

STUDENT PERCEPTION ON THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY AT ADVENTIST ACADEMY IN EAST NUSA TENGGARA

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Abstract

The purpose of the study is to examine the perception of students on the spirit of prophecy at Adventist Academy at East Nusa Tenggara. The study is descriptive and used descriptive statistics to present based on tables of means distribution for the responses of personal characteristic, spirit of prophecy perception and students motivation with respect to demographic profile of the respondents. F-test used to see if there is a significant difference in the answers of the respondent based on the school they attended. Based on the result of the study, it can be concluded that the respondent have good personal characteristics, they also have good perception on the Spirit of Prophecy and finally the students are motivated to hear the word of God from the bible, spirit of prophecy writing, sermon at church and would like to share to others, and believe on Jesus second coming as Lord and Savior.

Keywords: Students, Spirit of Prophecy, Adventist Academy, East Nusa Tenggara

Introduction

Humans have fallen into sin that God can not communicate anymore with people face to face. God gives to man a way to keep in touch with him. Prayer is the means by which people can keep in touch with him. Each prayer is gratitude conveyed, for forgiveness of sins and ask keinginginan of the human heart. Not only humans who wish that God heard his heart desires, but God also wants us to understand the wishes and wills. Spirit of Prophecy writings, both the Bible and the writings of Ellen G. White it is the truth of God and the desire that God wants to do for a living man in the world. The Bible says that the special characteristics of God's people that the rest is keep the commandments of God and have the "Testimony of Jesus" (Rev. 12:17), and the testimony of Jesus is the "Spirit of Prophecy" (Rev. 19:10). Moreover, it is very necessary to learn things related to the Spirit of Prophecy.

Interest in reading the Scriptures and the Spirit of Prophecy writings has decreased among young people. Because Satan uses romance books to master the minds of young people to not think about things of truth and salvation. Poison romance story was already working on the mind, destroying his sanity, and follow-possible you

focus on the important and sacred truth, that the eternal salvation.¹ It is a question to what extent today's young people understand that the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy. Thus, the purpose of the study is to examine the perception of students on the spirit of prophecy at Adventist Academy at East Nusa Tenggara.

Review of Related Literature

The church believes the gift of prophecy manifested in the service of Ellen White, who is sometimes referred to as the Spirit of Prophecy. In *Fundamental Beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church* stated that: "One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is prophecy. This gift is an identifying mark of the remnant church and was manifested in the ministry of Ellen. G. White. As the Lord's messenger, her writings are a continuing and authoritative source of truth which provide for the church comfort, guidance, instruction, and correction. They also make clear that the Bible is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested."² The Spirit of Prophecy is God's will reveal to His church through the prophetic channel or prophet.³ God gave the gift of prophecy to those who selected by Him as a prophet to be God's intercession in order to be able to express His will. The Bible itself is Scripture is inspired by God through His Spirit to the prophets, is also the Spirit of Prophecy.⁴

The Bible says that God's people special characteristics that the rest is "obey the laws of God and have the testimony of Jesus" (Rev. 12:17), and "Testimony of Jesus" is the "Spirit of Prophecy" (Rev. 19:10). Having the *Testimony of Jesus* means to have a witness who must be witnessed by the people of God's people about Jesus declared to His people through His prophet (Rev 1: 2). God chose the prophet as a means by which God can inspire all his truth through the

¹Ellen G. White, *Amanat Kepada Orang Muda* (Bandung: Indonesia Publishing House, 1995), 254.

²Ministerial Association General Conference Seventh-day Adventists, *Seventh-day Adventists Believe... A Biblical Exposition of 27 Fundamental Doctrines* (Maryland: Review and Herald, 1988), 217.

³Reyman Hutabarat, *Pengantar Roh Nubuat* (Bandung: Indonesia Publishing House, 2000), 11.

⁴Ibid.

gift of prophecy given to the prophet. God desires to communicate His truth to the world by the hand of man, and He alone, through His Holy Spirit, enables man to perform this task. The gift of prophecy, or prophet is one of the few gifts of the Spirit given to the church of God, which enables acceptance speak with authority as His messengers, the Seventh-day Adventist Church recognizes the message given by Ellen G. White as the Spirit of Prophecy.

The Holy Spirit who will lead humanity to be able to understand the truth of God. Without the Holy Spirit, one impossible to understand God's truth. Ellen White's writings do not replace the Bible should not be equated with Scripture. Only the Bible is a unique size, to be aware of his writings and other literature, which must be obeyed.

Before the arrival of God's final judgment to the earth, there will be, among the people of God, a revival as early piety that has not been witnessed since apostolic times. Spirit and power of God will be poured out to her children. Many people, both priests and people, will gladly accept those great truths that had been commanded by God to echoed in the present, to prepare a people for the coming of the Lord both times. Enemy of souls desires to hinder this work; and before the time for movement like this would happen, he would seek to prevent it, by introducing a counter. In churches that can be deceived with the power of deception, it would make it seem like a special blessing of God being poured out; there will be a revelation that was calculated is great religious interest. Many people would rejoice to think that God works in miraculous for them, but it is the work of another spirit. Under the disguise of religion, Satan will try to expand its influence in the Christian world.

The most important job. Three angel's message is the primary mission of the Adventist Church, not just the withdrawal of the soul or baptism. Number of baptism is a quantitative measure of an evangelistic effort, and often does not represent the real success of what we have to do as an obligation "remnant" in the last days. Maybe it's time for us to return the evangelistic zeal of the early pioneers and founders of this church, which is to proclaim the Three Angel's message without worrying about baptism figures are merely filler reports and data.

"Three angels in Revelation 14 symbolizes the people who receive the light of God's message and go as His instrument to play along and warn the entire earth. Christ told his followers: 'You are the light of the world' (Matthew 5:14). To every soul that accepts Jesus, the cross of Calvary say: Look at the value of the soul: Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15). No which will be allowed to hinder this work. This is the most important job in the present; will reach far until eternity. Love that Jesus showed for the souls of men in the sacrifice that He did for their redemption, will move all of his followers."⁵

⁵Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5* (Maryland: Review and Herald, n.d.), 455-456.

Be thou preach the word of God was, and continues to urge the people to hear, whether they want it or not. Let you convince people, pointed out the mistake, and give encouragement to them. Teach people to the patient as possible. For the time will come when people do not want anymore received the true doctrine. Instead, they will follow their own desires, and collect a lot of teachers to teach things that are pleasant to hear in their ears
(2 Tim. 4: 2-3).

“God wants so that young people become diligent thinking, provided earnest will take a portion in which the noble and understand His work bear responsibility for the things that are passed on to her God. The Lord calls young people to be sincere, strong and daring that has taken provisions will struggle bravely face struggles in front of him for the glory of God, and be a blessing to fellow human beings. If only young people like to study the Bible, and love endure all craving and love to listen to the sound of the Creator and Redeemer, they were not only got peace with God, but He Himself will be glorified and exalted. Hi my young friend, it is an eternal advantage for you, if you flout the will of all the advice in the word of God. Because the price is not priceless to you. God have raised young people into the hands of a helper for Him.”⁶ “With young people as an army of workers who have been trained and equipped, how soon the message of the Saviour who was crucified, risen, and coming soon, can be broadcast to the entire world.”⁷ “We have an army of youth today who can do many things if they really directed and encouraged. We want our children to believe in the truth. We want them to be blessed of God. We wanted them to do some of that already planned to help other young people. Let them be trained so that they are introduce exact truth, and give reasons hope that is in them and honor God through any branch of the work where they are skilled in the job.”⁸

God has given the opportunity for young people so that young people could determine the fate of high. The influence that comes out of you shall see the truth of God. You may be the key workers with God in His work that likely will save souls. We have to show confidence in our young people. They should be a pioneer in the

⁶Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 7 (Maryland, Review and Herald, n.d.), 64.

⁷Ellen G. White, *Education* (Maryland: Review and Herald, n.d.), 271.

⁸*General Conference Bulletin*, vol. 5, No. 2. p. 24 (January 1, 29, 30. 1893).

effort hard enough and sacrifice, while the servants of Christ who are old should be seated as advisor, to encourage and give their hearts to God's persistent fight.

Method of the Study

The study is descriptive and a quantitative methodology was used for the study. Questionnaire was constructed and used as the measuring instrument. There were three main sections of questionnaire, included there are: personal characteristics, spirit of prophecy knowledge, and students motivation. In presenting and analyzing the results of the study, Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 16 was used. The study is descriptive. The descriptive statistics used in the present study are based on tables of means distribution for the responses of personal characteristic, spirit of prophecy knowledge and students motivation with respect to demographic profile of the respondents. F-test used to see if there is a significant difference in the answers of the respondent based on the school they attended.

Result of the Study

The study from two Adventist Academy in East Nusa Tenggara presents the student's profile in terms of demographic variables of gender and school that they attended (see Table 1). The profiles of all demographic variables have clearly indicated that 40.9% of the respondents were the male students, 59.1% were female, and most of the respondent were from SMU Nusra (73.97%), and the remaining 26.03% respondents were from SMU Ponain.

Table 1

Demographic Profile of the Respondent

		N	%	Total
Gender	Male	27	40.90	40.9%
	Female	39	59.10	100.0%
School	SMU Ponain	19	26.03	26.03%
	SMU Nusra	54	73.97	100.00%

Personal Characteristics

Table 2 show the results of the answer of the respondent regarding their personal characteristic as observed based on the school they attended. Results of the descriptive statistics in terms of F-test show that there were no significant difference in the answers of the respondents based on school they attended as p-value is higher than $\alpha = 0.05$. However, for question X1, students in SMU Nusra shows that they agree that they are strongly happy to help others than students in SMU Ponain with mean responds of 4.5741 and 4.1579, respectively.

Table 2 Personal Characteristics

Description	Location	N	Mean	F	Sig.	Interpretation
X1 I am happy to help others	SMU Ponain	19	4.1579	9.748	.003	Significant Difference
	SMU Nusra	54	4.5741			
	Total	73	4.4658			
X2 I am looking for God in every decision I	SMU Ponain	19	4.4211	.337	.563	No Difference
	SMU Nusra	54	4.5185			
	Total	73	4.4932			
X3 My compassion for those in need	SMU Ponain	19	4.1579	2.254	.138	No Difference
	SMU Nusra	54	4.4074			
	Total	73	4.3425			
X4 I love my life	SMU Ponain	19	4.3684	1.019	.316	No Difference
	SMU Nusra	54	4.5370			
	Total	73	4.4932			
X5 I worry about the future	SMU Ponain	19	3.0000	.800	.374	No Difference
	SMU Nusra	54	3.3148			
	Total	73	3.2329			

X6	SMU Ponain	19	3.7368	.355	.553	No Difference
I control my tongue at home	SMU Nusra	54	3.8889			
	Total	73	3.8493			
X7	SMU Ponain	19	3.8421	.881	.351	No Difference
I like to forgive others	SMU Nusra	54	4.0926			
	Total	73	4.0274			

In terms of personal characteristics, the students in East Nusat Tenggara Academy shows that they are very happy to help others ($M = 4.4658$), they are looking for God in every decision ($M = 4.4932$), have a strong compassion for those in need ($M = 4.3425$), they love their life ($M = 4.4932$), however they are undecided whether they are worry or not about their future ($M = 3.3148$), nonetheless, they agree that they control their tongue at home ($M = 3.8889$), and finally they agree that they like to forgive others ($M = 4.0274$). The results show that students at East Nusa Tenggara have good personal characteristics.

Spirit of Prophecy

Table 3 show the results of the answer of the respondent regarding their perception on Spirit of Prophecy as observed based on the school they attended. Results of the descriptive statistics in terms of F-test show that there were no significant difference in the answers of the respondents based on school they attended as p-value is higher than $\alpha = 0.05$. However, for question Y6, there are significant difference between the answers of the respondents based on schools they attended as students in SMU Nusra shows that they agree that the gift of prophecy is not a mean of communication between God and His people where students in SMU Ponain is undecided with mean responds of 4.1053 and 3.1667, respectively.

In terms of students perception on spirit of prophecy, the students in East Nusa Tenggara Academy shows that they are strongly agree that the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy ($M = 4.5890$), they are strongly agree that the remnant are a people who have testimony of Jesus ($M = 4.6164$), furthermore, they agree that the Spirit of prophecy are the traits possessed by God's people ($M = 4.4795$), and also they agree that Spirit of Prophecy gives an overview of God's people that the rest of the preacher in the church ($M = 4.3836$), they also agree that the Spirit of Prophecy is a lesser light to illuminate the Bible which is the greater light (4.4521),

however, they are undecided on The gift of prophecy is not a means of communication between God and His people (M = 3.4110). Moreover, the respondent agree that Spirit of Prophecy can be used for someone to rebuke the sins of other people's mistakes (M = 3.6849). Nevertheless, they also agree that Spirit of Prophecy is used for self-application (M = 4.1370), and that the inspiration given by God to Ellen G. White is the Spirit of Prophecy (M = 4.4110), and finally that the Spirit of Prophecy is the Will of God to man that are revealed through the prophet (M= 4.3151). In general, the student in East Nusa Tenggara Academy shows that they have good perception towards Spirit of Prophecy.

Table 3. Spirit of Prophecy Perception

	School	N	Mean	F	Sig.	Interpretation
y1 The testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy	Ponain	19	4.3684	3.959	.050	No Difference
	Nusra	54	4.6667			
	Total	73	45.890			
y2 The remnant are a people who testify of Jesus	Ponain	19	4.5263	.869	.354	No Difference
	Nusra	54	4.6481			
	Total	73	4.6164			
y3 Spirit of Prophecy are the traits possessed God's people	Ponain	19	4.3684	1.130	.291	No Difference
	Nusra	54	4.5185			
	Total	73	4.4795			
y4 Spirit of Prophecy gives an overview of God's people that the rest of the preacher in church	Ponain	19	4.2632	1.062	.306	No Difference
	Nusra	54	4.4259			
	Total	73	4.3836			
y5 Spirit of Prophecy is a lesser light to illuminate the Bible which is the greater light	Ponain	19	4.3684	.376	.542	No Difference
	Nusra	54	4.4815			
	Total	73	4.4521			
y6 The gift of prophecy is not a	Ponain	19	4.1053	6.906	.011	Significant Difference
	Nusra	54	3.1667			

means of communication between God and His people						
	Total	73	3.4110			
y7 Spirit of Prophecy can be used for someone to rebuke the sins of other people's mistakes	Ponain	19	3.8947	.798	.375	No Difference
	Nusra	54	3.6111			
	Total	73	3.6849			
y8 Spirit of Prophecy is used for self-application	Ponain	19	4.0000	.438	.510	No Difference
	Nusra	54	4.1852			
	Total	73	4.1370			
y9 The inspiration given by God to Ellen G. White is the Spirit of Prophecy	Ponain	19	4.1579	3.890	.052	No Difference
	Nusra	54	4.5000			
	Total	73	4.4110			
y10 Spirit of Prophecy is the Will of God to man are revealed through the prophet	Ponain	19	4.1053	2.319	.132	No Difference
	Nusra	54	4.3889			
	Total	73	4.3151			

Student's Motivation

Table 4 show the results of the answer of the respondent regarding their motivation as a students as observed based on the school they attended. Results of the descriptive statistics in terms of F-test that show that there were no significant difference in the answers of the respondents based on school they attended is based on when p -value is higher than $\alpha = 0.05$, and when p -value is lower than $\alpha = 0.05$, the result is that there is significant difference in the answers given by respondent based on the schools they attended.

In terms of students motivation, the students in East Nusa Tenggara Academy shows that they are agree that they are motivated to the following statements: I love to read the Bible every year (Sig =3.9851), My school is actively working on the task of reading the Bible daily (M = 3.7879), and I love to read the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy (M = 3.8947), I still hear the Word of God even

though the preacher made me sleepy when listening to the Sermon ($M = 4.0909$), and that I'm glad to hear excerpts Spirit of Prophecy ($M = 4.3485$), I am pleased to invite friends to come together in my church worship ($M = 4.3333$). However, in term of I am pleased to hear the Word of God that brought by Preacher in the church ($p = 0.03$), Lessons will be the Word of God inspires me to share what I have learned to others ($p = 0.019$), I believe Jesus came into the world to bring salvation ($p = 0.027$), Jesus is the Savior of man and would go back in a second arrival times ($p = 0.000$), and that Spirit of Prophecy writings strengthens my faith believes that Jesus is the Savior ($p = 0.017$). Thus, the results shows that the students are motivated to hear the word of God from the bible, spirit of prophecy writing, sermon at church and would like to share to others , and believe on Jesus second coming as Lord and Savior.

Table 4 Student's Motivation

		N	Mean	F	Sig.	Interpretation
z1 I love to read the Bible every year	SMU Ponain	19	3.9474	.060	.807	No Difference
	SMU Nusra	48	4.0000			
	Total	67	3.9851			
z2 My school is actively working on the task of reading the Bible daily	SMU Ponain	19	3.7895	.000	.991	No Difference
	SMU Nusra	47	3.7872			
	Total	66	3.7879			
z3 I love to read the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy	SMU Ponain	19	4.2632	.664	.418	No Difference
	SMU Nusra	47	4.0851			
	Total	66	4.1364			
z4 I am pleased to hear the Word of God that brought by Preacher in church	SMU Ponain	19	3.8947	9.709	.003	Significant Difference
	SMU Nusra	47	4.4894			
	Total	66	4.3182			
z5 I still hear the Word of God even though the	SMU Ponain	19	4.1053	.008	.929	No Difference
	SMU Nusra	47	4.0851			

preacher made me sleepy when listening to the Sermon	Nusra					
	Total	66	4.0909			
z6 I'm glad to hear excerpts of the Spirit of Prophecy	SMU Ponain	19	4.3158	.073	.788	No Difference
	SMU Nusra	47	4.3617			
	Total	66	4.3485			
z7 Lessons will be the Word of God inspires me to share what I have learned to others	SMU Ponain	19	4.1579	5.776	.019	Significant Difference
	SMU Nusra	47	4.5745			
	Total	66	4.4545			
z8 I am pleased to invite friends to come together in my church worship	SMU Ponain	19	4.4211	.360	.550	No Difference
	SMU Nusra	47	4.2979			
	Total	66	4.3333			
z9 I believe Jesus came into the world to bring salvation	SMU Ponain	19	4.5789	5.093	.027	Significant Difference
	SMU Nusra	47	4.8511			
	Total	66	4.7727			
z10 Jesus is the Savior of man and would go back in a second arrival times	SMU Ponain	19	4.4737	13.628	.000	Significant Difference
	SMU Nusra	47	4.8936			
	Total	66	4.7727			
x11 Spirit of Prophecy writings strengthens my faith believes that Jesus is the Savior	SMU Ponain	19	4.5263	5.962	.017	Significant Difference
	SMU Nusra	47	4.8298			
	Total	66	4.7424			

Conclusion and Suggestion

Based on the result of the study, it can be concluded that the respondent have good personal characteristics despite that they are undecided whether they are worry about the future or not. In terms of their perception on the Spirit of Prophecy,

the results shows that they have good perception on the Spirit of Prophecy despite that they agree that the Spirit of Prophecy can be used to rebuke others. And finally, the results shows that the students are motivated to hear the word of God from the bible, spirit of prophecy writing, sermon at church and would like to share to others, and believe on Jesus second coming as Lord and Savior. The researcher is keen to see the development of spirituality of these students, and hopefully they can be an example to others and keep their faith God as we all wait for Jesus second coming

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