

## “Transition Excitement”

By Mrs. Sojourner

Can you believe it? We have only one more month in 2007. Some people are excited to get 2007 over with and get on to the New Year, while some others are in a panic to hurry up and get everything accomplished they had planned to do this year.

Consider this: let's be excited through the transition. Yes, I understand the desire to finish certain things before the end of the year, but getting depressed over what is not done does not help progress and just adds to stress.

<sup>6</sup>Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:6-7 (NIV)

<sup>16</sup>Be joyful always; <sup>17</sup>pray continually; <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thes. 5:16-18(NIV)

So as you are doing your best to finish out the year well, pray about what God



Notes:

[a]

wants to be a priority in each day (also for week, month and year) as well as thanking him for what he has done in and through you.

Mixing the prayerful prioritization with gratitude not only helps us stay in peace—and out of stress—but also keeps us grounded in who we serve and what our purpose in life is.

If God reveals something that needs done, remember that it is Satan who is the accuser of the Brethren, not God so there is no reason for us to join the enemy's forces and beat yourself up for places you have fallen short. Just gratefully acknowledge your error, repent (turn around) and do things as God wants them done. Doing this you can finish out 2007 and enter 2008 with joy, peace, and a plan.

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# Sojourning

Vol. 6 No. 38 December 2, 2007

...with The Sojourner

## “Grace And Prophecy” (Teaching Sketch)

Joel 2:27-29

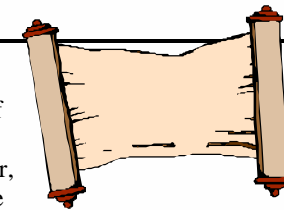
When God blesses mankind it is an act of grace.<sup>[1]</sup> Grace, when applied to the Believer, reaches far beyond the common grace experienced by all people. Common grace consists of the environment in which all live out their “natural” lives. All and any grace is a gift, an unearned gift.

### Prophecy's Root

Grace is at the root of prophecy! Why, because all prophecy is a gift of grace from God as one of God's categories of communication with mankind. God does not have to communicate with mankind but does because God is love and as such loves his creation which he made in his own image. God, from the very time of creation communicated with mankind

### When God Speaks

God speaks with purpose when he speaks. It is our responsibility to listen and understand what he is saying. It is important to understand hearing God is done best with a hefty understanding of



**Notes:**  
[1] charis khar'-eece ; graciousness (as gratifying), of manner or act; especially the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life; including gratitude):—acceptable, benefit, favour, gift, grace (-ious), joy liberality, pleasure, thank (-s, -worthy).

scripture. This type of understanding provides a person with some assurance the “voice” (not necessarily audible) they are hearing is in fact God's voice and not that of a demonic being.

### Foretelling Events

Sometimes when God speaks to his people it is to foretell a coming event. This is what people usually think of when they think of prophecy. Prophecy is, however, not limited to foretelling.

It is also true when God foretells a matter it does not necessarily involve judgment and destruction on his people as a form of punishment. Here are some examples of different messages he has given to people:

- God speaks to Adam in the Garden. <sup>Genesis 2:16</sup>
- God speaks to Moses. <sup>Exodus 3:4</sup>
- God speaks through Moses. <sup>Exodus 5:1</sup>
- God speaks to Gideon.

## Scripture:

Joel 2:27-29 (KJV)

27And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed.

28And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream

dreams, your young men shall see visions:

29And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

John 6:44

44"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.



## Advent

This is the first week in Advent.  
This is the week we light the:

## Prophecy Candle

### Saying:

"I light the Prophecy Candle, which reminds us God spoke through prophets of old to tell mankind the Savior was coming to take away the sins of the world."

**Scripture Reading:** Isaiah 53

**Song:** "O' Come, O' Come Emmanuel"

## "Grace And Prophecy" (Teaching Sketch)

Joel 2:27-29

Judges 6:12

- God speaks through Gideon. <sup>Judges 7:15</sup>
- God Speaks to and through Isaiah. <sup>Isaiah 53</sup>
- God speaks Through angles. <sup>Luke 2:10</sup>
- God speaks through the Apostle Paul <sup>Galatians 1</sup>
- God speaks through the Apostle John <sup>Revelation 1:1</sup>

These are selected examples only, not an exhaustive listing of God speaking to and through people.

### When God Speaks

When God speaks to a person it is a form of prophecy. Many people say they have never had God speak to them yet they are Believers. Jesus, himself, said, "No one can come to me unless the father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day." <sup>John 6:44</sup> What does this mean? It means if a person has truly become a Christian, God has spoken to them. The speaking may not have been audible, but God did in fact speak to them, nonetheless. This, alone, is a great help in the understanding of God's voice when they hear God speak to them because they have experience. All need to listen, God may be speaking prophetically!

### Just so you'll know:

**Our service is informal.** We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
  - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship**
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during "Praise & Worship" (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
  - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

