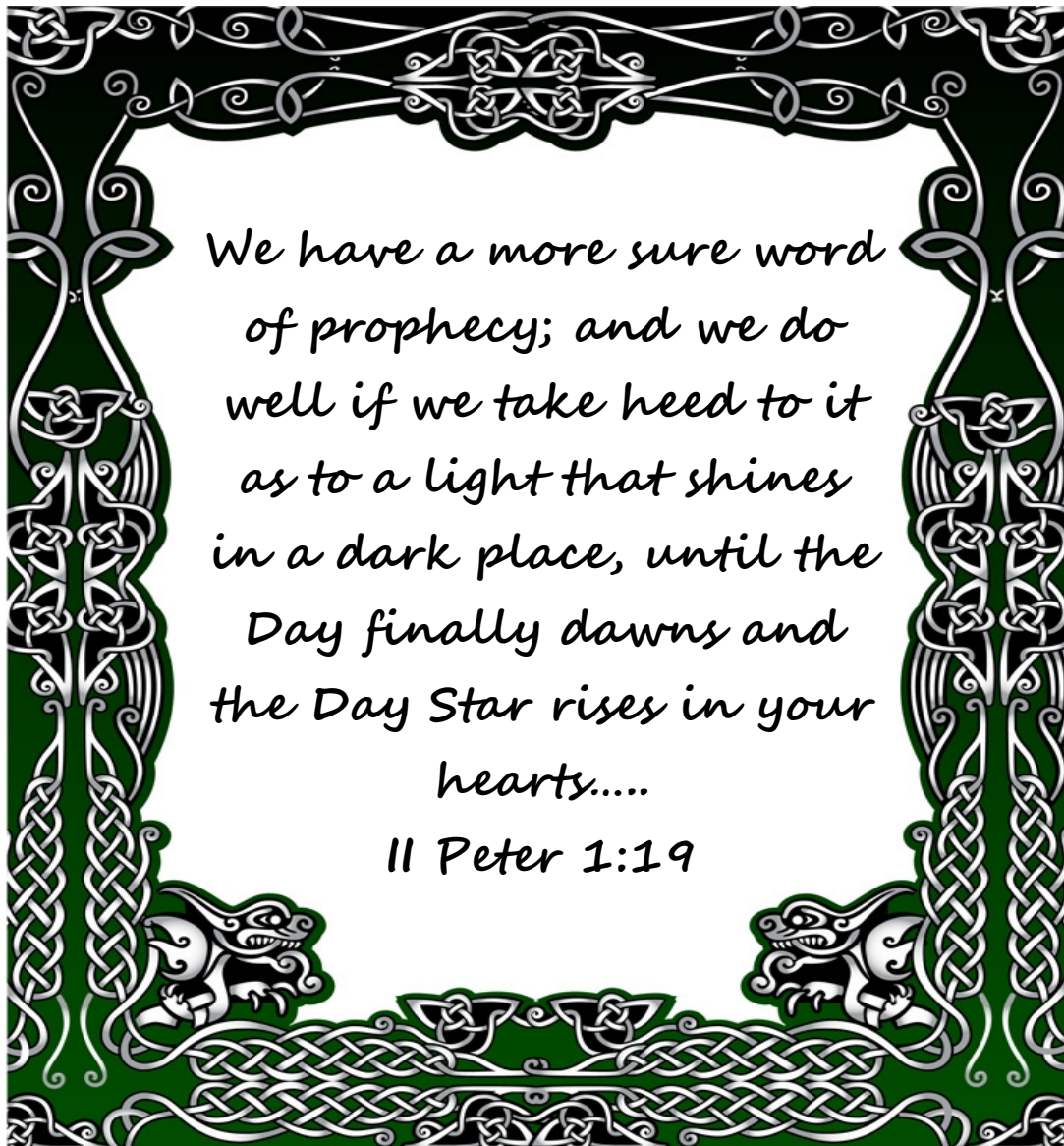


WHAT IF...

YOUR DEPRESSIVE TENDENCIES HAVE BEEN BECAUSE YOU ARE A WELL TRAINED SOLDIER SET FOR BATTLE, AND LIKE ALL SUCH SOLDIERS, LACKING A CLEAR AIM, PENT UP ENERGIES FOR THE BATTLE TURN NEGATIVE WHEN THEY ARE UNEXPRESSED AND FRUSTRATED?

WHAT IF...

YOUR BEST WILL BE UNLEASHED SOON WHEN THE DARK IS SO DARK THAT HIS LIGHT SHINES ITS FULLEST THROUGH YOU?



Closing Thoughts...



Mary and I pray for you and for us and our families that as the dark gets ever darker, it will only result in the light becoming more clearly manifest for you. God told us that if we walk with Him, His word would be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; that the path of the just would be like a shining light, brighter and brighter till it reaches full noon day; that light would arise out of darkness for those who fear Him.

It IS possible for our JOY to be so awakened in the face of impending darkness that we will find ourselves more fulfilled, more strengthened, and more effective for good than at any previous time in our lives.

*Shining On,
Clay & Mary*



McLean Ministries

P.O. Box 2088 • Hickory, North Carolina 28603 • 828.322.5402
website: www.mcleanministries.org • email: claymcleanministries@pobox.com