

**Kingdom Feature, November 2014**

## **The School of the Prophets**

### **“Stay On Course”**

#### ***Part 2***

By Apostle Jerry Upton

Let us review with a familiar and timely scripture.

#### **Proverbs 3:5-7**

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eye: fear the Lord and depart from evil.”

We continue this month examining revelations from **Jeremiah 17:5-9**.

<sup>5</sup> Thus saith the Lord; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord.

<sup>6</sup> For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited.

<sup>7</sup> Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is.

<sup>8</sup> For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

<sup>9</sup> The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

v. 7-8 3. The revelation that is set forth in this verse clearly describes how a man or woman whose trust and hope are in God looks...BLESSED. As you continue reading in verse 8, you get an even more detailed description:

- Firmly planted and steadfast
- Has a continuous supply of refreshing

- Is not moved by outward difficulties and problems
- Is at all times fruitful and experiencing harvest
- Is not affected by lack, and walks free from fear

Now just in case you think that I'm stretching these scriptures, just notice what it says in Psalm 71:1-24 as it relates to those who truly trust God and have placed their complete dependency on Him. You have been given the right to expect: (1) deliverance in the midst of trouble, (2) divine protection from anything that is sent against you, (3) divine strength that moves you forward in the midst of difficulty, (4) God's power that increases you greatly and provides comfort on every side, and much, much, much more.

Unfortunately, what has happened to many who make up the body of Christ is that they have been taught and trained to place their trust and hope in religious exercises rather than in the true and living God. There are so many that don't have an intimate, one-on-one relationship with God; and therefore, it is almost impossible for them to stay on course and remain focused when they find themselves in troubled situations.

Notice what it declares in Romans 8:35-39.

<sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

<sup>36</sup> As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

<sup>37</sup> Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

<sup>38</sup> For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

<sup>39</sup> Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

In order to be "fully persuaded", it takes having a revelation of God's love for you; and that regardless of what is taking place in your life, your trust in God creates a "sure anchor for your soul". I have personally found in the midst of my trying situations, when it seems like time has stopped, friends are few and hard to find, and that there are no "visible signs" that things will ever change, I have the right to "choose" to trust my God anyway because no matter what, I am confident of His LOVE FOR ME.

I don't have time for self-pity or feeling sorry for myself; I don't have time for blaming others or making excuses for where I am; I don't have time for looking back at past mistakes, failures, shortcomings, flaws, weaknesses, or other "designated defeated thoughts"; I choose to do what is written in Philippians 3:13-15...

<sup>13</sup> Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

<sup>14</sup> I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

<sup>15</sup> Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you."

In order to stay on course and furnish God an obedient, committed, holy and pure life, I have accepted the fact that regardless of how loud my flesh is screaming for an easier way to travel, I'm through doing things my way and according to the flesh. "It's either God's way or no way at all." Now I must admit that it has taken years for me to begin to walk consistently this way, and what has helped me to reach this place is the following:

- STOP trying to impress others by how "spiritual" you appear to be outwardly, and place your focus on being changed into the image of the Lord, from glory to glory. 2 Corinthians 3:18
- STOP allowing others to hold you bound by the failures of the past, and become developed in the revelation that God's compassion for you never fails because it is new every morning. Lamentations 3:22-23
- STOP allowing self-pity and feeling sorry for yourself to dominate your thought life, but rather learn how to "count it all joy" in the midst of every situation. James 1:2
- STOP trusting in the might of man's wisdom, ability, fleshly ideas, trial and error methods, and "quick fixes" to get you through. Make the decision today to place all of your trust in God and God alone. Psalm 31:1-6
- START making time to spend some part of your day in the presence of God, just you and Him. Regardless of how much time you start with, stay consistent; and when in His presence, tell Him how you really feel. "BE REAL." Philippians 4:6-7
- START declaring what your purpose and course is that has been set by God. God is at work each moment of your life to work things for your good as you stay committed to His purpose. Romans 8:28
- START giving God praise, honor and glory, and exaltation, especially when you feel like doing it the least. Remember and start practicing what Philippians 4:4 says... "Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say rejoice."

And finally,

- START allowing God to manifest Himself through your life the way He chooses to, whenever He chooses to, wherever He chooses to, and to whomever He chooses to each day of your life. Philippians 2:12-13

Depending on how long that you've been saved and truly walking with God, there will come a time in your spiritual walk that you will be challenged and tempted to take

matters into your own hands and do things your way. But let me exhort you as one who fully understands the consequences of trusting in the arm of the flesh, the end result of that choice is always a “CURSE”, and not the blessings of God.

Due to the fact that my only help comes from the Lord, my God, I am no longer controlled or governed by the opinions of man; false doctrines and teachings designed to stimulate my fleshly lusts and desires; or the need for others to confirm my acceptance and value in the Lord. I can truly concur with the Apostle Paul when he declared in Philippians 4:11-13:

<sup>11</sup> Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

<sup>12</sup> I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

<sup>13</sup> I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

I close by exhorting you to “stay on course”. Don’t allow the arm of the flesh to become your God, and always know this: “Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.” 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17