

The process to the promise (part 1) Max Ruschmeyer

How many here love it when a prophetic word is spoken over you or someone you are close to?

Isn't it exhilarating to feel the potential that is released at that moment?

How many of you here have had prophetic words spoken over you that has yet to be fulfilled?

A tougher question; how many here have become discouraged or disheartened that there is yet to be any fulfillment of a word? 5, 10, 15 years later? (Bob Crain in SLO 1990)

Is a prophetic word given an automatic for fulfillment? Will it sovereignly just happen?

Do we just put them on the shelf and wait to see if they come to pass?

Or do we have a part to play in the process?

What about words and declarations given by high profile prophetic people of a great awakening, or revival or 1 billion soul harvest? Are these just going to happen regardless of how we value them, or are they conditional (at least in the time you and I are on this earth) and do they require our engagement to come to pass? **Could it be if we do not engage in the process to see them happen in our lifetime we will forfeit our calling and a later generation will raise-up to see it's fulfillment?** Joshua & Caleb....promised land.

Esther 4:14 For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?

The apostle Paul.....Road to Damascus. He could have rejected the Lords call.

What about the "time" of Jesus return? Is it a date set in stone or can we actually have a part in it's fulfillment? **II Peter 3:12** You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming..... (**not** that things need to get dark enough).

We live in the NOW and the NOT YET. **Question; How much of the kingdom is for now? It's unclear to us; maybe it's as much as we want to go after.**

Is it possible by our own distorted spiritual core values or **bad theology or pessimistic eschatology** that we nullify a word given to us? Or possibly with an **unhealthy identity** we would conclude; not possible, too lofty for me, I'm just a

Unconditional promises: A given, it will happen. Example; the coming savior; Jesus. **Isaiah 9:6-7:**

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Gods promise to Abraham that he would be a father of many nations.

Gods promise to David of an everlasting kingdom.

Jesus promise to His church to restore all things (fullness of the kingdom).

Conditional promises: We have a part to play in the fulfillment. An Old Covenant and a New Covenant concept. **O.C. Zech 3:6** The angel of the Lord gave this charge to Joshua: "This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'If you will walk in obedience to me and keep my requirements, then you will govern my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you a place among these standing here. Many times in the O.C. we see the condition given to kings and leaders; **IF** they would walk in the ways of God, blessing would be upon them.

The book of Deuteronomy has chapters dedicated to blessings or curses, depending on choices.

N.C. Gal 6:9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest **IF** we do not give up. **Heb 5:11-14.....** But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have **trained** themselves to distinguish good from evil. Greek: **Gymnazo**; "*to train, naked or wearing a loin cloth*") – *properly, naked or lightly clad, as with an ancient Greek athlete in a sporting event; (figuratively) to train with one's full effort, i.e. with complete physical, emotional force like when working out intensely in a gymnasium.* **Often we feel like we are training naked when we try to move with the Spirit.**

Lets look at **4 lies that can paralyze** us and cause us to not seek a fulfillment to a word or have spiritual break-throughs. These points come from a book called; **Prophetic Company by Dan McCollam (Danno)**

The first Lie: Cessation-ism! Cessation-ism is the belief that the operations of the Spirit such as speaking in tongues, prophecy and healing ceased with the last of the 12 apostles....lastly the apostle John the Beloved. A large segment of the western world church believes in the cessation perspective. You could say that this is a modern **Sadducee perspective. Acts 23:8**

Though they would admit that God can sovereignly do supernatural stuff, it is not the norm and shouldn't be pursued. This was a pattern of thinking that gripped the church almost globally about the third century BC and has been strongly advocated ever since. **This perspective believes in the trinity more as; God The Father, God The Son and God The Holy Bible.** The book (Bible) is supposed to point to the author (God), not the author pointing to the book.

But Jesus said in **John 16: 7, 12-15** ...It is better that I go away so the Spirit will come (**not a book**).

In **Acts 2:38-39** Peter says the promised Spirit was for ALL who come to Him, even the distant future. Jesus also prayed for those a far off to receive the promise of the Spirit (not a book).

We now know from a closer study of history there were regions and people that operated in the supernatural in every century since Christ's ascension. They never ceased.

Thankfully this is beginning to change!

The second Lie: Exception-ism! Your spell-checker won't like this word. It's a word Danno created to explain a concept. Exception-ism became a strong concept about the same time Cessation-ism did, though this allowed some supernatural manifestation to be valid in operation **“only by the spiritual elite”**. In fact as early as AD 260 some church leaders concluded that if manifestations occurred by a common person then it must be demonic, but if performed by a priest or high ranking religious figure than it could be determined to be an “exception” work of God. **Do you see how controlling & dis-empowering this concept is?** This concept strips the common man of any possible hope of walking in anointing and power. I would call that a “doctrine of demons”. This lie says; Who do you think you are? Your not qualified for this? You're not spiritual enough for this? Here's a quote from Danno's book: *Exception-ism is a toxic denial of the love of God, the riches of His grace, and the power of the gospel. The revelation of God in scripture demonstrates that He is not moved by exceptional need but rather by simple faith. Exception-ism is a lie that disqualifies believers of an essential part of their inheritance.* End quote.

Bill Johnson; It's impossible to properly represent the love of God with-out the

power of God.

The third lie: Monasticism! Monasticism can be simply defined as “withdrawing from everyday life to concentrate on prayer and meditation”. Obviously we think of monks living secluded lives in a monastery precariously perched on a rocky cliff somewhere.

Now, there is nothing wrong with living a life set apart to serve the Lord and choosing to abstain from certain things so that your life is in obedience to Jesus, but the lie we are talking about here is a system by which you become “holy enough” by a monastic lifestyle that God can find you worthy enough to use you or work through you to do supernatural things.

Pauls rebuke to the Galation church was that though they were saved by grace they were drifting to an observance of the law performance mindset to continue on in spiritual growth.

While it is true you can LEARN greater spiritual mastery through spiritual disciplines, you can not EARN it through performance. If you could, then the Pharisees would have been the most powerful spiritual people on earth. Yet they were the ones Jesus had the most contention with.

Quote: **The gifts of the Spirit are not merit badges to be earned, but rather gifts given to vulnerable vessels designed to bless people, cities and nations.**
End quote.

The fourth lie: Vilification! Vilification is to attack the reputation of a person or thing with strong and abusive criticism. The Pharisees tried this one on Jesus in **Matt 12:24** when they said; “it is by Beelzebul the prince of demons that this fellow (Jesus) drives out demons”.

You will find people that have bought into the first lie of cessation-ism, will also often side with vilification when they see something that doesn't agree with their theology. Sometimes well meaning people just don't have a grid for the spirit realm or supernatural ministry, so to “uphold” their belief system they will vilify someone who operates at a level of faith that they have no grid for, theology of, or experience in.

You and I get vilification leveled against us any time we try to move forward in faith. Usually it is that **familiar voice** that sounds like ours, but is really from the pit that tells us we are unworthy, we are corrupt, we have selfish motives, we're not holy enough, we are damaged goods, we are too broken, we are operating in the wrong spirit etc etc etc.

The dogs of doom stand at the door of destiny. Will we step by them and lay hold of what the Lord has for us?