

# PROPHETIC COMPASS

by Marsha Burns

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In a vision I saw a compass on a desk and the hand of someone plotting geographic coordinates on a map for those who would embark on the next leg of a divine journey into uncharted spiritual territory. I want to explore and translate some of these coordinates into spiritual reality.

I believe that we are at the end of a 7-year era. Era is defined as a period of time that has a particular quality or character. The past seven years have been fraught with adversity, challenges, and changes. It is more important than ever for us to leave the past behind and press on.

*Philippians 3:13-14 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

We are now on the threshold of a new season. The space between the old and the new has seemed to be no-man's land, a place of transition. We have envisioned it as an atrium—a large open hall that goes up through all the levels of a building to the roof, which is usually made of glass.

When I think of being in an atrium, it is very pleasant—perhaps a place to read, pray, or meditate, a place of rest or quiet preparation. The glass roof speaks to me of covering as well as an open heaven and God's glory. That's where we are now for a short period of time.

The old season is past and done, and the next leg of our journey is about to begin. The new season will be one of relevance. Our environment and experiences will take on unusual importance and significance.

**Small Straws:** "You are nearing the end of an era, a period of time marked by a greater level of discernment and the ability to express what you discern with clarity. Even though that season is ending, you will not lose the spiritual acuity that you've gained. Instead, you will build on that foundation of precision and have opportunities to expand spiritually and apply that new level of discernment to every area of your existence. You will need to look deeply into the details of every situation without fear of recrimination. The more honest and accountable you are, the better able you will be to see and accept the truth. The keys to discovery are flexibility and transparency, says the Lord."

It is important that we stay present with God—right here; right now. We must not dread or fear what's coming or make presumptions with regard to what lies ahead. Nor should we live in regret of what is already done or try to go back to old places.

The LORD is preparing us as the Church, and there is still work to be done.

*Ephesians 5:26-27 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.*

I dreamt that I was in a school, and there were people asking me how to get back into their classrooms. They had left their classes without permission. They had played hooky, but then found that they weren't where they were supposed to be and couldn't figure out how

to get back. I had never played hooky, so I didn't know what to tell them. So, I began to ask other people what to do. One was a retired police chief, and he couldn't remember. By this time there were lots of people milling around waiting to find out how to get back in their classrooms.

**Interpretation:** This had to do with those who have become disinterested and distracted from the school of the Spirit. In this season many will realize they aren't where they are supposed to be and will want to return or get back on track. Their absence has to be excused by the Principal, through God's forgiveness, and they will have to make a decision to be diligent and make up the work they missed if they are going to graduate or go higher spiritually. There are no shortcuts. We all have to do the work.

Our work is to demonstrate the kingdom and apply the Word in all things – to do what we've been taught.

*James 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*

The number one priority for us in this season is unity with God. Our relationship with Him needs to be like a laser beam so that when that connection is disturbed or broken an alarm will go off in our spirit man.

If we will stay spiritually connected, revelation will be really crisp, and there will be greater clarity in discernment, and sensitivity in awareness. I'm talking about razor-sharp spiritual acuity. We must set our desire on higher spiritual ground.

**Small Straws:** "Prepare your heart to come boldly into My presence. Refuse to allow anything at all to come between us. Now is the time to clear the spiritual air so that you can stand righteously before Me, says the Lord, made clean by the blood of Christ. Accept forgiveness and get ready to express the excellence of My kingdom in your mortal existence. Be done with all things that have held you in bondage, and be free."

**First Responders:** "I want you, My people, to become first responders in the realm of the Spirit, so that your actions in response to the enemy's attacks are immediate and effective. Be aware that the longer you wait to resist and bind the powers of darkness, the more damage can be done. Your spiritual actions are vital to your freedom, says the Lord."

First responders are taught, trained, and equipped to respond to crisis situations. They are in a constant state of readiness--alert and selfless. They know that their routine could be interrupted at any moment. They do not allow any interference or distraction to keep them from their duty to contain the damage and bring restoration.

Our duty is to use the tools that God has given to us as we respond, exercising our faith by the Word of God and trusting Him in the face of adversity.

**Small Straws:** "Practice discernment and exercise your faith. Your awareness is like a muscle that can be developed with use. Don't be afraid to activate your spiritual acuity in everyday situations and circumstances. This is a season when you can operate in spiritual gifts at a higher level than you ever thought possible. Prepare yourself by faith to hear My voice, to see visions, to dream dreams, and to have a heightened sense of your atmosphere and environment. Set yourself to receive all that I have made available to you, says the Lord. I am with you."

In a dream I saw a tree on property we used to own. It was a beautiful, old tree where we once played. The tree died a few years ago due to drought and disease. But, in the dream the tree had come to life again and was more beautiful than it had ever been. This tree represents many in the Body of Christ who came into the kingdom and grew in faith and devotion. But, the issues of life brought a spiritual drought and they lost life and vitality.

"Now there will be a revival of the souls of those who have lost hope and given up. Their attention will be drawn away from their suffering as they once again look to Me and live, says the Lord.

The external circumstances that have taken you down will now seem insignificant compared to the strength you have gained through endurance. Your experiences have established character and a level of maturity otherwise unattainable. Rejoice in your survival!

In the coming season simplicity will lead to the profound. Refuse to allow complications to take you off course. Your task is to eliminate distractions in order to gain spiritual depth. That will mean a shift in focus from satisfying fleshly desire to developing a spiritual desire to be one with Me, says the Lord. This shift in desire will require discipline and self-control, but the outcome will be worth your effort. For, you will certainly see the manifestation of My glory as you continue to seek first the kingdom of God.

Maximize every opportunity to be in My presence and to do My work. Don't be afraid to exercise your faith. I will make a very clear distinction between presumption and a faith, which cannot be shaken or dissuaded. You will know exactly where you stand.

If you will put your trust completely in Me, says the Lord, you will experience true unity. This is a season when you will no longer stretch up as on your tiptoes to try to understand revelation or to see and discern as an external exercise. Rather, you will become one with Me as I am one with My Father, and you will know spiritual reality—not as something to be received or attained, but as a result of being joined to My heart. It will be the overflow of intimacy.

Don't waste time on any religious exercise. Take advantage of every moment available to seek My face, hear My voice, and obey My leading. Plant the seed of a spiritual desire to yield completely and instantly to the moving of My Spirit. Demonstrate the kingdom. Do your job with excellence and confidence. You will not be disappointed, says the Lord God Almighty!"

And, we say yes and amen; let it be according to Your Word, Lord!

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