Quarter Four: *The Gift of Prophecy*

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Lesson 3—Old Testament Prophets

Friday: Not Perfect, but Willing

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- It has never been easy to be God's messenger: forthtelling or foretelling
    - Biblical prophets sometimes shrank from the call
    - Biblical prophets were not perfect

- EGW & her struggle to accept God's call on her life
    - EGW: "About one week after this, the Lord gave me another view, and showed me the trials I must pass through; that I must go and relate to others what He had revealed to me; that I should meet with great opposition, and suffer anguish of spirit. … This vision troubled me exceedingly. My health was very poor, and I was only seventeen years old. …"
        - Jeremiah felt he was too young
            - Jer 1:8, 9 – don't be afraid of their faces; God touched his mouth, "Behold I have put My words in your mouth"
        - Mary, mother of Jesus, struggled to accept
            - She was a foreteller (when visiting Elizabeth) – Luke 1

    - EGW: "I earnestly prayed that the burden might be laid on some other one. But all the light I could get was, 'Make known to others what I have revealed to you.'"
        - Role of a prophet: reveal what was revealed to the prophet
        - Prophesy from Strongs: Whether foretelling future events or forthtelling present truth, verb consistently implies that the speaker stands as Yahweh's appointed mouthpiece
    - EGW: "I was unreconciled to go out into the world. I had naturally but little confidence. … I looked with desire into the grave. Death appeared to me preferable to the responsibilities I should have to bear." (*Spiritual Gifts*, Vol 2, pp. 35, 36)
        - Death preferable to the responsibilities she was called to bear
            - Someone looking for accolades?
            - Seeking the limelight?
            - Wanting fame or fortune?
            - This is real, honest struggle to surrender to God's call
                - Not perfect, but willing
                - Jesus, in Gethsemane, not My will, but Thine be done

    - She prayed and made her decision:
        - Devote the remainder of her life to following "His bidding"

    - Yet, she was still imperfect, with flaws & family struggles
        - God chooses imperfect people, willing to serve Him

- Under inspiration of Holy Spirit, God used Ellen White in multiple ways:
    - Instrumental in establishment of Seventh-day Adventist Church
    - Instrumental in establishment of SDA health system
    - Instrumental in establishment of SDA educational system
    - Wrote about 100,000 pages – edification, exhortation, comfort (1 Cor 14:3)
        - Mainly forthtelling