

# *Prophetic Reformation and The Fires of Revival*

By

*Nita (LaFond) Johnson*

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## **From our Desk to Yours!**

**Nita (LaFond) Johnson**

**6-19-08**

Dear Friends:

We have been more than busy at home base for The World for Jesus Ministries. The ministry is growing in size and outreach and we have had to learn to accommodate to the present growth as well as get ready for future growth. Growing pains can be a challenge; however, the Lord has been more than kind, adding grace and sufficiency to our meager efforts. In all, we are enjoying the stretching process.

### The Gatherings:

As always, the work we are doing in the GOE's is on the front burner. We are so excited over what the Lord is doing. In Washington, DC in our last Gathering, we saw results that were nearly staggering. I will not detail all that we did, as some things still need to stay in the confines of the Gathering until we have accomplished our assignment. I will share some things with you, however. Through prophetic intercession, we were able to uproot ancient strongholds and pull down strategic principalities from the skies of America. This released a river of God to prepare DC for the greatest move of God it has ever known. I saw this river in a vision. Many ministries have been visiting DC lately, prayer ministries in particular. I am so pleased over this as those who minister there are doing a good work and need our support. "The Call" is one of those. As those Ministries accomplish what they are called to do and the Gatherings achieve what we are called to do, we will absolutely bring Satan under our feet over this whole Nation, shortly.

We went into DC knowing that we were going to come face to face with our enemy - invading his throne room, so to speak - and dethroning centuries of work that he has

put into place. We did, and we fought and won. We had actually put him into his own Battle of the Bulge trap, as I mentioned earlier this year. He thought he was going to entrap the Church, but it was there in his infamous stratagem that we defeated him. Praise the wonderful name of our Lord, who always leads us into triumph.

The Lord told me earlier this year that because of the work we did in our recent GOE in Nashville as well as the work we did in a private meeting I had with our leadership team in Atlanta, that He was going to be able to begin to pour out His fire in Florida, and it would travel all the way up the East Coast to NY. Within virtually days, Jesus chose to anoint a young man holding meetings in Florida and release His fire there. It is the beginning of something great. I know Todd Bentley is controversial. I also have my concerns. However, God has chosen to use him for this season in a marvelous way to release the first stages of revival fire in the Church for our good. He is operating in a healing revival anointing which, as great as it is, is really the lowest of what God is planning to do. I know there are, as of this writing, over 30 recorded and confirmed resurrections. Still, as you watch the glory continue to unfold, you will see that this is just the bottom line of what the Lord is going to release. If all Jesus was going to do is what is now happening, we could have finished our foundational work in a year or two years. Nonetheless, God has far more in store; so it has taken us 8 years to give birth to the new Reformation/Revival that is beginning to show its wonderful face.

Again, no more than Todd can take glory for the present outpouring he is now experiencing, can any one intercessory ministry take the glory for the preparatory work. It is Jesus at work in and through us all, preparing His kingdom for His coming.

We will have had our Fremont Gathering before you get this Newsletter and that will also be tremendous. God is preparing the Nation from coast to coast to bear His glory. Next is our Gathering in New Orleans. There, we are fully expecting an explosion of His glory as we persevere to break through the great southern stronghold of our enemy in this Nation. I trust you who love to pray will come and join us, helping us to overcome this vital stronghold of Satan.

Please keep our leadership team in prayer as we all prepare for the next two GOE's.

### Barack Obama

I would like to take this time to mention something very strategic. While I cannot agree with Obama's principles and his politics, I think it is notable that He is an African American man who is a serious contender for the Presidency. During the years that we interceded in the Gatherings over the atrocities against the African American people in American's history, we often prayed that God would lift them up to even the highest offices and positions in our Nation to show His approval of them as a race. In our NY Gathering, we dealt with the spirit of Mammon. I saw in a vision that, strangely enough, it was that spirit that was responsible for slavery and the present oppression of the

African American race in this Nation. As we got rid of Mammon, I saw in a vision the release of the race as a whole to fulfill their destiny in America. I was amazed. After centuries of prayer and intercession, battles lost and battles won on our soil, God allowed us the immense privilege of co-partnering with Him in prayer. Together we labored to prepare the way for an answer to all the prayers, tears, battles and blood spilled through the years for a whole new generation of people, raised to glorify Jesus in the highest levels of responsibility in this nation. I think Barack Obama signifies a turn in history. Whither or not God is behind his success is not the issue. The issue is that hearts are changing in this country in a way never before seen. For this, I praise His mighty name!

#### Bible:

As I mentioned in another Newsletter, Dr. Metteer and his wife have joined us to begin the translation work on our New Reformation Bible. We are having a wonderful time preparing it for you. The Lord is helping us stay very close to the original King James Bible as it is the most accurate. Yet the language of this new Bible will inspire even your children. For the student of the Bible it will contain much revelation of the Word which the Lord continues to pour out for your upbuilding. It is a Bible designed to carry you into the great Reformation God is sending to His Church in order to bring her to beauty and maturity and power. Again, when it is finished, we will make it available absolutely free of charge. I live by the principle of God's word that says, "Buy the truth and sell it not," and, "Freely you have been given; freely give." Ministries are not to charge the body for His truth. If my dear sister was ill, I would never sell her something that could heal her when I had it to give. I would freely give it to her as I love her and want to see her well. In the same way, we give to you the truth that can heal your spirit, soul and body: the sacred Word of God, when we have it to give. All we ask is that it does not sit on the shelf drawing dust in your home. We want it to fulfill its purpose.

#### Books:

As many of you already know, our books have arrived from the publisher. "Where Was God?" is a book about the holocaust and the future of Israel. "Melchizedek," is a prophetic book about the future of the world. Both are available, as well as our other books which have all been reedited and in some cases enhanced to bless you. Feel free to order them through our office.

#### Pulpit Ministry:

All of my energies in the last many years have gone to intercession and preparing America and other Nations for God's visitation. The Lord is now laying it upon my heart to begin to re-enter pulpit ministry. So, I am! Please keep this in prayer with me. Pray that I will know the doors He wants us to walk through, and that we will be a blessing to the Church in so doing.

Also, we are heading back out into more international ministry once again. I need strength and stamina as well as clear direction as we make this step of obedience. Please keep us in prayer.

Our Staff:

Please keep our staff in prayer as the work load is very heavy these days. Also pray that God will help us choose the right people as we continue to hire staff members in the future.

Well, I guess that is about it. I trust all I have said will encourage you as to the Lord's work.

We have included such articles as "America, We Set you Free" by Fred Gassaway, "A Biblical Basis for Contemporary Prophetic Actions" by Dr. Charles A Metteer, "Falling into the Arms of Grace" by Ricci Wilson, "Passion for Christ" by Nita Johnson and "America and the Middle East" a prophetic word by Nita Johnson.

In His Amazing Love,

Nita (LaFond) Johnson

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*America, We Set You Free*

By

*Fred Gassaway*

The April 2008 Washington, D.C. Gathering of Eagles (GOE) was awesome, and maybe the most important one to date. It is true: each GOE seems to be more wonderful, more exciting, more victorious than the one before. We are going deeper and climbing higher than ever before. The Lord has a plan for the GOE's and He is working His plan. His plan is to position America for revival, perhaps the last great harvest of souls prior to the final judgments on the world and Messiah Yeshua's return.

The Lord gives Nita and the leadership team the plan, step by step. We can, however, understand the general, overall plan and the ultimate goal the Lord desires for America. As some of you already know, the Lord dealt with Nita for almost two years, beginning in 1999, before she accepted this important call that is so dear to His heart.

I can almost hear how it went down between Nita and the Lord: the Lord sought for someone among His people who would build up a hedge (spiritual wall) and stand in the gap before Him on behalf of the land – so that He would not destroy it. He found no one. Then the Lord said, "Nita, will you build a hedge around this nation? Will you stand in the gap before Me on behalf of America so that I should not destroy her for all her abominations? Will you weep day and night, spiritually walking the streets of America, sighing and crying over all the abominations that are done within her? Will you call for all the mourning women, the wailing women, that they might make haste, that their eyes may run with tears and gush with water? Teach your daughters and your sons wailing, and everyone a lamentation, for death has come to America to kill off this generation of children!

"Nita, there is a cup in heaven that is filled with the tears of my intercessors, those who come before me and cry out in My hearing because of the evil that has been done in this nation. Will you cry in My hearing? Will you call the priests who minister before me to sanctify themselves, and come and lay before me saying, 'Spare Your people, O Lord, and do not give Your heritage to reproach, that the nations should rule over them! Why should they say among the peoples, "Where is America's God?"'"

The Lord wanted Nita to blow the trumpet in Zion, to gather the people and weep between the porch and the altar, repenting for the sins of our nation, crying out to God to spare America and the people, and pleading that He would rather bring revival to the land. This is the Lord's heart for America. He is saying to us, "Return to Me, and I will return to you; only confess your iniquities and the iniquities of your fathers."

The first Gathering of Eagles (GOE) took place in Jacksonville, FL in 2001 and subsequent GOE's have continued for seven years. Imagine, seven years of weeping and travailing before the Lord for the iniquities of America. Seven years of repenting for our sins and the sins of our fathers over the past 400 years. Seven years of acknowledging to the Lord our God that "we" have sinned, "we and our fathers" have sinned against Him, disobeyed His law/Word, rebelled against His authority to rule over us, committed adultery with the idols of the nations, and worshipped the works of our hands. America has not just become a godless nation. As the Lord once told Nita, "America has become 'the garden of the gods.'"

Nowhere is this more obvious than in our nation's capitol. This is why the Lord has had a number of GOE's in Washington, D.C., as well as sending the GOE leadership on trips through D.C. during this seven-year period.

For seven years now, Nita Johnson, the leadership team, and all of you faithful intercessors have gathered with her and prayed with her for God to save America. The Lord will reward those who have been faithful, regardless of whether you were present, or stayed at home and prayed, or supported with your gifts. As human beings we have this earthly mindset that we are nobody, that the prayers of one person can't make that

much of a difference, etc. We think that way because we still don't know the Lord very well, or understand His ways which are so much higher than ours. We're still too connected to the natural realm, to reasoning, to planning, and simply to trying to figure things out in our minds. All the Lord needs to do is connect hundreds - even thousands - together by the Spirit to pray His will, regardless of their physical location, either in our earthly or our heavenly prayer language. And remember one other thing: in the last days, God's mighty men and women of valor will be "the army of the No-Names." In fact, the one thing that may disqualify you from serving is if you are trying to make a name for yourself. We have rounded the last turn, our fathers have handed the baton off to our remnant in this generation. The finish line is within eyesight, even within our grasp. It is up to us not to try and make things happen in our own strength, but to simply run the race like Paul. We must simply persevere, endure, find joy in the Lord's death, and hope in His Resurrection Life. Our greatest weapons will be humility, love and obedience. How low are we willing to go to enter His Presence? The Lord Jesus is the Overcomer. All we need to do is live our life on earth to the fullest "in Him." It can be nowhere else, so it's time to stop looking to all these other areas of the world, and to man's vain, shallow concept of tradition and religion. We are called to be a light in the midst of darkness. That darkness can be even in the church. Unless we become the torch of His holiness, a torch burning with holy fire from His altar, then we still have a long way to go. We must surrender our worldly life. Our flesh life must be buried with Him in His death. Our life on earth can be lived through Him in His Resurrected Life. It is really not about us; it's all about Him. We must decrease so that He can increase in and through us. Then, even in the midst of deep trouble on the earth, we will live in the abundant joy and peace of His life on earth, sprinting across the finish line in the power and might of His Spirit. Amen!

The GOE may look to many as just another prayer ministry. Actually, I believe that only a very few even really know that it exists, or what it is all about. The Lord has protected us and kept us hidden this way. The GOE has an important call to carry out God's Will in repentance, intercession and spiritual warfare to save America and to enable America to receive the rain and the fire God wants to send to revive this nation. This is not to say that there are not other ministries that God is using in this hour. It is simply that the GOE has a specific call - a vital task from the Lord Himself - to do certain things He is requiring to free America in order for her to receive renewal, revival and reformation. Our work is repentance, breaking the curses and chains of bondage off of this nation so dear to all of our hearts.

The GOE is like a spiritual, special ops military team: hidden, quiet, alert, humble watchmen on the wall. She is a team who goes deep behind enemy lines to carry our specific orders from our Commander. The Lord of hosts is His Name. The GOE must be sanctified, cleansed, purified, separated from the world and unto the Lord our God. This hidden, covert team must walk humbly before the Lord. It's like Gideon's little army, like David's mighty men of valor - a group of outcasts and misfits who love the

Lord and are willing to obey Him in order to carry out His Divine Will, no matter what the cost.

Many in the body of Christ do not like long, extended periods of prayer. But the Lord promises to those who will be separated unto Him and minister to Him: "I will bring you to My holy mountain, and make you "joyful" in My house of prayer. Your offerings and sacrifices will be accepted upon My altar, for My house will be called a house of prayer for all peoples. (see Is 56:7)

I personally love being part of something that gives such great meaning and purpose to life. It's exciting to know that what you are participating in will make a difference, not because we are building something, but rather because we are obeying the Lord Jesus, doing His Will by obeying the Voice of His Spirit. This enables Him to move, implement His plan, open the heavens, send the fire, and send the rain. Glory! In the midst of it all, He is separating us, setting us apart unto Himself, touching us with His Holiness, His Love, His Presence. He is transforming us as we walk alongside Him, turning down the world's light upon us and turning up His Light within us - for He is the Light of the World!

The call of the GOE is so important to the Lord. It is His heart. I wish I could help all of you see the vital importance of this call, and help you to understand your ultimate reward if you participate with us in any way you can. Many of you have been so faithful. Nita and the team are so grateful for you. Your faithfulness is important. Your prayers make a difference. We need your prayers, your offerings, and your presence whenever you can join us. But, the most important thing you can do is be a member of this hidden prayer army 365 days a year. Your prayers avail much. We need them as this ministry and this nation are under constant demonic attack to stop the Lord's work. Please pray. Please stand faithfully with Nita and the GOE's. You will never regret it. In the end, regardless of whether you will ever be able to join us in one of the Gatherings, the Lord will say to you, "Well done, my good and faithful servant!" What more could we want in this life?

Why Washington, D.C.? It is our nation's capitol. It's the seat of government and the power over our nation. It's also the seat of influence and retains the power to affect nations. Men love power, and sadly, it absolutely corrupts them. It corrupts our nation and all the earth. It defiles everything it touches that is not of God. All government is from God, and all power comes from God. No, we don't understand this very well, yet God "allows" things according to His own system of righteous justice as we obey or disobey His word.

Allow me to raise some questions that hopefully may lead you into deeper prayer and research regarding America and our nation's capital. These are things that history doesn't teach you - and keep all this in the framework of what you know in Scripture. We have been taught that America was founded as a Christian nation which was

dedicated to God. And it is true. Many of the first pilgrims to settle in America came to begin a new life in this New World, a life free of persecution and the suppression of their individual rights to freely worship the Lord God of the Bible. We, their descendants, are still here doing the same.

Many who go down in history as great leaders of our nation seem to have been involved in organizations and secret societies that, knowingly or unknowingly, have been part of a darker, more sinister plan that may have promoted, or even dedicated our nation - its buildings, statues, monuments and other things - to that which is not the One True God, Yahveh.

These organizations and secret societies began hundreds of years ago, actually coming to America from England and France. Their spiritual roots are in Egypt, Rome and Greece - in their occult mysteries, architecture, symbols, and false gods. These secret societies and organizations are white-washed with programs and purposes which sound good, but keep their members, the nation, and even the church from being able to see their underlying goals of world dominion, money and power. This is the foundation of the New World Order, Globalism, and the Anti-Christ system.

Behind all these organizations, secret societies, movements and tax-exempt foundations, etc., are the elite globalists of this world. Their inner circle controls the wealth of this planet, controls the money supply of the nations, and thereby controls the governments of the nations. Even yet, behind this elite inner circle and all their organizations, secret societies, foundations, and so-called "government-mandated" organizations in the nations of the world, is Lucifer and his dominion. Lest we question these things, let us never forget Psalm 2. Neither let us forget the Lord's warning in Isaiah 30 and 31 about his people seeking the counsel and protection of Egypt, which is a type of the world system.

Lucifer controls the Globalist Elite, who in turn control the banks, the corporations, the governments, their leaders and all the many organizations under them. This is the world system, the satanic system that opposes God. On the surface we can't see it, but it is there nevertheless. The Lord clearly commands us: "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If any one loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him." (1 John 2:15) Let us never forget: the tree of the knowledge of good and evil produces fruit that looks ever so good, yet still brings death. This is where the world eats, and unfortunately, much of the church as well.

We have been so deceived in America. For instance, most Americans believe the Federal Reserve is a federal organization that helps our nation keep its economy and financial system in balance; it exists to protect our nation and its people from financial ruin. Wrong! The Federal Reserve is not federal, and there are no reserves. It is owned by its member banks that in turn are owned by the elite international bankers and by the globalists who control the world. They make decisions solely in their best interest.

These are global decisions, not what is best for the American people. They print money out of nothing, and this has been the recent strategy. It has been temporarily propping up our economy, driving down the value of our dollar, and hiding the flood of inflation that is coming, and, sooner or later, even the collapse of our financial and economic system. All this should show us that the Bridegroom's coming is near and we need to prepare ourselves for the wedding of Holiness.

Is it possible that America is being pulled down so that it will no longer be able to oppose the New World Order, the global system that will herald the coming reign of the Anti-Christ? Your thoughts might be "surely not," but you could be deceived.

Here is another question for you to pray over in this important election year. Have you ever wondered why politicians running for the office of President, or for Congress, tell us all the things they think we want to hear that they'll do for us, but when they get into office they seem powerless to change anything? It is because, to a large extent, they are powerless. There are organizations and people behind the scenes that do not care which party or person gets elected. Why? Because they control both sides as well as the system. We are still attempting to live our own American dream, and our trust has been in America (a type of Egypt and Babylon) rather than in the One True and Living God. This does not mean we don't love America and are not loyal citizens. It simply means our citizenship is in heaven first, and that Jesus is our King.

How about Washington, D.C. itself? You can admire the architecture, the mall, the parks, the pools, the statues, and all the places that we as citizen tourists love to visit. But what if I told you that the plans for the city were laid out according to the astrological constellations of the stars in the zodiac, that its buildings, monuments and statutes were dedicated in ceremonies, not to Yahveh or Yeshua, but to a syncretistic god of all religions.

You can observe all the symbols on or around these buildings. How could we, as a Christian nation, put all these false gods and goddesses on our buildings? Why would we create statues to Roman or Greek gods and goddesses? Why are occult paintings and symbols inside and outside the buildings of Washington, D.C.? Why is the pyramid and all-seeing eye on our seal and on the back of our dollar bill? Why is an Egyptian phallic symbol, the Washington Monument, mounted on the highest place in Washington, D.C.? These few questions barely scratch the surface.

Investigate for yourself. There are numerous books, DVD's, and articles on the internet that will help you see the bigger picture. As you do, you will understand that America and its capital, Washington, D.C., were planned and dedicated to false gods, behind which stand secret organizations and satan's system. Globally, the elite of this world are on a fast track to bring us into and under control of a system called the New World Order. You and I can identify this as the system of the coming Anti-Christ. We will not be able to stop the system, or the coming of the Anti-Christ, but we can, by the power

of the Lord Jesus Christ, impede its progress. We can break curses over our nation that have bound America for centuries, pull down principalities and strongholds, and satisfy the merciful requirements of God for repentance over these sins, so that He can bring revival to America and bless us once again.

In the last GOE, we gathered together in our nations capitol to worship our Father and Lord Jesus Christ. We humbled ourselves, repented of our sins, allowed ourselves to be cleansed and purified by the precious blood of Jesus, and then we began to repent for the sins of America. We repented for our sins against the first nations (Native American) people, the African Americans, the Chinese, and many other immigrants that came to this land. Then we moved on to abortion, the murder of our unborn children, the cutting off of the seed of our own heritage, the horrific shedding of innocent blood. Next, we moved to the human trafficking that is currently out of control in the cities of our nation. We repented for the founders of our nation and the leaders who have led us and who are still leading us toward the government of the one-world, Anti-Christ system.

For each GOE, the leadership team arrives a week early and remains a few days after the official Gathering. We pray, seek the Lord, and go out into the city according to the Lord's direction. We repent over things that have been done wrong, forgive the sins of the perpetrators, cleanse the defiled land, and reestablish the Cross of Christ over the land. We break curses that may have been upon this land for 200+ years. We pull down ruling principalities and powers who may have ruled here for many decades and centuries.

In the GOE corporate meetings, we perform many prophetic acts to break the power of these ruling principalities and the spiritual chains that have gripped our nation. By obeying the Lord, and with your help, we are able to bring a great deal of freedom to Washington, D.C. and America. Is the work over? Not at all! It will become more intense as the encroaching darkness gets deeper. But the light of His Glory is coming soon, and we will be bathed in exceeding joy!

All of us, together, are winning a reprieve, pushing back the darkness, and gaining additional time for the Lord to bring renewal to the church, revival to the land and reformation to our nation. It is the Lord's heart to answer our prayers and heal our land. This is what you have helped us to achieve through your obedience to the Lord. The heavens are clearer and more open; the winds of revival are blowing. Sing praises to our Lord, for He alone is worthy!

On behalf of Nita Johnson, World for Jesus Ministries, Inc. and the leadership team of the GOE, we speak blessings over you in the mighty name of Jesus! We hope to see you in New Orleans in October, if not in Fremont in July. We love you all!

*A Biblical Basis for Contemporary*

*Prophetic Actions*

by

*Dr. Chuck Metteer*

Those who attended the recent Gathering of the Eagles in Washington, DC prayed and interceded a great deal for America. Much weeping for our country occurred, along with heartfelt pleas for God to forgive our corporate sins and bring revival. Among the great waves of intercession were physical actions that people took, along with corresponding pronouncements and prophecies. Intercessors chopped the air with their arms, cutting off the power of the enemy over areas, peoples, and specific sites while speaking out appropriate words. Wrists were turned counterclockwise, then clockwise, closing the enemy's areas of authority and opening them to God's authority and rule. Models of buildings and geographical areas were mapped out on the floor, with people standing at the corners, while others verbally entered into spiritual warfare over the model, prophesied over it, pronounced blessing upon it, and rededicated it to the Lord. Mock stone altars were set up, powers were verbally broken, and salt and oil were poured out with prophetic words following. Crosses were planted and prophetic pronouncements were made over strategic points in some models. These prophetic actions were so frequently and fervently done that few gave them much thought other than the benefits they could bring to our country.

Now that the DC GOE has come and gone, we might step back for a moment and ask several questions in respect to these prophetic actions. First and foremost, is this practice biblical? Next, is there an order or formula for carrying out divinely inspired prophetic actions? Equally important, what are the objectives behind these actions? Finally, are prophetic actions only reserved for great saints, or might God call any believer to perform a prophetic action?

As far as I know, no one has provided the Christian Church a carefully laid out study of the biblical examples of prophetic actions and the corporate messages they provide us. I hope this short article will fill this gap in understanding and answer the above questions. To this end, it is written more as a resource tool than to inspire, although the latter may also occur. Hopefully, the information will benefit both non-charismatic and charismatic Christians. The former, although not open to contemporary expressions of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, will come to understand that prophetic actions are biblical. The latter will gain strong, biblical backing for what they may have already accepted

and done in earnest, while not fully understanding why they could do so. For still others, this survey may prompt you to open your hearts to a biblical practice that God is calling you into but to which, until now, you have shown resistance or lived in ignorance. One thing is clear: although the practice of prophetic actions is biblical, it is difficult to define precisely because it has many forms and diverse objectives. For instance, whereas most prophetic actions were accompanied with words, in several instances the prophetic actions stood alone. In other instances, audible noises such as wailing or groaning accompanied the action. Moreover, the purpose of this practice varied from grabbing peoples' attention, to doing spiritual warfare, to proclaiming warnings or giving encouragement.

Finally, I must set certain parameters simply because of the number of biblical examples. First, not every occurrence of a prophetic action is discussed below, although a list of nearly all biblical prophetic actions is provided at the end of this article. Second, the entire sacrificial system outlined in Leviticus and demonstrated throughout the Old Testament is grounded in prophetic actions. Indeed, the writer of Hebrews touched on this very point (Heb.9:1-10). Nevertheless, out of space considerations, these multitudinous examples are not listed or discussed. Third, the prophetic acts or sacraments of baptism and Communion are only given cursory examination, not because of their lack of significance, but because of the numerous New Testament examples. Fourth, although a biblical example may apply to more than one category, and many examples may apply to one category, only a limited number of examples are mentioned in each grouping - this short study is not exhaustive.

## **Characteristics**

*Some of God's people perform more prophetic actions than others.*

The prophet Isaiah performed noticeably fewer prophetic actions than Ezekiel (the former, two; the latter, ten), and Ezekiel performed fewer than Jeremiah (twelve). These differences were not necessarily due to lack of devotion to the Lord, but to different callings and anointing, a principle that the apostle Paul brought to the Corinthian church's attention (I Cor.12:4-7).

*Although prophetic actions are at times spontaneous and unintentional, they remain highly potent.*

After king Saul's sin was exposed by the prophet Samuel, the latter turned and began to walk away from Saul. Fearing the great prophet's rejection, Saul grabbed and tore the edge of Samuel's robe. Samuel interpreted Saul's grasping as a prophetic action, for he immediately proclaimed that God had torn the kingdom of Israel from Saul and given it to a more worthy person (I Sam.15:24-29)!

*More than one person can carry out a single prophetic action.*

As we see immediately above, such was the case with this monumentally significant prophetic act done by Samuel and Saul (I Sam.15:24-29).

*A prophetic action may consist of an act without spoken words.*

The LORD told Isaiah to write on a tablet "Swift is the booty, speedy is the prey (Maher-shalel-hash-baz), and then to have a son with his wife whom they would call by this long name (Is.8:1-4). While the LORD revealed to the prophet the significance of these acts, he was not required to give an accompanying prophetic word to anyone (see also Ez.4:1-17; Hos.1:2-9; 3:1-5 [Hosea spoke to his wife in 3:3, but not as part of the prophetic action]).

The LORD instructed Ezekiel that he was to wail forcefully and authoritatively over the hordes of Egypt (Ez.32:17-21). His outburst was to facilitate the destruction of Egypt by the sword and her consignment to Sheol. This action was by no means identificational repentance, for Ezekiel was prophetically intervening for their ruin rather than their restoration. Stated differently, he was in no way repenting for their sins, but rather prophetically affecting the physical and spiritual judgment of a people by his keening. There was no intelligible message to the Egyptians or Jews following his action. The prophetic wailing, in and of itself, was the full, prophetic will of God.

*A prophetic action is often quick and easy to perform.*

While in exile, Ezekiel wrote down the very day that the king of Babylon laid siege to Jerusalem (Ez.24:2). He performed this act immediately prior to delivering a parable to his fellow exiles in order to emphasize that although they were far away from the destruction coming upon the holy city at that moment, it was nonetheless happening (vv.3-14). Nehemiah shook out the front of his garment and then explained to God's remnant in Jerusalem that God would shake out from their houses and possessions the men who did not honor their corporate promise to stop lending to fellow countrymen with interest (Neh.5:13).

*A prophetic action is often extremely difficult, costly, or complicated to carry out.*

In a God-ordained prophetic action, Ezekiel lost his wife – the desire of his eyes. Amazingly, he was ordered not to mourn or cry for her, but to groan silently! His actions were to depict prophetically the profaned Jerusalem sanctuary – the delight of Israel's eyes - that Israel was not to grieve over upon its desecration and destruction (Ez.24:15-24).

In Ezekiel 4:1-17, Ezekiel was directed by God to build a detailed model of the impending siege of Jerusalem by the Babylonian army and then to act out the horrifying scenario. God's prophet was subsequently to lie on his left side next to the model,

bearing the sins of Israel for 390 days - a day for each year of their sinful rebellion. This torturous, prophetic action was then repeated for 40 days on his right side for the sins of Judah. To insure that Ezekiel would not get up or lie flat on his back or stomach in search of relief, the LORD Himself tied him up with ropes to assure his immobility. While divinely bound and facing his mock siege, he was to prophesy against Jerusalem (note that he did not prophesy to the people, but to the model). To make matters worse for the prophet, his prophetic action included eating the same bread and drinking water, both in limited, measured amounts. Moreover, he was to bake the bread in the sight of his countrymen over human dung, which would speak of his people eating unclean bread while in exile. This last requirement was so repugnant to Ezekiel - it so violated his sense of religious propriety (see Dt.23:12-14) - that God allowed him to cook over cow's dung. Although he surely explained to the curious people around him the meanings behind his bizarre but prophetic actions, he was not instructed by the LORD to deliver fitting prophetic words to them.

The LORD told Jeremiah to buy and wear a linen waistband. Later, the LORD commanded him to travel the 400 or so miles to the Euphrates River, hide his waistband in the crevice of a rock, and then return to Jerusalem. After many days, the LORD ordered the prophet to return to the rock at the Euphrates and dig up his waistband, which was now ruined and worthless. God then informed him that as his waistband was now destroyed, so He would soon destroy Judah and Jerusalem, and their pride, for they had not clung to God as a waistband clings to the waist of a man. The prophet then returned to Judah, having traversed over 1600 miles to carry out this prophetic action (Jer.13:1-11)!

*It is sometimes embarrassing or humbling to perform a prophetic action.*

Isaiah went naked and barefoot as a sign against Egypt and Cush for three years (Is.20:2-6; the prophet Micah also prophetically "laid bare" his soul...and body [Mic.1:8])! It took this long to get across to his fellow countrymen that these two countries ("guardian" nations in which Israel had put their hope) would be led away into exile, naked and barefoot, by the Assyrians. This prophetic action vividly, indeed shockingly, demonstrated that Israel's hope in foreign nations was woefully misplaced. It was in the LORD God that they should have exercised their faith when the enemy came against them.

*Prophetic actions can break accepted cultural, ethical, and religious norms.*

Jeremiah was told not to marry or have children in order to live out a prophetic action before God's people (Jer.16:1-13). God's prophetic words to His people were all the more potent as they came through this bachelor-prophet: as Jeremiah had no offspring, so the children born to Jewish parents would die from disease and by the hand of their enemies. His prophetic action would elicit in the people the desired response - Why has God declared such destruction against us? What have we done against Him? The

prophet would then declare that their sins, and the sins of their fathers, had prompted God's soon-coming judgment of death and exile.

Ezekiel was ordered to shave his beard and head (a disgrace for a Jewish man; see II Sam.10:4-5), and then to burn one third of it in the center of Jerusalem, strike one third with a sword throughout the city, and scatter the remaining third to the wind (Ez.5:1-17). He was then to explain to the people in Jerusalem how his actions represented the judgments that were coming upon them.

The prophet Hosea was divinely directed twice to marry prostitutes (Hos.1:2-9; 3:1-5). His marriages, and the children he fathered in the first marriage, were prophetic actions to Israel. The prophet Zechariah was commanded to place a kingly crown upon the head of the high priest Joshua (Zech.6:9-15). His act was noteworthy because priests were forbidden from ruling as kings, and vice versa (see II Chr.26:16-21; Num.3:10; 16:39-40). This violation of the written word was followed by a prophetic word that foretold the Priest-King, Jesus Christ, who would rebuild Jerusalem's temple and rule on the throne of Israel – a true priest on His throne.

*The carrying out of a prophetic action can encompass for a time the person's entire life.*

As seen above, Hosea had harlots for wives, and even had children with one of them (Hosea 1,3). Ezekiel endured prolonged immobility, mundane food rations, and widowhood (Ez.4,24). Jeremiah lived as a bachelor (Jer.16), whereas Isaiah and Micah lived for many days without any clothing (Is.20; Mic.1).

*Divine instruction to perform a prophetic action often comes as extremely sure words.*

A biblical prophet surely would not have followed through with a costly or humiliating divine directive unless the word to him was vivid and sure. Thus, Isaiah obeyed God's word to him to go naked and barefoot for three years because the directive was extremely clear.

*A prophetic action may function as an act of faith based on the promises of God.*

Jeremiah was divinely directed to buy his cousin's field in Anathoth even though Judah and Jerusalem were facing imminent defeat and exile at the hand of the invading Babylonian army. Moreover, he was to place the deeds of purchase in an earthenware jar for safekeeping; they were to last for many days (70 years to be exact). He then declared to God's people that they would once again, but many days hence, buy and sell fields in Judah and Jerusalem (Jer.32:6-15,25,42-44).

*Occasionally, the delivery of a prophetic action is only partially correct.*

The New Testament prophet Agabus performed a prophetic act on Paul while in Caesarea (Acts 21:8-14). He took the apostle's belt, bound his hands and feet with it,

and then declared that the Jerusalem Jews would similarly bind Paul and give him over to the Gentiles. In actuality, it was the Romans who ended up binding him (21:31-33).

*A prophetic action can actually initiate in the heavenlies by an angelic creature.*

At the end of this age, immediately prior to the destruction of the rebuilt city of Babylon, a strong angel will carry out a prophetic action by casting a huge stone in the shape of a millstone into one of the earth's seas. He then will declare that as he threw the stone into the sea, so Babylon will be thrown down and not rise again (Rev.18:21-24).

*A prophetic action can initiate from within a vision from the Lord.*

While in a vision, Jeremiah took the cup of wine of the wrath of God and offered a drink to the cities, peoples, and nations (Jewish and Gentile) to which God directed him. They would stagger and fall from the wine, for it represented the sword of the Lord set against them (Jer.25:15-26). The prophet was then directed in the vision to deliver two distinct, corresponding prophecies about these peoples to the Jewish populace in Jerusalem (25:27-38). This prophetic action within a vision surely emboldened the prophet to proclaim these messages in real life to God's people.

*Prophetic actions occurred in the Old and New Testaments, and will occur in the future*

We have already considered Old Testament prophetic actions and one that will occur in the future. The New Testament offers us several other examples. Agabus' prophetic act was mentioned above. The sacraments of baptism and communion are clearly and intentionally prophetic actions (e.g., Rom.6:1-7; I Cor.11:23-26). Jesus instructed his twelve disciples to shake the dust off their feet as a prophetic act against the people of a city who rejected their witness (Lk.10:8-12). The apostles' corresponding words against them contained several layers of prophetic meaning or significance. First, they had fulfilled their responsibilities to the city whether the people therein accepted their ministry or not. Second, they disassociated themselves from the pollution of the city and its ultimate judgment. Finally, this prophetic action was designed to provoke thought on the part of the villagers who rejected them.

*A prophetic action is often spiritual warfare, particularly when it comes against false prophetic actions.*

In II Chronicles 18:8-27 and Jeremiah 27:1-28:17, we are soberingly confronted with well-intentioned men of deep convictions who performed prophetic acts for the supposed good of God's people. In the first narrative, a man by the name of Zedekiah made iron horns and proclaimed that with them the kings of Israel and Judah would gore their enemy until he was destroyed. This false prophetic action was particularly insidious for two reasons. One, it incited similar false prophecies from other false prophets. Two, after Micaiah, the LORD's true prophet, exposed Zedekiah's words as

false, he revealed that behind Zedekiah's prophetic action was a deceiving spirit, and that the LORD had actually proclaimed disaster against the two kings and their armies. This spirit, working through the false prophet, incited another prophetic action by striking the true prophet and challenging his authority. In light of this attack, Micaiah prophesied Zedekiah's imminent death and the defeat of the king's armies. This account is a vivid example of spiritual warfare associated with prophetic actions.

In the second narrative, Jeremiah engaged in spiritual warfare when he carried out a prophetic action that had him clash with evil powers. God had ordered Jeremiah to make and wear a wooden yoke, and to bind it on his neck. He was then ordered to speak to the nations threatened by Babylon and to the king of Judah, telling them that unless they voluntarily put their necks under the yoke of the king of Babylon, they would be severely punished and, in some cases, utterly destroyed. His action was to counteract the demonically empowered words from false prophets that assured safety from the king of Babylon. In the same year, Jeremiah's ongoing prophetic action of wearing a yoke incited the spirit behind the false prophet Hananiah to carry out a false prophetic action. Hananiah took off the yoke from Jeremiah's neck, broke it, and then falsely proclaimed under the supposed authority of the LORD that in two years the yoke of the king of Babylon would similarly be broken off the necks of all nations under his control. To this, Jeremiah engaged authoritatively in the spiritual warfare that had now ensued due to his earlier prophetic action – he prophesied that although Hananiah had broken the yoke of wood, he had actually, by his prophetic action, made yokes of iron instead for the necks of all these nations. We can clearly see from these two biblical examples that prophetic actions are often intimately related to spiritual warfare and, indeed, often determine temporal outcomes by addressing spiritual realities.

## **Objectives**

*A prophetic action hopefully enables the recipients to see what they are unwilling to accept through mere words due to their frightened or hardened hearts. If they reject the physical act, then the state of their hearts is exposed.*

Isaiah's prolonged nudity brought home the naked truth of Israel's dilemma – the hand of man could not deliver Israel from the overwhelming power of the enemy, for their "allies" would go into exile, naked and barefoot, at the hands of Assyria (Is.20:2-6). Jeremiah's divinely ordained bachelorhood, lack of children, and strong prophetic words caused the people of Judah to listen to God's coming judgment against them, although their hearts were hardened against the inevitability of the prophet's words (Jer.16:1-13). Near the end of Jeremiah's ministry (Jer.51:59-64), the Lord directed him to write down His words on a scroll. The prophet was then directed to have Seraiah travel to Babylon with the document and read to the exiled Jews the devastating calamity and destruction that would soon come upon their dreaded conqueror. Yet, because the exiles were so intimidated by the Babylonians, the prophet had instructed Seraiah that upon reading the scroll to the people, he was to tie a stone to it, throw it into the

middle of the Euphrates River, and then exclaim that Babylon would likewise sink down and not rise again because of the divine judgments soon coming upon it. Apparently, if the scroll's words were not accepted out of discouragement and hopelessness, possibly the significance of the prophetic action would "sink in." Finally, after Ezekiel delivered to the Jewish exiles in Babylon a prophetic word about the destruction of Jerusalem (a city far away and supposedly not useful or beneficial to their immediate wellbeing), he groaned profoundly with deep grief (Ez.21:1-7). This intense, prophetic display of emotion elicited curiosity among the exiles. In response, Ezekiel reaffirmed the sureness and gruesomeness of the soon-coming holocaust upon the holy city (see also Ez.4:1-3; 12:3-12, 24:15-24).

*A prophetic action may cause the recipients to question its meaning, which then prompts the giver to explain God's heart or intentions.*

When Ezekiel packed his bags, dug a hole through the wall of his home, crawled through the space with his bags, and then walked away with his belongings slung over his shoulder, the people of Jerusalem asked what he was doing. He replied that he was a sign to them: as he enacted going into exile, so they would do the same (Ez.12:3-12; see also vv.18-20). Later, when the prophet did not grieve or cry over the sudden death of his beloved wife, his countrymen asked what these things that he was doing meant for them. (Ez.24:15-19). He then explained to them that invading hoards would soon profane and destroy their beloved Jerusalem sanctuary and kill their children, but they would groan within themselves, without tears, because of the overwhelming nature of the judgment (24:20-24; see also Ez.37:15-23).

*A prophetic action often acts as a dramatic encouragement, indictment, exhortation, or warning.*

The battered and beleaguered Jewish exiles saw little hope for their return to the Promised Land, much less the reunification of Israel and Judah. Because prophetic words went only so far to console, encourage, and inspire, the LORD prompted Ezekiel to join together into one two sticks that represented Judah and Israel (Ez.37:15-23). His action raised questions among the exiles, so the prophet explained God's glorious, future intentions with His people: their ultimate return to their land and their uniting into one people under the rule of the Davidic king. The disciples' shaking the dust from their feet was, in part, an indictment against those who had rejected their witness (Lk.10:8-12). The prophet Ahijah tore into twelve pieces his new cloak before king Jeroboam of Israel, and then gave the king ten of those pieces. He explained to Jeroboam that God was giving him the rule over ten tribes, and then exhorted him to walk in God's ways and to do what was right so that God would bless and guide his ways (I Kings 11:29-38). Jeremiah broke a clay jar at the valley of Ben-hinnom before some of the elders of Jerusalem, and then warned them that God would soon break their people and city in like manner (Jer.19:1-13; see also Is.20:2-6; Ez.12:3-12,18-20).

*A prophetic action often points to soon-coming, divine judgment.*

The prophetic action of Hosea marrying a harlot and having children from her paralleled the flagrant harlotry that Israel had committed against God in turning away from Him to worship other gods (Hos.1:2-9). The message behind Hosea's prophetic actions culminated in the naming of his children (Jezreel – God will scatter [i.e., Israel would go into exile]; Lo-ruhamah – she has not obtained compassion [i.e., Israel's judgment was certain]; and Lo-ammi – not my people [i.e., God would disown His people for a time]). In Hosea 3:1-5, the LORD directed the prophet to marry again and, this time, Hosea commanded his new wife not to play the harlot. This prophetic action foretold Israel's fate since she would have no rulers, temple sacrifices, or temple priests while in exile.

Isaiah was called to a similar prophetic action. The LORD instructed him to approach his wife – a prophetess – who conceived and gave birth to a son whom the LORD had him name, "Maher-shalal-hash-baz" (i.e., swift is the booty, speedy is the prey). Before the child could form the words "My mother" or "My father," the Assyrians would carry away the wealth of Damascus and Samaria (Is.8:1-4).

*A prophetic action can change the outcome of a future scenario.*

In Jeremiah 43:8-13, God directed Jeremiah to perform a prophetic act in front of a group of his countrymen: Jews who had fled to Egypt in hopes of escaping capture by the king of Babylon. The prophet was to hide several large stones at the entrance of Pharaoh's palace in Tahpanhes. Upon carrying out this risky act, he prophesied to his people that Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, would set his throne directly over the stones he had hidden - a royal act that would convince the greatest skeptic that Babylon had overcome Judah's supposed protector, Egypt. Incredibly, the free choice embedded within Jeremiah's prophetic action determined the precise place where the Babylonian king would ceremoniously claim his rule over Egypt!

A second example illustrates even more vividly the spiritual dimension or warfare involved in prophetic acts. The Babylonian army stood at the crossroads. Its king was engaged in demonic divination and necromancy to determine whether he should push north to Ammon or go to Judah. Ezekiel preempted his evil soothsaying by preparing a map and setting up a signpost that pointed to Jerusalem. His prophetic action determined in the spirit dimension the prognostications of the Babylonian king. It was the LORD God, and not some false deity that was conjured up, who was directing the invading army to Jerusalem for the city's divinely determined destruction (Ez.21:18-22).

*A prophetic action can spiritually initiate or determine human battles.*

Elisha helped king Joash of Israel shoot an arrow eastward – the arrow of victory – which symbolized the victory Israel would have over the Arameans at Aphek. The

prophet then ordered the king to strike the ground with the arrows in his hand, which he did three times. Elisha was upset with the king's reserved effort, proclaiming that if he had struck the ground six or seven times, then Israel would have completely destroyed its enemy instead of merely striking them three times (II Kings 13:14-19).

## **Applications**

There are numerous applications and conclusions that can arise from our biblical study of the characteristics and objectives of prophetic actions. These are offered below in no particular order of significance and with the understanding that not every point will have immediate or eventual relevance for each of us.

If prophetic actions were carried out prior to Christ's earthly ministry, at the time of His earthly ministry, during the period of the early Church, and at the end of this age in the heavenlies, does it not stand to reason that prophetic actions are viable, Spirit-led expressions today? We always need to take care not to relegate charismatic acts to the distant past or far-off future. Yet, even though prophetic actions are valuable tools in every Christian's spiritual arsenal, some saints are called to exercise this gift more than others. This fact should not discourage anyone, for one's gifting does not presume greater favor from God, greater maturity in Christ, or greater place in the body of Christ.

Because the spiritual inspiration for a prophetic act can come in the "twinkling of an eye" (I Cor.15:52), we need to walk in an attitude of vigilant openness to the Lord. He may have us carry out a prophetic action at a moment's notice or even spontaneously. Such spur-of-the-moment acts often possess tremendous power, for they prophetically address an immediate issue or development. Such an orientation opens up the possibility that much of what we do in daily life has prophetic potential. True, our everyday actions are often simply personal decisions that we carry out before God. With the leading of God's Spirit, however, they may take on the characteristics and objectives of prophetic actions to others. While this aspect of prophetic action is not as intentional as most of the biblical examples we considered and, thus, is generally overlooked, it is nevertheless important enough for us to pray about.

Numerous people can participate in one prophetic act. A corporate, prophetic expression often intensifies or empowers an action, as those who attended the DC GOE experienced.

We should never underestimate the spiritual/prophetic power behind non-verbal communication: our actions and emotions. A loving hand on needy shoulders, or teary eyes and deep sighs in response to others' painful situations, may function as prophetic acts to them even when we do not discern how the Spirit used us. Consequently, we need, in humility, to gain an awareness of how the Spirit of God always strives to shape our everyday actions and passions into prophetic acts for others.

We need to be careful that our willingness to carry out a prophetic action is not related to the ease of carrying it out. Surely, little inner debating is necessary when called at a GOE to prophetically cut through the air with our arms. It is another matter, however, when the Spirit of God calls us to get rid of our television set, adopt an orphan, or sincerely forgive our "black sheep" brother - face to face - as a prophetic act for our family, church, home group, or colleagues. On another level, whereas I very strongly doubt that God will lead any of us to show up to church completely naked in order to carry out a prophetic action, He may ask us to do a prophetic act that is embarrassing. For instance, He may prompt us to wear simple, inexpensive clothing, go without makeup for a time, or not attend to our personal hygiene for several days (hopefully not too long) - each accompanied with prophetic words - in order to convey poignantly God's heart and will to others.

Regardless of what we may or may not end up doing, the full expression of prophetic actions in our lives requires a great deal of humility, a spiritual quality that none of us possess in and of ourselves. Indeed, humility is all the more necessary since it is possible for us to carry out prophetic actions that are not 100% accurate. Well-intentioned, passionate prophetic actions are not synonymous with Spirit-led, inspired prophetic actions. For the latter to occur, much prayer and waiting on the Lord are generally required.

Sincere respect and conformity to secular and sacred norms is almost always wise, yet the Lord may lead each of us into prophetic acts that infringe upon or breach a particular custom. God may have us fast on a religious holiday and give a word to others as to why we are performing such a conventional discipline in such an unconventional way. He may actually have us carry out a religious custom that most fall short of fulfilling: tithing. Although the Lord instructs us to do this practice in secret, the church accountant will surely get the message, particularly if he knows that we are going through hard times. God may even prompt us to embrace, in whole or in part, an ethnic group's customs, clothing, food, and/or priorities, all so that those who need to hear from God about this people group might listen more seriously to us. Our Father may have us prophetically live out counter-cultural routines: walk when others are driving, shop at "mom and pop" stores instead of chain emporiums, remain a virgin until marriage, embrace a celibate life dedicated to God, or take a lesser position in our organization because the potential to help others is greater. On the one hand, there is a "non-prophetic" facet inherent in these actions - we simply want to live our lives faithfully and honorably before God. On the other hand, we need to remain open to the Spirit of God using our actions as prophetic instruments for others - whether we are conscious of His objectives or not.

Costly prophetic actions like those just mentioned strongly suggest that God still speaks powerfully to His disciples. This is encouraging news. God can get through to us quite

clearly in respect to performing prophetic actions. Our responsibility is to cultivate a deep passion for Him and His will, to remain open to His voice at all times and in all places, and to love Him more than anyone or anything else. Our ongoing, personal surrender and hearing His penetratingly powerful, divine voice are intimately linked.

Our prophetic actions may also function as acts of faith that are grounded in the power and integrity of God. Often, these expressions are implicit acts of spiritual warfare. At the DC Gathering, many of the intercessors engaged in numerous prophetic actions that were directed against demonic powers associated with buildings, areas, organizations, and people groups. These were acts of faith that were grounded in spiritual discernment, passion, and persistence.

Because prophetic actions can occur in visions (see above, Jer.25:15-38) and through the agency of angels (see above, Rev.18:21-24), we need always to focus our attention on the spirit dimension. In doing so, we may gain instruction as to what we need to do, come to understand what the Lord is doing in or through us, and gain insight as to what the Lord and His angelic hosts are doing. Visions and dreams that make known to us prophetic actions that we are to carry out can guide and inspire us to act on a prophetic level more boldly in this life. By discerning angelic prophetic actions, we may even gain a better understanding of the spiritual realities that encompass temporal affairs.

We need to remain ever mindful that people often need to experience what they are having difficulty hearing. To share with a hurting person that the Lord wants him to know that He loves and cares about him is one thing. It is another thing, however, to have the Lord lead you to hug the person when delivering the prophecy and possibly take a walk together to demonstrate God's loving care for him. Hopefully, the combination of prophetic act and word, when led by the Holy Spirit, will arouse his curiosity and turn his spiritual eyes to God. When the prophetic action focuses on judgment, warning, or indictment, we need to immerse ourselves in prayer, seek His presence, and act under His authority unless the inspiration for the prophetic action comes instantly. The latter possibility does not remove personal responsibility in any way, however, for it is incumbent upon us to walk in the Spirit so that spontaneous prophetic acts of grave consequence are not tainted by our human inclinations.

Finally, our study on prophetic actions graphically illustrates our need to use boldness and passion while doing spiritual warfare. The demonic world does not act passively toward us and the world, and we should not act passively toward them and their evil attacks against us, our families, our churches, and our nation. This does not presuppose that every prayer we make or every word we deliver in spiritual warfare requires accompanying actions. Even so, we need to remain open to God's Spirit guiding us into prophetic actions as we minister to others and set our hearts on the "destruction of fortresses" (II Cor.10:4) that the enemy has set up against us and our nation. The apostle Paul insightfully described our "struggle" against the devil and his hosts as soldiers going to war (Eph.6:10-17). So we must use, literally use, the "sword of the

Spirit" (6:17) against the demons when the Spirit leads. Be receptive to using His armor expressively in order to fight against his wicked trickery. Battles are won and future scenarios are often determined by the prophetic expressions that we carry out under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Since the wind of the Spirit "blows where it wishes" (Jn.3:8), remain open to His unlimited ways of having you prophetically act out not only His burdens and blessings, but also different aspects of spiritual warfare.

Blessings,

Charles A Metteer PhD.

## **Scriptures**

I Samuel 15:24-29

I Kings 11:29-38

II Kings 13:14-17; 13:18-19

Nehemiah 5:13

Isaiah 8:1-4; 20:2-6

Jeremiah 7:29; 13:1-11; 16:1-13; 18:1-6; 19:1-13; 25:15-38; 27:1-28:17; 32:6-15,25,42-44; 35:1-19; 43:8-13; 51:59-64

Ezekiel 4:1-17; 5:1-17; 12:3-12; 12:18-20; 21:1-7; 21:18-22; 24:2-14; 24:15-24; 32:17-21; 37:15-23

Hosea 1:2-9; 3:1-5

Micah 1:8

Zechariah 6:9-15; 11:4-17

Luke 10:8-12

Acts 21:8-14

Romans 6:1-7

I Corinthians 11:23-26

Revelation 18:21-24

False prophetic actions

## *Falling into the Arms of Grace*

by

*Ricci Wilson*

In the midst of war, we see battle. In battle, we see comrades fall. They fall when engaged in a battle with the enemy, they fall when hit by sniper shots, and they fall in the midst of training exercises. No war, no battle, is without its casualties. Recently, I have read some stories about our fallen soldiers or those who have been seriously injured, and those who stood beside them. Great heroics are undertaken to save a wounded or fallen soldier. Men and women, who are facing an onslaught of gunfire themselves, will grab their comrade and rush them to safety, risking their own lives in the process. Once they are safe from the battle, they will bandage and tend to the wounds of that soldier as best as they can until he can be carefully taken to a medical center where their wounds will be cared for properly. In a medical center, the soldier will most likely be rushed to surgery, the shrapnel will be removed from their wounds, and they will be stitched up and placed in the recovery ward. When the soldier is ready, he will be put into a room where he will be allowed to rest and heal from the battle he just survived. Depending upon the severity of the injury, rest, and proper care may be all that he will need to go back to the battlefield. When the wound is greater, rest will not be enough. He may need more surgery or physical therapy and, in extreme cases such as losing a limb or paralysis, he will need extensive training so he can learn a completely different way of living out his life. Whatever the injury, the greatest care will be taken by his fellow soldiers to ensure the well-being of their comrade and, in the event of serious trauma or death, this care will be extended to the family of this fallen soldier. Military men and women take great care to protect their own. They live together, they fight together, and they die together.

My friends, we are in the midst of battle. When we become a Christian, we enter the battle of spiritual warfare. It can be minor battles at first, but as we grow in Christ, the trials and tribulations increase, and so do the battles that we will face as we endure those trials. In this process, we will fall; it is inevitable because no one is perfect. It will happen without notice and in a moment of weakness. After the battle has raged on, long and hard, the enemy, who is hidden like a sniper on the rooftop, hits. Many of our

comrades will fall - and they will fall to the deadliest attack of all: sin. This can be devastating to the soldier, his family, his friends, and the church.

Unfortunately, most of the time - rather than grab our comrades and rush them to safety where we can properly tend to their wounds - we attack. We surround them, place judgments upon them and their families, and leave them with their wounds open, bleeding, and exposed for all to see. It seems that the higher the rank of our comrade, the harder we attack him or her. Many reading this are probably thinking, "No way! We are Christians; we would never do such a thing...attack our brethren? NEVER!" However, my friends, I ask you to consider; what would you do if a Sunday School teacher was caught stealing from the offering, or, if a Church leader announced that he had been having an affair? What if an usher was found with a tin of gin in his coat pocket? What would you do? Would it make a difference if the person was caught or if he came to confess the sin? Let's look on the side of confession. Since we are all Christians, we must be Christ-like, right? Thus, it will seem at first as though everyone feels sympathetic to the individual because, after all, he did confess. Then counseling will probably be suggested, or, if the sin was serious enough, demanded. Of course, they would be asked to quietly step down, or, depending on the offense, make a public announcement of their sin and apologize to the congregation, then step down. This all seems harmless and even necessary to bring our brethren to a place of humility and repentance. Right? Then, what happens to our fellow soldier next? Are they forced into a back pew in shame or are they embraced in the same section where they sat before? Do we avoid eye contact and walk quickly by, or do we look at them and smile, welcoming them into the heart fellowship and love? Do we whisper words of judgment and condemnation to others sitting next to us as they walk by, or do we silence our whispers and pray for our wounded brethren?

Think about the last time someone in your congregation fell into sin. How did you respond? How did others respond? I have been on both sides of this situation, the one who condemned, and the one who was condemned. Looking back, even though I did not attack them, I wish I had been more supportive and reached out to the person instead of simply avoiding them. I wish I had offered them arms of grace to fall into. Now, I can only pray that they forgive me for my failure during their pain.

The ones who are hit the hardest when they fall are the leaders of the Church. It seems as though, when a leader falls, we feel especially betrayed. After all, we trusted them with our guidance and growth, and they fell. Shouldn't they practice what they preach? However, I ask you; why is it different if a leader falls? Is it perhaps because we have held them in a place within our hearts reserved only for God? There is a place of esteem and respect that we should have for these leaders. They have paid the price to be in the position they are in and, as a result, they are hit the hardest by the enemy. However, if the truth were told, many of us hold teachers, members of the choir, our pastors, and others who hold a position in the Church (and any other type of ministry) in much higher esteem than we should. We brag about how good our choir is, how

awesome our teachers are, or how that evangelist “shook our Church back into shape”. Then, when they fall, we recant what we have said and begin to attack. Friends, we need to remember that they are human and they will fall, but they need the love and support of the congregation to bring them up from their sin and into repentance and healing. They need this just as much as anyone else in the body of Christ. To stomp on the hand that once fed you is something we expect from the world, not the Church.

Ultimately, when all is said and done (and most of the time, it does not matter whether they were caught or confessed), our fellow brethren are left alone, ripped from their position, having had their lives dissected to see if any more dirt could be found in them with which to fuel our rage against them for falling. Then, after days, weeks, or months of being beaten with words and contemptuous glares, that person does not want to enter through the doors of a Church again. Is that the way God has called us to treat our fellow brethren? Is that the way a soldier treats his comrade when they are in battle on the warfront? No! Why is it then, that we who are called into the greatest of all battles - spiritual warfare - we cannot embrace the example set before us by the soldiers of the world? They put us to shame. We are in a battle, my friends, and we live day in and day out in a spiritual war. If we do not take care of our own, then Satan will take them out any way he can...even by using us to destroy them.

My friends, I say it again: this is a battle! If our comrades fall to sin, we need to surround them with love. We need to kneel beside them and nurture their wounds with tenderness and care. We need to stand beside them and protect them from attack while they are healing. We need to pray them through to victory. We need to make a way for this comrade, who stood beside us for so long, to have every opportunity to heal and rise back up, and fight beside us again. We need to open our arms and let them fall into the arms of grace. If we do not do this, the enemy will have successfully taken our fellow soldier and placed him in a prison of sin, guilt, and shame. Successful again, Satan will have used us to accomplish his goal: to take out the Christians.

Guilt and shame are two the biggest weapons of the enemy that we are fighting. That being said, why is it that we rarely see a person’s sin revealed within the Church without it becoming a scandal of sorts? Is it because we are hungry for gossip and scandal? Is it because we are falling into the trap the enemy is setting for our comrade? Could it also be because as we gaze at and magnify the sin of our brother, we do not have to look at the sin in our own hearts? Is it maybe a little of both? My friends, sin does not belong in the Church - I know that, you know that, and the Bible tells us that. Yet, we are from Adam, the first fallen man, thereby making our very nature that of a sinner. Therefore, we are going to sin; *all of us* are going to sin. When that happens, shouldn’t we do to others as we would want done to us?

Think about this for a moment; when sinners enter the Church, confess their sin, and accept the Lord Jesus as their Savior, the believers surrounds them and give them reading materials, a Bible, a church bulletin with all the meeting times, and even a number they can call anytime they have questions or need prayer. Usually, we will befriend them and take them to Church with us, and then invite them to lunch afterward. We surround them and provide them with anything and everything they need to become strong soldiers who will one day stand beside us in battle. Why is it that when a fellow soldier who has stood beside us in battle for years falls, do we not provide the same support for him? What if the Church was a place where people who had been saved for years could confess their sins - and feel safe in doing so? If they knew without question that the moment they confessed their wrongdoings, their fellow soldiers would embrace them and help them to overcome their sin rather than attack them, wouldn't they be more likely to confess earlier - before their sin overtook them and it came out as a scandal? I think that if a person felt safe enough to do this, the level and depth of sin that ended up "exposed" in the Church would be far less than it is today.

My friends, we are instructed to love one another. We are instructed to love our neighbor as ourselves. I want to encourage you to do just that. The Church as a whole must become a place where Christians and sinners can come, safely confess their sins, and receive forgiveness and acceptance. If we cannot support our brethren in this battle - the most important battle of all - we are failing our duty as Christian soldiers. The next time someone's sin is exposed, remember two things: one; *all* have sinned and come short of the glory of God (meaning we are all going to sin) and two; by grace we are saved. Please, dear friends, open up your arms and let your fellow soldiers and sinners alike fall into arms of grace - and be healed.

Blessings in Him,

Ricci Wilson

My article in the next Revival Fire Newsletter will be focused on those who have been hurt by the Church.

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*Passion for Christ !*

*by*

*Nita (LaFond) Johnson*

*6-17-2008*

*E.M. Bounds wrote:*

*The praying of Christ was real. No man prayed as He prayed. Prayer pressed upon Him as a solemn, all-imperative, all commanding duty as well as a royal privilege in which sweetness was condensed, alluring and absorbing. Prayer was the secret of His power, the law of His life, the inspiration of His toil and the source of His source of His wealth, His joy, His communion, and strength. To Christ Jesus prayer occupied no secondary place, but was exacting and paramount, a necessity, a life, the satisfying of a restless yearning and preparation for heavy responsibilities.*

Passion is something that grips the soul, spoiling every other contesting force, downing every usurping throne, stripping away every excuse, dispelling every controversy that would arm itself against the vision of passion. Passion is the fire that inflames the embers of the heart. It drives every enemy out of doors and incites the heart to greater sacrifices, deeper levels of devotion, and promotes faith to do the otherwise unthinkable.

Passion for Christ is the highest most singularly sublime passion of all. To live, is to live for Him. To desire, is to yearn for Christ. To do in this life is to accomplish for Him, indeed in Him, as all activity and desire is answered in Christ. The highest measure of this divine burning is to live under His complete Living under His Lordship, total ownership wherein death is swallowed up in life. It is to surrender as a servant to his majestic King wanting nothing for himself, but to do His good pleasure. As a humble servant he lives knowing no glory except that of living in the hidden place, known by none but Him. Every action, all fulfillment – the beginning and the end of life, is encapsulated in the life of his divine Pursuer. Only then can this superlative passion be realized.

How can such a state of blazing bliss be achieved? Through prayer!!! Prayer begins at the mercy seat and ends in the satisfaction of life's quest – union with the Beloved.

Jesus lived in prayer – He did not just pray. When He uttered His sacred words of communion, intercession, and impassioned pleading, they were the very words of God's heart beating in His heart, compelling release -- because Jesus knew Him! His utterances were not vain and empty words of repetition and unbelief – they were oracles from the throne of the Almighty Father.

He knew the Father and loved Him with the sanctified life lived for His joy, pleasure and glory alone. He sought Him with the ardent zeal and loved Him with a consuming passion. His will was to do the will of the Father. The ebb and flow of His life was to please Him at all cost. Therefore, Jesus always knew what to pray and the Father always heard Him when He prayed. Because He heard Him He answered Him, thus the Father's will was made manifest in the Son. This is the finest life possible – brought about only through prayer. The journey begins with prayer and it ends with prayer. The

man, Jesus, grew ever-increasingly in knowledge of the Father because He lived in the fires of prayer, spanning the depths of intimacy with His Father.

The children of God are summoned to walk in this same inflaming passion. They are called to become, as it were, the very torch of love that consumes all that cannot stand the test.

Jesus *had* to pray, He *lived* to pray – indeed He *was* prayer incarnate! He learned where to walk, what to do and how to go because in prayer, He saw what the Father did. He grew in wisdom and in favor with God and man through prayer. It was through communion with God that He listened to the Father's voice, embraced His will, and in His daily walk learned obedience through the things that He suffered.

The Man Jesus was not a rolling Stone or a leaf blowing in the wind – but a great Rock that stood – a Force that provoked the Father's will. His very words stirred hearts, changed minds, directed the future of nations. The power in his words were like that of a hammer breaking down the most bonelike resistance, a sword cutting across hypocrisy, dividing asunder between soul and spirit. He revealed the secrets of the heart with His words and His life for He was driven with the zeal of God -- His passion like a consuming fire until everything that existed in His day was thrust into a divine tempest of transition from which it has never recovered.

Passion, burning passion, jealous passion, it is the clarion call to the one who would choose Christ. Until your life is driven like a wheel within a wheel by this consuming fire, the passion to live as He lived, and be as He is, you are missing the purpose of life. How does one obtain this passion? Prayer!!!

In Him,

Nita

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*America and the Middle East*

By

*Nita LaFond Johnson*

6-20-2008

America and the Church

In the year 2000, I had a 3-hour visitation from Jesus Christ. In this difficult visit He chastened me for not embracing the call to do the Gathering of Eagles. Previously, He had spoken to me in a vision. In this vision He told me of war coming to America. I saw little children playing. A man's voice spoke, saying, "These children will never grow up to experience life because war will take them." Then I saw adolescent children, and again the voice spoke, telling me that the children would never grow up to attend High School and enjoy life with their peers because war would take them. On and on the visions went, showing me scene after scene of different age groups. Each scene was accompanied with an instruction that they would not experience certain things they should enjoy because war would cut them off. The last vision was of grandparents who would never hold their grandchildren because war would cut them off. He spoke then, and asked me: "Why will you not allow Me to use you to save America?" At that time, in His lofty and demanding presence, He was chastening me again because I still had not accepted the call.

My dear friends, I had given many excuses over the years as to why I had not picked up the torch and answered the call. However, in that moment before Him, all my excuses lay in the dust. He firmly told me that this was my last chance to say yes. Either I would answer the call or America would see war without revival. If, however, I answered the call, then America would have revival before He would allow war to come. I acquiesced and apologized for my disobedience. It had sprung from the fear that I could not possibly accomplish His desire, even if I tried. When I repented, He then began to share many things that would occur if I obeyed Him, utterly.

A few weeks later, He began giving me a series of visions, approximately one every few days, and each was regarding this important call. In each vision was a consistently strong warning to obey the call fully, or America's destruction would ensue. Over a period of several months, He gave me many visions and appeared to me many times regarding America, and what would ultimately be called, the "Gatherings".

Please understand that I do not intend to imply that we are the only ministry Jesus is using to save America. Actually, there are four other people whom He is also using. Remarkably, President Bush is one of them. What I am hoping to communicate is that Jesus had a plan, and those He intended to use in that plan have been faithful. Therefore, America is moving forward, albeit slowly. I also want to explain what is in store for us because God has had His way in this. Of course, I can only share our part as, other than President Bush, the Lord has not revealed to me the other parties He has used in this process.

As we picked up the torch and began to walk out the call to sponsor the Gathering of the Eagles (GOE), we were, and continue to be, met with every obstacle imaginable. The Lord has seen us through, however, and at each juncture He has made a way where there seemed to be no way. He has kept the work of the Gathering small, just as He said to me in a vision, "What is it to you if I save by many or by a few?" Whereas

we began with hundreds attending, He kept pruning the vine and keeping our meetings to around 100 to 250 attending. I was content with that as long as He was. Now, in hindsight, I see His wisdom.

We have done an important work, and are almost finished with this phase of the assignment. Although there have been many signs along the way to prove God's satisfaction with our obedience, the most recent and major sign is the fact that we now have a firmly established healing revival in our midst. Revival was the promise He made to America if we would stay faithful. What is happening in Florida *is* from the Lord. It may need some adjustments because those being used are human, but it is nevertheless from God.

While He promised revival, this present move of God is only a small part of the whole promise. Untold numbers will come into the kingdom. The list of healings and miracles that Jesus will perform are without number. Ministries and lay people all over the Body will flow in the power and gifts of the Spirit. Raising the dead will become commonplace, and not a novelty as it is now. Faith will explode in the hearts of God's own, and we will see the impossible everywhere we look. Our government will experience a revolutionary change as many top leaders get saved. The Church itself is going to experience a revolution, and it will not look the same when the Lord is finished. Like Lazarus coming out of his tomb, the Church will arise in great power and glory.

Reformation will burst forth. Reformation was initially released in 2001 in our Jacksonville GOE, and it will soon carry the Church from glory to glory in a much greater measure of release. We could not have accomplished our commission without that vital empowerment. In the past, we have only seen a small measure of it in operation; however, it will soon explode upon the world like a nuclear bomb, affecting everything it touches. Governments will experience change, the Catholic Church will have a veritable invasion through this marvelous wave of glory. The arts, witty inventions, science, medicine, education, an every conceivable arena of human life will encounter some level of transformation. This is not just revival; it is Reformation - an entirely different and added dimension. We are already seeing this in comparatively small and yet magnificent increments as we hold the GOE's in this and other countries. Soon a new level of release is coming and we will stand in awe. This will accompany a revival that will bring in the lost and produce awe-inspiring miracles.

Many are now aware of the Illuminati and the One World Government movement. I cannot yet go into great detail, but I will say that we are soon going to see a dramatic shift in that movement. God is about to do something none of us would expect.

War has been set aside for a season. We crossed over the line on that commitment a couple years ago. That does not mean that we cannot experience terror attacks, but the Lord will only allow them to touch us in a measure at this time because the repentance we have done closed some vital breaches in our Nation's protection.

God is NOT finished with America. We are presently seeing, and will continue to see, His chastisements upon our Nation for unrepented sin. Yet, He is going to send abundant blessings because of all the repentance that has occurred. We cannot forget that while He is a God of abundant mercy, He is also a God of justice. Thus, the chastisements and blessings will continue until the end.

The Church will nevertheless arise in power and in holiness. She will soon adorn herself with her wedding gown and move in awesome glory and maturity. I have discussed this awesome transformation in my book Melchizedek. God has, for many years, been about His business of preparing the way for "suddenlies" that He will cause to spring forth, one after another.

The Darkness and the Light will meet. The Light will impale the Darkness, but not totally conquer it. Nevertheless, in certain arenas the Darkness will experience incredible devastation. The Darkness will recede for a moment and regroup. However, it will of course rise again, as we are in the last days.

This move of God is designed to prepare His Church for the coming battle. Please use it to build yourself up in faith, love, wisdom and knowledge of the Holy One, so that you might stand in the battle ahead.

#### Middle East:

The Lord has shown me in two dreams and a vision that the Illuminati are making plans to ignite unrest, rumors of wars, and true wars in the Middle East. This is for the purpose of destabilizing the world so they can bring forth their own world ruler. I saw that particular attention was to be brought to a crisis in Afghanistan, and this would in turn, set off other crises in the Middle East.

In this vision, I saw in the map below that a particular target had been made of this area in order to bring about instability. This same kind of effort occurred in conjunction with Bhutto's death as well. The Lord began speaking to me about that crises just hours before it happened. She apparently had accepted Christ and, as a result, was no longer of value to the elite. Thus, measures were engaged. There were indeed other dynamics involved as well, but they all could be summarized in the fact that first, she was in the way, and second, "the powers that be" wanted to bring unrest to the area for the purpose of gaining more control.

As I mentioned, we now have a situation wherein the same powers are looking for a destabilization of the whole Middle East. The ultimate aim, of course, is to swirl like a demonic vortex around Israel. Please pray very much over the Middle East and all the countries on the map below. Needless to say, the purpose of this plan is to bring forth the man of sin who will bring "peace and safety" to a confused and frightened world. Please pray against this.

The Lord has a glorious outpouring coming upon us, and it is His intention to first send this forth. That is where we are headed if we pray.

In Him,

Nita (LaFond) Johnson



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*Nita (LaFond) Johnson's Itinerary*

**New Orleans,**

**Gathering of the Eagles 2008!**

October st-24th, 2008

**Location:**

Four Points Sheraton

6401 Veterans Blvd

Metairie, LA 70003

Just 4 miles from New Orleans Airport!

**Schedule:**

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Tuesday 10/14: 9am-12pm teaching & 2:30-7pm Intercession

Wednesday 10/15: 9am-12pm & 2:30-7pm Intercession

Thursday 10/16:9am-12pm & 2:30-7pm Intercession

Friday 10/17/08:9am-12pm & 2:30-7pm Intercession

**Accommodations:**

Four Points Sheraton

6401 Veterans Blvd

Metairie, LA 70003

**Room Rate:**

\$105.00 +tax per night for up to four people if booked by 9/13/08

Please mention World for Jesus Ministries to receive the discounted rate.

**Transportation :**

Free shuttle bus from New Orleans airport. Parking is available for those who drive in.

Registration Required!  
To register send your name, address, phone number & email address to:  
Phone (559) 435-2423  
Fax: (559) 435-2723  
email: [WorldforJesus@sbcglobal.net](mailto:WorldforJesus@sbcglobal.net)

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**August 18-20, 2008**

**Chicago Revival Conference**

**Location:**

Skokie Banquet & Conference Center

5300 W Touhy Ave

Skokie, IL 60077

847-763-3011

**Registration is required!**

Contact person: Mr. Ming Lou

Phone: 847-652-1490

Email: [cluo@hotmail.com](mailto:cluo@hotmail.com)

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*We are commanded in 1Timothy 2 to pray for our leaders.*

*President Bush is in desperate need of prayer and it is our responsibility as Christians to pray for him. He will receive strength & guidance from our prayers! So Saints ~ pray without ceasing! Pray that God will restore favor upon him.*

*Pray for our soldiers as well, we are praying Psalms 91 over them each day, please join us.*

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