

Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE



“Strengthen with Prophecy”

By Preacher/Teacher Terry Laughlin, CrossRoads Ministries

1 Corinthians 14:3 says, “But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening.... Strengthening (οἰκοδομῇ oikodomē) is the act of building, especially building for spiritual profit or advancement. (The Complete Word Study of the New Testament; Word Pictures in the New Testament; The Bible Exposition Commentary)

It is like building a house - first a solid foundation to hold the finished building. All parts of the structure support the others until the project is just like the architect designed it. God has created you, He knows what He wants you to be. The one who has the gift of prophecy directs you first to Christ Jesus the foundation. He then teaches the Word of God to you, thus giving you knowledge of Christian truth which the Holy Spirit uses to enable you live the Christian life.

As people make the genuine effort to seek the Lord’s will for them, God will raise up Christians who can teach them God’s Word concerning the situations and circumstances they are facing, and equip them to accomplish His call upon their lives. These people share testimony of the Lord’s faithfulness which the Holy Spirit uses to build Christian faith.

I know of a man who was attending church, but felt useless and unsatisfied in what the church had appointed him to do. By God’s grace the young man was invited to attend some solid Bible teaching done by a Para-church ministry that had the gift of prophesying. They shared the Word of God with him so he could get Biblical confirmation of what he felt the Lord was calling him to do.

Along with the Bible teaching they shared personal testimonies of God’s faithfulness.

Like the foundation of a house, they taught him what it really means to have Jesus Christ as the foundation of all he did. They taught him how to prayerfully study the Bible so he could determine God’s will, seek His direction and accomplish the Lord’s vision set before him.

It was in June of 1994 this young man attended the North American Conference for Itinerant Evangelists, conducted by the Billy Graham Association. There,

he learned from those who had the gift of “prophecy.” (Romans 12:4-6; 1 Corinthians 14:1) Their sacrificial exercising of the gift of prophecy laid the foundation to sustain him the past 20 plus years through criticism, false accusations, and misguidance which are to often found in mankind.

As a result of God’s gift of “prophecy” the young man has become a mature Christian, exercising the gift of “prophesying” (Romans 12:6) to thousands all around the United States of America and beyond.

Like the young man in this Biblical teaching, 1,000 new people every month are having to look outside their local church to enjoy the gift of “prophecy” so they can enjoy God’s direction, and live out their desire to “eagerly desire the gifts of the Holy Spirit, especially [the gift] of prophecy.” (1 Corinthians 14:1).

Ask God to send the Holy Spirit upon the church, thus restoring His gift of “prophecy” or “prophesying” so Christians may be strengthened.

Untangling the Web



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Life moves fast and sometimes as we move along, we can quickly and unwittingly become entangled by our free will and human nature in a delicately woven gossamer net of deception. The web can be so captivating that by the time we realize we must free ourselves, we may feel helpless to do so. Together with God, we have the strength we need...all we need to do is ask for help. We can trust in the unconditional love of the Creator to escape a soul-strangling situation and begin anew. Worship this week break free from the web - discover a new beginning.

Weekly Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 31.1-22	Jeremiah 31.23-40	Jeremiah 33.1-26	Lament. 3.1-24	Lament. 3.25-57	Lament. 5.1-22	Isaiah 38.1-20
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Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

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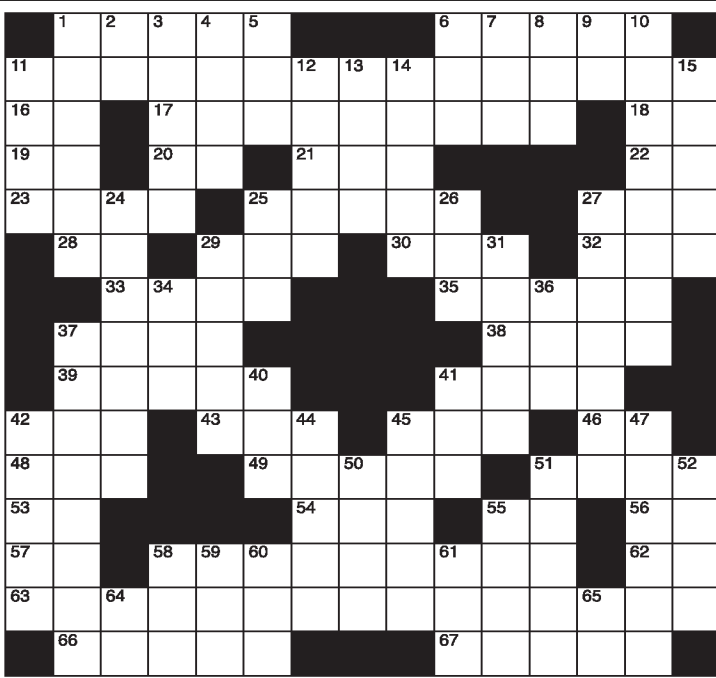
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CLUES ACROSS

- Outmoded
- Strikes
- All the same
- Blue Hen school
- Peopled
- Initials of NBC weather host
- Atomic #28
- Doctor
- Small time unit (abbr.)
- 4th tone of scale
- Dines
- Rates of movement
- Immature newt
- Of I
- Kick out
- Pouchlike structure
- Brew
- Oh, God!
- Shell lining
- Ladies undergarments
- An open way for travel
- Passenger
- Plate
- Actor Affleck
- 1/100 of a yen
- Scientific workplace
- 60 minutes (abbr.)
- Straggle
- Plate made of silver or gold
- Mains
- Great Britain
- Hermione's boyfriend
- D'Onofrio's Law & Order
- 10th state
- Do again prefix
- Jagged cut
- Air Force
- K. Hepburn's alma mater
- "King Rat" actor George
- Academy first year

CLUES DOWN

- Speaker's platform
- Indicates position
- Moves through water
- Historical region of Pakistan
- Country code for Addis Ababa
- Ball striker
- East northeast
- Form a sum
- 7th musical tone
- Harnessed horse (bit)
- Catholic sisters
- Purim villain
- Invests in little enterprises
- Prongs
- Shred cheese
- Gazing intently
- Paper tablet
- Diego, Francisco, Anselmo
- Otological pain
- Pedestal supports
- Islands are named for them
- Gallivant
- Romaine
- Lux Palm Beach hotel
- Ribbed fabric
- CBS newsmen Rather
- Book jacket review
- Braided river of Poland
- Atom smasher
- Devastate
- Pressure unit (mm Hg)
- Move sideways
- Free from risk
- Small prison room
- Liquefied natural gas
- Doctors' group
- UC Berkeley
- Uppermost part
- Thou
- Stuart Little's author White

