

Dealing with Prophetic Intercessory Information Overload

October 8, 2008

I have written a bit on this in the past, but feel led to again. I will try to be brief.

As you know, we have more instant access to information worldwide than ever before. With this access comes a barrage of prophetic and intercessory information, including prophecies and requests for prayer. This barrage distracts from our personal spiritual course and, if we have no clear personal spiritual course, leads to spiritual paralysis through information overload. It also produces guilt because we feel spiritually responsible to act on what we know once we read it, yet no one can respond to all the prophetic and intercessory information that comes his way.

How do we deal with this? I offer the following simple pointers:

1. Get still to hear the voice of the Lord.

We are obligated only to the Voice of the Lord. We are not obligated to spiritual news and information.

2. Do not respond to any information outside of a still heart.

Test all information against the stillness of the Lord's inner Presence. If the information barges into your stillness so as to threaten and compete with clear hearing of the Lord's Voice, do not respond to it, no matter how persuasive or demanding.

3. Know the sphere of your calling.

All of us have been committed a certain sphere of relationship and influence. Spend enough listening time with the Lord to know your sphere. Knowing your sphere will automatically filter much information for you. The farther outside your sphere information (like – prayer requests) comes from, the less obligation you have to it. Respond only to information falling inside your sphere.

4. Reject intercessory appeals based on comparisons of suffering.

There are many dire things happening around the world. Some are “more dire” than others as we perceive them. But “direness” is not a basis for establishing spiritual responsibility. Let me repeat that: *“Direness is not a basis for establishing spiritual responsibility.”* Unless the alarm sounded is confirmable within the secret place of your sphere in the Lord, do not respond to it, no matter how legitimately dire the need appears.

5. Measure your out-put.

We have a responsibility not only for what information we let into our heart, but for what we send out of it. If you send out prophecies or prayer requests, you are responsible for knowing your sphere, your target audience and for measuring the applicability of what you send. When the Lord said, *“Of every idle word shall men give account,”* He meant emails and blogs too! This goes double for “FWDs.” Furthermore, you should realize that because something is urgent to you from the Lord does not automatically make it urgent to others from the Lord. Respect the spheres of others. It is for the Lord to assign and convict each of their response to any matter.

&&&&&&&&&&&

If there is one reason why the prophetic Body of Christ (including the wilderness prophetic) functions more like Babylon than the Body, it’s because of the failure to understand the truths governing personal spiritual responsibility and the tongue. Chaos, confusion and paralysis reign in the prophetic internet. Are you contributing to it?

The Lord is trying to build a Body He can inhabit. That can only happen as every member learns to hear the Lord’s Voice, to speak only what he hears based in that Voice, and to operate only within his appointed sphere of relationship.

This becomes increasingly critical as the end times progress. The crises that will characterize the ultimate earthwide tribulation will be based in the power of fear that takes its strength from the capacity for unbridled electronic communication. This is why the Lord associated the tribulation with the power of rumor (*“You shall hear of wars and rumors of wars.”*)

But when the Lord warned about “*hearing of wars and rumors of wars,*” He was implicitly warning against *being party to such rumoring*. Yet the internet is filled with prophetic and intercessory clamor based on “rumors of war.” There is little listening behind it. As a result, we are actually helping to precipitate the great tribulation, and disabling our ability to be preserved from it or through it. Our rumoring now will lead to our trampling them. For much of what believers experience during the tribulation will be a reaping of what we have sown prior to it.

Right now, there are many dire issues confronting believers in different parts of the world. In America, we have the economic crash and the election. Earlier we had Lakeland. In India, there are persecutions in Orissa state. In Darfur is Christian genocide. Then there is always the latest crisis in Israel. In respect to all these, we are called only to listen to the Voice of the Lord, to know our sphere for intercession and to speak with tempered tongue only from that sphere. We are not obligated to the urgency or direness of any of these issues, nor are to be contributors to the spirit of prophetic internet rumor-mongering.

Do you know what your place is regarding these issues and the many others you hear about? Do you know your sphere? Do you know His Voice? Do you test and filter all that crosses your computer screen for alignment with *His* burden for *you*? As well, do you test what you send out? Are you building up the Body, or building Babylon?

A word to the wise is always sufficient.

That’s all for now. So remember, as stressful news presses in and pressures mount, establish your clear definable sphere of prophetic relationship and intercessory responsibility in the Lord. Remember that “*His yoke is easy, His burden light.*” Don’t lose your peace over any news. *Embrace uncertainty.* Stay in the Lord alone, and let him deliver you from all your fears through perfected First Love.

I will write again....

Chris Anderson
www.firstloveministry.org