

THE PROCEEDING WORD
27 February 2008

This is the heart of *the Present Reformation and the Apostolic message*. It may be referred to as **Present Truth, The Now Word or The Word for Today**. Although terms and language may differ, there is one thing that the apostolic company agrees upon i.e. *that God is speaking something brand new in this season* and that we have to take note of what he's saying. There have been many truths revealed to us in the past but they do not seem to hold much relevance for this season. The impact and the ability to produce mature sons upon the earth are noticeably absent. Hence the proceeding word.

WHY THIS MESSAGE OF THE PROCEEDING WORD IS SO URGENT?

Most believers do not personally study the Word of the Lord. They are willing to participate in every or most Christian and Church activity rather than study His Word.

There is the False perception that *the bible is a book of promises to make you rich, happy, healthy and take you to heaven*. With a philosophy like this there is no need for anything else *from the Holy Book. Important aspects of spiritual maturity, son ship and exact representation of the Christ on the earth are never considered*. It is an unfortunate observation that the Charismatic and Pentecostal Movements produced a large number of Biblically Illiterate people. These have depended solely upon the words *not by might nor by power but by my spirit*. I am certainly not against the power and move of the Holy Spirit. However, one must remember that *The Holy Spirit is also a TEACHER*. For this reason so many have fallen prey to liars, cheats and charlatans.

People are willing to believe whatever is preached or taught to them without examining the content or the veracity of the teachings. At some point in the history of the church this was acceptable. The reason then was that men and women of God were people of great integrity and Godliness. Today however, there are teachers and preachers who conjure up their own ideas which do not exist in the word and pass them off to God's people. Through skillful presentations, oratory excellence and top notch marketing tactics even the elect are sometimes deceived. It's time to awake.

Opinions of popular men must be rejected with contempt. The bible must be read in conjunction with the bible. *Scripture must interpret scripture*. The apostle Paul commanded *that we must rightly divide the word of the Lord*. This means we must engage the word *with accuracy and precision*.

Many people especially in the West base their beliefs on movies which are nothing more than fiction. There is the tendency to also lean heavily on novels and paperbacks which once again *are the works of men's hands*. These skilled craftsmen are masters at their game. They can tell a story so convincingly that even the most sincere can be blinded. *Soon the "book" "the author's opinions" and the "movies" take precedence over the word*. With the reliance on these "crutches" *Christ the living word is also excluded*.

MOSES MADE MENTION OF THIS PROCEEDING WORD.

Deuteronomy 8:3 *"He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone but by every (word) that proceeds from the mouth of God."*

The text says *He fed you with manna That He Might MAKE YOU KNOW (i.e.observe,*

recognize) that man Shall not KEEP ALIVE by bread (grain or bread) but by everything (word is not found in the original) PROCEEDS (Hebrew motsaw motsaw;= the act of going forth, the rising sun, utterance, a gate, a fountain, amine or meadow) from God.

This implies that there is a constant speaking by the Lord. He is releasing his thoughts and decrees for life on an ongoing basis. He has not ceased speaking. *The cloud that led Israel through the wilderness was not a stagnant cloud. It carried a message of motion. So too does his word continue today.*

Years later when Jesus is tempted by the devil he uses the same word to overcome him. Matthew 4:4 Jesus said *It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."*

The word in this context is the Greek word RHEMA. It means An utterance, a matter or a topic. The word "Proceeds" has several connotations :- To proceed, project, to traverse, to walk, make or take a journey, a going forth or the place where motion begins.

So the proceeding is an active word; a relevant word. Something that is living and vibrant and workable at a certain time. It is imperative that the child of God understand the relevance of what God is saying *in a particular season*. Failure to do this will result in being trapped in past paradigm or a preceding word.

CONSIDER THE ACTION OF MOSES IN THE FOLLOWING.

Exodus 17:6 *"I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you will strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink." And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.*

The people enjoyed the water that God provided. Now let's go on to the next occasion.

Numbers 20:8 *"Take the ROD; you and your brother Aaron gather the congregation together. Speak to the rock before their eyes, and it will yield it's water; thus you shall bring water for them out of the rock, and give drink to the congregation."*

v11 *Then Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock twice with his ROD; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank.*

V12 *The Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron "Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them."*

In the first instance God said "strike the rock." In the second he asked him "to speak to the rock." Note in the second instance "THE ROD" was still present but God did not ask him to use it. *Moses failed to discern the "proceeding command" of the Lord. He sought to operate by the preceding command. God did not approve of that. He suffered a great loss. He was deprived the opportunity of entering into the land.*

In like manner failure to discern the proceeding word will cause much harm to people. Many will labor for life but never enter into a rest in him.

ISAIAH THE PROPHET ALSO ALLUDED TO THE PROCEEDING WORD.

Isaiah 55:11 *"So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; It shall not return to Me void. But it shall accomplish what I please."*

The going forth is a breaking out or a bringing forth.

In this regard the apostle Paul writes to the Corinthian church.

3.

2 Corinthians 3:6 *"Who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills but the Spirit gives live."*

The letter here is :- a letter, a note or an epistle. Earlier references to the “tables of stone” refer to that which is already past. The effect of the Letter is that it kills.(Greek Apoktino= to slay, to kill outright, to destroy, put to death). Then we are told That the Spirit gives life. We are declared ministers of the Spirit.

The Word SPIRIT is Breath. The breath exits the mouth. That is from the mouth of God.

As we consider Isaiah and Paul we understand that there is a life giving word; a word that comes by the breath, the mouth of God. This is a current, relevant word. *It is something we refer to as the Proceeding word. The word for this season.*

THERE ARE OTHER CONSIDERATIONS IN THE SCRIPTURES.

* **Let's consider the man of God Jacob.**

Genesis 32:26 - His name is Changed from Jacob to ISRAEL.

Exodus 1:7 – The man's becomes the name of the Nation. Called “The children of Israel”

Matthew 2:6 “My people Israel”

Exodus 4:22 - The Nation Israel is called “Israel My Son”

Ezekiel 7:2; 11:7 The land is called Israel “The land of Israel”

I Corinthians 10:18 “There's an Israel after the flesh” Inference “That there's a SPIRITUAL ISRAEL”

Romans 9:6 “They are not all ISRAEL who are of Israel” The argument here is that Abraham has children after the spirit i.e. The Church.

This progression in the word must be viewed as *the proceeding word of God. It would be sheer tragedy to remain in any single aspect of the above and not follow through to the finish. This is what we aim to do.*

* **Now Consider the city Jerusalem.**

Psalms 122:3 “Jerusalem is built as a city that is compact together.”

This text and hundreds of others refer to the city of God; the place where the temple was located; where sacrifices were offered.

Hebrews 12:22 “You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, THE HEAVENLY JERUSALEM, to an innumerable company of angels, v23 to the General assembly and the church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven.”

Galatians 4:26 “The JERUSALEM From ABOVE is FREE.”

These texts have no reference to the city of Jerusalem but to the church of Jesus Christ. We are that Zion. The Jerusalem.

2 Peter 1:11,12 Peter refers to the kingdom and access being given to the saints into the kingdom. Further all the blessings become ours through the kingdom. In verse 12 he calls them **To Be ESTABLISHED IN THE PRESENT TRUTH.**

The Present truth is the PROCEEDING WORD; these are the things God is saying in this kairos. They must be listened and adhered to.

In subsequent articles we will always refer to the PROCEEDING WORD.

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