

FOR THE LORD IS GOOD AND HIS MERCY ENDURES FOREVER.



We have come to the final hours of this year. We tend to count the hours and minutes of the last day of the year and feel that this isn't going to come again and feel nostalgic about it. Yes that's right, but so is every other day be it middle of September or March. Every other day is unique and will not return again.

But days like New Year, Christmas add zing to otherwise mundane life. Just like carols, cookies and cakes of Christmas, New Year also has its own paraphernalia , namely personal prophecy, national prophecy, international prophecy and so on....

Is it wrong to run for prophecies you may ask me? I don't have a clear yes or no answer, but what I think is that we should not be caught up in this big hype that's going around.

When a person prophesies that there will be a strong earthquake or a storm, is it not already written in the Word of God? Prophecies cannot be copyrighted by a single preacher. The final prophecy is already there, in the words of Jesus, in the book of Revelation.

There are also prophecies that apply to all situations. Recently my friend who went to a church said that in a service three people prophesied. The first one said that the axe is laid near the root. The Lord is about to cut down. Then the next one said, that the Lord will make you head and not tail. So if something bad happens, the first prophecy will apply and if a blessing

is on the way the second one will hold good. This is a wide bracket prophecy encompassing all.

I am not against prophecies. I have witnessed uncanny prophetic words from great people of God. No one but the Lord alone could have known a situation. Yet they would be speaking as though they knew it all. I have experienced God's prophetic word on my life coming to pass. But how do we know what comes from the heart of God and what is not? The answer is in the Word of God. Since we do not read the Word enough, we are not able to sift grain from chaff.

Jeremiah 23:25-30 (NRSV) ²⁵I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed, I have dreamed!" ²⁶How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. ²⁹Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces? ³⁰See, therefore, I am against the prophets, says the LORD, who steal my words from one another.

These days I really wonder whether all of us Christians, sit and read the Word of God and receive our personal word from God Himself. What most of us do not realize is that God is simply waiting that we will go and speak to Him personally.

See what He says.

John 10:2-4 (NRSV) ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.

The Shepherd knows you and me personally and He has called us out by name. Not only God knows us and calls by name, He expects His sheep also to know His voice.

Do we know the voice of the Master, the Master who enters by the Gate and not by any back door means?

When we know His voice, we will be so exhilarated when He speaks to our heart.

Some of you may ask : How does God speak to us?

In my life, it has been predominantly by the Word which He has given us.

When we read it through the Holy Spirit living inside of us, treasures will open before our very eyes.

Sometimes it can be through a sermon or a word from somewhere.

Hearing from God need not be just one day affair. It has to be an everyday habit.

But there are certain covenant promises that God will give us in our lives.

As I've told often the Lord promised big things in my life, which many years ago, I did not take it very serious.

But after a decade He is surely fulfilling His Word over my life. Some promises have started to happen only now. Some are yet to be activated.

So my dear friend do not hanker for a word only for the New Year Day. Keep listening, keep reading, keep seeking... The Word of God will be yours to keep and claim.(<http://www.tamilchristian.com/lauraspages/pages/2007-007.pdf>)

In these days of false alarms of the ending of the world, what we need is the secure assurance of our salvation in our Lord Jesus. Even if the world may not end today, death may come calling suddenly. So we need not panic about that Last Day, we can have our personal last days any day(I know it's no consolation either, nevertheless very true). We all are destined to die in this world. But we need to rest secure underneath the everlasting arms.

Let us look back with a heart full of gratitude for all the blessings, for all the goodness, for all the tears, for all the pain, for all the tragedies, for all the losses.

In all this He is worthy of all our praise.

The Lord is good. And His mercy endures forever.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lw9CcLGjouM&list=PL860E05ADE1D414B2>

Have a blessed New Year. May the Glory of the Lord be upon you.

Leviticus 26:9-13 (NRSV) ⁹I will look with favor upon you and make you fruitful and multiply you; and I will maintain my covenant with you. ¹⁰You shall eat old grain long stored, and you shall have to clear out the old to make way for the new. ¹¹I will place my dwelling in your midst, and I shall not abhor you. ¹²And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and you shall be my people. ¹³I am the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be their slaves no more; I have broken the bars of your yoke and made you walk erect.