

1 Thessalonians 5 - The Waiting Room – part 10

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18—We are pursuing the answers to the question of “what do we do while we wait and we began adding last week what **not** to do.

--Who is Holy Spirit? He's like the air we breathe here; He's everything to us.

1. The Holy Spirit defines us-- **Romans 8:9**

2. The Holy Spirit leads us – **Romans 8:14.**

He's drew us to Jesus

He birthed us into Christ

He baptized us into Christ and we were immersed in the medium of the Spirit -- full immersion!

He indwells us

He Teaches us

He assures us

He seals us

He is a full member of the Trinity

--**Genesis 1:1-3** – Father God, creator of all things, but how did He do it? He spoke it. How did He speak it?

--How do you speak?

--How did you say that? Vocal cords. Just vocal cords? There has to be air passing over them.

--Only vocal cords and air? no, vocal cords and air shaped with your mouth.

--That's it? No, Air passes through your vocal cords, through your mouth, but then they have done their job, and the projection of your body and your air is your sound; your words!

Mouth and vocal cords without breath are nothing, the breath without the body is meaningless, together they form the sound that gives purpose and meaning to all of it. Sound doesn't exist without the previous two, neither do the previous have meaning without the latter.

Likewise, when God creates, He uses all of Himself; Father, Son, Holy Spirit; none exist apart from the other.

--God Shapes His word but not without the Breath of the Spirit; God by His Spirit shapes His Word and that Word creates everything.

John 1:1, 3; II Timothy 3:16 You breathe your words and I breathe my words; I can't breathe your words neither you mine; neither of us can Breathe God's Word – that has come to us solely by Him.

Hebrews 1:2

Solely by God comes this Word to us: **II Thessalonians 5:19** –Why would He say it unless He meant it? Why would He mean it unless we are endanger of it?

V. 20 – “prophecies”, “prophetic utterances”, NLT “do not scoff at prophecies.”

--This opens a big can of worms because we all have our ideas of prophecy is, some believe it doesn't happen anymore others are convinced it does, most aren't really sure.

--Remember: we didn't say this; we didn't form it, we didn't breathe it, we didn't vocalize it, and it's not from us.

--This is true for all Scripture but this verse and topic gives us a good place to illustrate how it important it is that we ask God, “what is this?”

--Again, we may think we know, but, listen, I didn't until I poured over this text, and I was amazed at what I found.

1. “Prophecy is predicting the future.” Yes, in part.

--What we primarily think of when we hear the word prophecy is foretelling the future.

--Again, this is part of what prophecy is but it is not all of it.

People are enamored with foretelling the future partly because we as a species are so bad at it.

Our predictive abilities are in stark contrast to the Bible which has a 100% success rate predicting future events.

Proofs of the legitimacy of the Bible:

1. The number of ancient copies of it that we have compared to the copies of any other ancient texts like the Koran or the Greek classics such as Homer's Iliad and Odyssey.
2. The fact that there has never been any archeological find that has contradicted the Bible.
3. The pinnacle of all proofs that the Bible is of supernatural origin is its 100% accuracy in predicting the future.

Look at any of the writings of other so-called religions and their authors:

Charles Russell of Jehovah's Witnesses predicted the second coming of Jesus in 1878, 1881, 1914, 1918, and 1925 and 1975.

--These "events viewed as having taken place invisibly" according to the official records of the JW's.

--The Bible has a lot to say about people like him: "Unreasoning animals, stains and blemishes, eyes full of adultery, never cease from sin, trained in greed, accursed children, springs without water, mists driven by a storm, whose condemnation was written about long ago, for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever." II Peter and Jude

Joseph Smith was best known by the Mormons as "the Prophet"

"President Smith then stated that the meeting had been called, because God had commanded it; and it was made known to him by vision and by the Holy Spirit. . . . 'it was the will of God that they should be ordained to the ministry and go forth to prune the vineyard for the last time, for the coming of the Lord, which was nigh - even fifty six years should wind up the scene.'" (*History of the Church*, Vol. 2, page 182).

--This prophecy was spoken by Joseph Smith in 1835, and recorded by Oliver Cowdery. 56 years were passed by 1891.

"I prophecy in the name of the Lord God of Israel, unless the United States redress the wrongs committed upon the Saints in the state of Missouri and punish the crimes committed by her officers that in a few years the government will be utterly overthrown and wasted, and there will not be so much as a potsherd left for their wickedness in permitting the murder of men, women and children, and the wholesale plunder and extermination of thousands of her citizens to go unpunished (*History of the Church*, Vol. 5, page 394).

--Joseph Smith made this prophecy in May 6, 1843

--Deuteronomy 18:20

Mohammed

"The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: 'The time between the great war and the conquest of the city (Constantinople) will be six years, and the Dajjal (Antichrist) **will come forth in the seventh.**

--Accordingly, Muslims conquered Constantinople by May 1453 AD.

"The Messenger of Allah said: 'In one hundred years time, there will be no soul left on earth of those who are alive today.'" --Hadith

--Spoken more than 900 years ago.

These so-called prophets were just big dummies like the rest of us!

Their abilities to predict future events were no better than our meteorologists

--What other profession can you be wrong in more than 90% of the time and still keep your job?? Religion!

--**Jeremiah 23:16**

David Greenglass was an American [machinist](#) who worked on the [Manhattan Project](#) and was an [atomic spy](#) for the [Soviet Union](#). He gave atomic secrets to the Soviet Union and then fled to Mexico after WWII. His conspirators arranged to help him by planning a meeting with the secretary of the Soviet ambassador in Mexico City. Proper identification for both parties became vital.

Greenglass was to identify himself with [six prearranged signs](#). These instructions had been given to both the secretary and Greenglass so there would be no possibility of making a mistake. The signs were: (1) once in Mexico City, Greenglass was to write a note to the secretary, signing his name as "**I. Jackson**"; (2) after three days he was to go to the **Plaza de Colon** in Mexico City, and (3) stand before the **statue of Columbus**, (4) with his **middle finger placed in a guide book**. In addition, (5) when he was approached, he was to **say it was a magnificent statue** and that **he was from Oklahoma**. (6) The **secretary was to then give him a passport**.

The six prearranged signs worked. Why? With six identifying characteristics, it was impossible for the secretary not to identify Greenglass as the proper contact.

How true, then, it must be that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah since He fulfilled 456 identifying characteristics predicted in the Old Testament!

--For every single prophecy of Jesus first coming there are 8 prophecies of His second coming.

--**If you want to know the future, read the Bible!**

Predicting the future is not all the Bible does, though, nor is it all that Prophecy does: **II Peter 1:20**