

Lifebyte 70

The Hebraic Restoration: *Our Father's Plan to Restore the Spiritual Power of the Early Church*

Purge Yourself of Greed *Before* the Dark Days of Chastisement Come



Restoration Ministries International

Mike & Sue Dowgiewicz
205 North Murray Blvd, #25
Colorado Springs, CO 80916
(719) 573-4911

email: Mikedowg@aol.com
Web: www.Restorationministries.org

"It was because of their flagrant greed that I was angry and struck them; I hid myself and was angry, but they continued on their own rebellious way" (Isaiah 57:17,CJB)

Introduction

In Lifebytes 66 through 69 we discussed how necessary *power in the Holy Spirit* will be for followers of Jesus in the days to come. Also noted were the evil forces that are keeping God's people from currently walking in His power. We walk in the power of the Spirit as we obediently manifest the gift(s) of spiritual empowerment He's given each of His own to extend His Kingdom.

The Spirit's use of you through the gift(s) He has apportioned you evidences *our Lord's ownership of you* as His beloved servant. Without the indwelling Spirit, you are unreconciled with the Father — still owned by Satan and a slave to sin despite your religious rituals and practices: *"If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ"* (Romans 8:9).

What are indicators that you and those you fellowship with are truly living in His spiritual power? Your weekly gatherings will *resound with testimonies* as to how Jesus has used you during the week! And, like David in so many of his psalms, you'll praise and thank Him for *His love and faithfulness* despite whatever you're going through.

If testimonies and grateful worship are *not* the hallmark of your gatherings each week (or even part of your ongoing conversations with your faith family), then you need to reconsider individually and collectively the nature of your relationship with our Lord Jesus. Either you don't belong to Him, *or* your lives are dominated by unconfessed sin. In either case, your love for Him and obedient trust in Him are lacking. If you aren't carrying out His Spirit-empowered purpose for you in His Kingdom, you're saying in your heart that *you* are the lord of your life.

Ask yourself this: Do you really want to finish your pilgrimage on earth *without* wholeheartedly seeking to do the will of the One you purport to love? Far better that you repent now rather than go on in life resisting His will and the obedience which pleases Him and brings Him praise (see Philippians 2:13).

Greed: Sin Run Amok

If you're not finding the Spirit of Christ working in and through you to others, then you may be captive to a pervasive sin that is a snare and a trap nationwide at this time. That **sin is greed**. While the media today speaks much about greed, nobody is calling it what it really is: **sin**. Nor is anyone calling for *repentance* for this sin.

Rather, the news represented in the media is looking to Wall Street or Washington to get this nation out of what is perceived as an "economic problem". Yet in our God's sight, the plight in which this nation finds itself is a *spiritual* predicament, not an economic one.

This land is dominated by the **sin of greed**. Even many who claim to be Christian violate His Word when it comes to how they view money. Do you see, it isn't the *amount* of money you have that makes you greedy. Rather, it's how you *view* it — your heart's motivation toward temporal things.

A person who considers him/herself to belong to our Lord Jesus is hindered by the sin of greed primarily in two areas:

1. **Any greed within you displays distrust that God will ultimately provide for you.**
2. **Your greed exhibits your lack of concern for the dignity and welfare of others who are less fortunate than you.**

"[Jesus] said to them 'Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions'" (Luke 12:15)



1. Any greed within you displays distrust that God will ultimately provide for you.

From our God's perspective, the sin of greed slaps His face. Biblically, greed is *idolatry*, compromising your trust in the One True God with hunger for the things the world treasures. Have we learned nothing from the piteous example set us by the grumbling Israelites in the desert who tainted their experiences of God with the ways of the pagan world? (See 1 Corinthians 10:1-14.) It's not *what we say* that validates our life in Christ, but *how we live*.

Any amount of greed or fleshly longing for the things of this world shows just how dominated you are by *yourself* rather than relying in trust in the sovereignty of God. Where your wealth is, there your heart is also (Matthew 6:21) — and our God is seeking your love from *all* of your heart and soul. The love to which Jesus refers is *agape*, that in which you find your joy and direct your will in pursuing. As Lord Jesus makes clear, there can be **no compromise**:

*No one can serve two masters. Either he will **hate** the one and **love** the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money" (Matthew 6:24).*

There is no gray area in our Lord's warning. You will love one and hate the other. No matter how you try to rationalize, your choice will prove where your heart really is (Romans 8:5-8).

How can you know that you're not influenced by greed? You must first understand the connection between *greed* and *idolatry*. When most people think of an idol, they may envision statues or prominent celebrities or even overarching ambitions or activities in their lives. Yet Paul specifically ties *greed* to idolatry: "*Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and **greed, which is idolatry***" (Colossians 3:5).

Few Christians in this nation would consider themselves idolatrous. But those who are beset by the sin of greed expect God to fulfill their desires because that's what they've been taught by unbiblical preachers! From pulpit to pew many have been influenced by the demonically undergirded "**health and wealth gospel**" and "**church growth movement**" that focus on worldly gratification and nullification of sin. Countless Christians today fail to be convicted of how serious their sin of greed is in God's sight!

Many noted teachers throughout Christendom now command the same pay and benefits as executives in corporate America receive (Matthew 23:25). If they're perceiving wealth as a sign of God's favor on them, how can such liars ever call people to repent of the same greed that they're indulging?

Let's define greed and idolatry so that we can see why Paul would associate the two:

- **Greed is an intense selfish desire for something without regard for whether it is God's will for you.**

- **Idolatry** is an extreme admiration or reverence for something or someone that replaces your devotion to our God.

Greed and idolatry are two sides of the same coin. Both, in one form or another, negate our God’s unrivaled place in our lives and His requirements for us to live in a union of *love-grounded obedient trust* with Him. This is the basis to a biblical, Covenant way of life, a life comprised of complete trust in Him and total, loving devotion to Him.

The desire for money and the things it can buy is one of the greatest temptations Christians in the United States face. The economic downfall of this nation has been brought about by an insatiable desire to acquire something *beyond a basic need*. Churches or not, much of this nation has been blinded by a profound incapacity to distinguish between *soulish wants* and *authentic needs*.

This focused pursuit of self-gratification drives both those who claim to love Christ as well as those who have no interest in following Him. The same idolatrous greed underlies the deceit that *we deserve more*, whether because we feel God owes us (or has “promised” us), or because we’ve worked so hard to “upgrade” our lifestyle.

What a blasphemy of the name of our Lord that Christians are caught up in idolatrous greed, chasing the same goals as the unbelievers around them! And how few stop to question whether what they’re so desperately trying to acquire or maintain is *God’s will* for them.

Contentment is a virtue that’s a rare commodity these days. Paul’s admonition in 1 Timothy 6:8 to be gratefully satisfied with having food and clothing seems to have little meaning in a country such as this that’s become accustomed to luxury.

(And this from an apostle who had experienced devastating poverty in his journey of obedient trust in His Lord!)

On the banks of the Jordan River John commanded contentment with wages from the Roman soldiers who responded to his preaching to repent. These men were used to extorting money, yet they were being called to a major lifestyle shift that would evidence fruit of a changed life (Luke 3:8,9,14).

No wonder so little impact for the Kingdom has been made on this country. Those outside His realm see *no difference* in the lives of those who claim to be His yet voice the same discontent as they do.

The Greek word used for “love” of money means that you covet both it and what it can buy you. In light of Paul’s warning below, how would you evaluate your own “love of money”?

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs (1 Timothy 6:10).

Do you agree that love for God and love of money can’t co-exist in your life? Pause here and reflect on the many ways that a *desire for money* — for what it can buy you in material goods, in esteem by others, or even in a sense of earthly security — can diminish your devotion to God and even lure you away from trusting Him.

Any love for money is going to wreck your faith if it hasn’t already. One of the many reasons Christians fall into the sin of greed is that they fail to see *God’s grace* in His provision for them, and *His purpose* in providing. They might not admit it, but they credit all that they have with their own hard work, ingenious investments, or astute savings:

“The priests do not ask, ‘Where is the LORD?’ Those who deal with the law do not know Me” (Jeremiah 2:8)

You say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.’ And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day (Deuteronomy 8:17,18).

As with the Israelites, He tests us with gain and humbles us with loss so that we might see His hand undergirding all that we have (Deuteronomy 8:16). Yet the omission by many Christians to be thankful to our God for their income demonstrates their lack of trust in Him for their provision. Remember, a major purpose of our Lord for our lives is to establish His covenant in us in such a way that unbelievers might see His grace toward us as His own and seek Him themselves.

Keep in mind that our God gave Adam work to do before his fall into sin. Work endues a person with purpose and meaning, one of the seven needs God created in humanity. (See our workbook, *Demolishing Strongholds*, a free download, for more on your seven needs.)

Work is *not* God’s curse on mankind! The Hebrew root word for work and worship is the same, *avodah*. True worship of God includes being grateful for employment, choosing to be joyful in the work you do and realizing that your income is actually His grace to you.

- **Which do you love and which do you hate: God or money? Give proof for your answer. Talk this over with those who are close to you in the faith to see if they agree with your response.**
- **Do you view your workplace as a means our Lord has given you to provide for your material needs as well as a venue in which you may represent Him to others?**

Or, do you see your work only as a necessary task, devoid of any witness by you for His Kingdom? Explain.

- **If the Spirit of Christ dwells in you, what is His perspective on your coworkers? In what specific ways have you (or could have but didn’t) represented Him in word and deed with them?**

2. Greed exhibits your lack of concern for the dignity and welfare of others who are less fortunate than you.

“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets” (Matthew 7:12).

The underlying intent of “*the Law and the Prophets*” is to extend to others the same dignity of worth as you have in God’s sight (see Leviticus 19:18). All humans are made in the image of God, and the precious blood of Jesus was shed to redeem all who trust in Him.

One of Satan’s most powerful strategies is to entice the Father’s children into greed — the same overarching desire that propelled Eve into rebelling against God’s command. The sin of greed hinders Christians today from upholding the dignity of other human beings and caring for their welfare. Looking to *self-interest* supercedes authentic self-sacrifice. Others get the surplus, if anything.

In Matthew 25:34-40 our Lord Jesus sums up His criteria for us to be welcomed at the Judgement Throne: “*I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me.*” Our Lord’s concern for the less fortunate apperceives from the Older Testament its clear commands to uphold the dignity and welfare of others:

“Your wickedness will punish you; your backsliding will rebuke you. Consider then and realize how evil and bitter it is for you when you forsake the LORD your God and have no awe of Me” (Jeremiah 2:19)

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. ***Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy*** (Proverbs 31:8,9)

*During the seventh year let the land lie unplowed and unused. Then the **poor among your people may get food from it**, and the wild animals may eat what they leave. Do the same with your vineyard and your olive grove* (Exodus 23:11).

*When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. **Leave them for the poor and the alien.** I am the LORD your God* (Leviticus 23:22).

When times are tight we may rationalize that God wants us to use our resources on ourselves. But Jesus was forceful as He apperceived Deuteronomy 15:11, the command to ***“open your hand wide to your brother, to your poor and your needy in your land.”*** How we respond to those in need tests both our trust in our Lord as well as our character in our willingness to support the dignity of those we help.

Many Christians think that the only reason why God destroyed Sodom was the rampant sexual perversion. However, Ezekiel reveals another factor, one that should warn us today of the dire consequences of greed: ***“Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy”*** (Ezekiel 16:49).

Ask yourself this: Isn't the forbearance of God incredible when you consider the ***“arrogant, overfed unconcern”*** so graphically being lived out now in this nation, as well as the ever-increasing

acceptance of sexual perversion? How many, in the name of “tolerance”, have ignored the impact of these sins, believing that God won't intervene according to His holy character and His Word?

Reaching out with help to others in way that preserves their dignity is demonstrated in the parable of the workers and the vineyard owner (Matthew 20:1-15). Motivated by responsive love, the owner obediently followed the commands of God in the Older Testament, paying all who worked for him a day's wage regardless of how long they worked. Providing a day's wage kept them from losing their dignity by having to beg.

God's wisdom and compassion also shine through as the owner recognizes that each man's needs are similar even if the hours worked aren't:

I want to give the man who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous? (Matthew 20: 14,15).

A close link interlaces caring for someone by upholding their dignity and sharing what you have with them when they're in need. In this parable Jesus was affirming that people do have material needs for which they have to work to provide if it's possible. But there will also be those who for one reason or another are unable to work.

For example, Paul cites the importance of upholding the dignity and welfare of widows, and the righteous responsibility of family members to come alongside with tangible provision:

Honor widows who are really in need. But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them learn first of all to fulfill their duty to their own household and so

*repay their forebears, for this is **acceptable before God*** (1 Timothy 5:3,4, literal translation).

Because our Hebraic forefathers in the faith clearly understood their identity as made in the image of God, their concept of true charity was to provide the needy with the conditions that would *maintain their dignity*. Consider a Hebraic example of charity that upholds dignity:

A young woman was left orphaned. The goal of those who wanted to help her was to find her a suitable husband when she reached the appropriate age. While her immediate economic needs had to be met, of greater concern was her need for the dignity and respect that marriage would bring her.

How different from the current welfare system that perpetuates and, in a sense, rewards dependency on public assistance from one generation to the next! Charity that offers *no hope of change* and *no purpose and meaning* destroys the motivation of those whom God would have provide for their families. Charity at best solves the immediate need but does little to solve the person's need for dignity by becoming responsible through learning a trade.

Sadly, many Christian organizations have done a grave injustice by mirroring the ineffectual, self-perpetuating welfare system that deals with economic need without regard for the dignity of recipients. If the money that perpetuates dependence is the total expression of involvement, then dependence on handouts will continue from generation to generation as an expected entitlement. The recipients will not only sense no need to work; they'll resent any prompting to do so by those doling out the provision.

As obedience to God's Word is restored among His people, what changes will take place in their lives? Hebraic faith communities of the future will concern themselves with the economic well-being and dignity of the families as the early Church once did. Charity is not God's only way to help, particularly if dignity can be gained through job training and life skills that help keep that job.

Christian families can start cooperative businesses so that those in need can become self-sufficient. Christians working together isn't new. When Paul went to Corinth he worked with Aquila and Priscilla, tentmakers as he was (Acts 18:2,3). Paul, Silas and Timothy also labored among the Thessalonians, setting them an example to work for their needs, and commanding that those who refused to work shouldn't get to eat either! (See 2 Thessalonians 3:8-12.)

- **The first need our God instilled in humanity is the need for dignity. You can't uphold the dignity of others if you don't have it yourself. Are you influenced by strongholds or ruts of old behaviors and attitudes that rob of you of dignity? Ask others close to you for their input.**
- **If you give from your resources, do you do it in a way that upholds that dignity of others? Or, is it only a charitable act that makes you feel good?**
- **When you give, is it sacrificially or from your surplus? How do you determine God's will to whom you give and how much?**

"For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?"
(1 Peter 4:17).

Greed is especially offensive when the object of your longing is sought to feed a sinful purpose. Again, your motive is a key factor when you’re wondering if greed is the issue behind your pursuit — and *motive* is the issue that our Lord weighs (Proverbs 16:2):

When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend it on your pleasures. Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God (James 4:3,4).

When Jesus returns to take up His throne as King of kings, He will bring to light every piece of darkness you thought you had concealed in unrepentance. Those whose motives were aligned with His Spirit within will receive praise (1 Corinthians 4:5). Yet those whose motives have been driven by their sin nature have compromised their walk with Him. Unless they repent, their *spiritual adultery* will bring about the strong injunction voiced by James, “*Adulterers and adulteresses!*”

Do you think that those who call themselves “Christian” yet live as an *enemy of God* through their greedy pursuit will be welcomed into heaven? Really, does their “*friendship with the world*” and its goals and desires instead reveal who their true “god” is? In light of the righteousness commanded by God and empowered by His Spirit in our pilgrimage to our salvation, what place do those beset by the idols which the world pursues have in God’s Kingdom? According to His Word, **none**:

Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do

not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:9,10).

For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person — such a man is an idolater — has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God (Ephesians 5:5).

When God makes sure that a message is repeated, as here with Paul addressing two different faith communities with the same warning, you know He wants us to internalize it and take Him seriously!

We must never lose sight that we are running a gauntlet of temptations until we depart this earth. We may be tempted into a sin, but His Word declares the righteous response: turn away from it, confess it before Him, and receive His forgiveness and cleansing as He has promised (1 John 1:9).

But know this. We cannot claim to belong to our Lord Jesus and go on entertaining unconfessed sin: “*No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God’s seed remains in him; he cannot continue sinning, because he has been born of God*” (1 John 3:9). The ancient gnostic lie that *God’s commands* for our lives are irrelevant because *our spirit* is secure is widespread today. Forgiveness has been perverted into a license to appease our flesh and excuse sin.

Notice God’s decisive parameter of life for those who are “born of God”: “*he cannot continue sinning.*” And by the work of His Spirit, you don’t have to! This calls for some honest self-evaluation. You may have greed-based motives that you’ve never addressed, but are

“Return, faithless people; I will cure you of backsliding” (Jeremiah 3:22)

deceived nevertheless into believing you're okay with God just as you are.

How do you deal with this?

- **Consider from our Father's perspective that you indeed might be motivated by greed.**
- **Scrutinize your view of money, possessions and the prestige they bring.**
- **Discuss this with others who know you well, and make sure that the commands of God's Word are the foundation for the stand you take.**

The Bible leaves no doubt that God executes His judgments when people are bent on sinning. This nation has collectively by greed brought His Name down among the nations so that even Islam disdains the USA as “the Great Satan”. Doesn't it grieve your heart that our Lord has become identified with a land in which blatant sin is the norm, exported to other countries **for profit**?

Don't look around for religious or government leaders to lead the way to repentance. The Hebrew Scriptures detail time and again the refusal of God's people to repent even when His judgments for sin are executed. Even the pattern of disobedience that brings a season of relief when they cry out ultimately finds stubborn rebellion taking over again.

According to God's unfailing Word, the repeated hardening of human hearts will be the response when God unleashes deserved punishment in the future:

*The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still **did not repent** of the work of their hands; **they did not stop** worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood — idols that cannot see or hear or walk. **Nor did they repent** of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts* (Revelation 9:20,21).

If you discover any vestiges of greed in yourself, repent now. NOW is the time to free yourself from greed's tentacles and any of its ways of manifesting itself. Allow the full fellowship of our Lord to strengthen and encourage you to be about His purposes in loving obedience.

If you choose instead to harbor the greed that the world is captive to, you will be swept up in the riots when famine comes during the Dark Days of Chastisement. Do you have financial tensions? If you are yearning for something *outside God's will for you*, you may give way to rage in ways you never thought possible:

*You **want something** but don't get it. You **murder and covet**, but you cannot have what you want. You **quarrel and fight**. Yet you do not have, because you do not **ask God*** (James 4:2).

Be a Follower of Jesus Who Has Ears to Hear

“If My people, who are called by My Name, will humble themselves and

When Famine Comes, What Will YOU Do? Repent or Riot



pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land"

(2 Chronicles 7:14).

Did you know that our merciful God would have saved Sodom if He could have found ten righteous people (Genesis 18:32)? As we mentioned earlier, the sins God held against Sodom were sexual perversion and lack of concern for the poor. If He had found just *ten righteous people* there, the city would not have been destroyed. Jeremiah tells us that our God would have pardoned Jerusalem from destruction if He could have found only *one* just and truthful person (5:1).

How many righteous people do you think He can find in the United States, your state, your city or town, your faith community or family? Christian pollster George Barna has found that the morals of professed Christians are no different than those of unbelievers. You'd probably find this to be especially true in the areas of sexual impurity and greed. Despite its veneer of spirituality, this nation is no more moral than Sodom.

- **A question for you, your family, and faith community to answer: "Does our God consider your life to be righteous or unrighteous?" If any of you are unrighteous in any areas of your lives, what are you going to do about it?**

Years ago we were finishing up our time in Israel, having received the Hebraic foundations from our Father. We traveled to a small, rustic retreat center near Latrun, a few miles outside Jerusalem. About 4 AM on our final morning there I, Mike, climbed up to the simple, rock-hewn chapel to cry out to God about why He had chosen me to share

the Hebraic foundations. I poured my heart out, reminding Him of how much I'd failed Him in my life.

Suddenly, His Spirit directed me to a little devotional on a nearby stool. I opened it to the lesson for that day: *"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for Us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'"* (Isaiah 6:8). Sobbing, I whispered, "You do this to everyone you recruit!"

Only the grace of our King can open blind eyes that are focused on inner guilt and widen them to see His forgiving love and purpose for His selection. A repentant heart makes all the difference to our Lord!

This is our encouragement to you: repent if you've given way to greed in any way. If you don't, you'll only harden your heart as our Father continues to increase His chastisement of this nation.

We're very aware that we were sent back to the United States with a very unpopular message. Isaiah was warned that people would resist God's truth, yet he was to deliver the messages anyway:

Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed (Isaiah 6:10).

This dire warning is apperceived by Jesus in Matthew 13:14,15. As He so often summed up His parables, *"if you have ears to hear, then hear!"* This repeated phrase is an imperative, a command, a non-optional directive that means to *listen intently*, then *take action* according to the will of our Father!

Our nation's disobedience is no different than that of the Israelites when God sent His prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah

“A person who is righteous will live their life by trusting, and if they shrink back, I will not be pleased with them” (Hebrews 10:38)

and Ezekiel to convict them of their sin. We highly recommend that you review these books. Our God’s character hasn’t changed, nor does His loving mercy nullify His righteous justice and holiness. Don’t neglect His “love letter” to us — His Word — which clearly details the relationship He wants with those He has called out of the world system: **“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness”** (2 Timothy 3:16).

In Acts 28:23-27 Paul used the *Older Testament* to convince his listeners about Jesus and the Kingdom: **“He explained and declared to them the kingdom of God and tried to convince them about Jesus from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets.”** (If you’ve read our Hebraic Article, *The Gospel of the Covenant is the Pilgrimage to Salvation*, you’ll recognize that the true gospel is found in the *Older Testament*. Paul verifies this here.)

However, only some were convinced by what Paul shared. Then the apostle laid down God’s indictment against the rest:

The Holy Spirit spoke the truth to your forefathers when He said through Isaiah the prophet: ‘Go to this people and say, “You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.” For this people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them’ (Acts 28:25-27).

Please, don’t let this accusation be leveled against you. If you’re not experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit working in and through you, and if you don’t have recurring testimonies of God at

work both through you and around you, then find out what you need to repent of and do it! Please, heed the warning of this Lifebyte concerning greed in particular so that you may repent and be available for our Lord to use you as He will.

A righteous nation that turns to God in repentance and cries out to Him finds the favor that He promised Israel if they would live uprightly as His agents of truth:

For the LORD your God will bless you as He has promised, and you will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. You will rule over many nations but none will rule over you (Deuteronomy 15:6).

Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people (Proverbs 14:34).

The United States is the biggest debtor nation in the world. Not only have we accumulated vast debt to other nations, but we have condemned our yet unborn children to pay back the debt borne from our greed. While many still have vain confidence in our military might, even that will not save us from the famine and disease that will destroy countless thousands as God brings forth His judgment on this nation (see Ezekiel 5:16,17).

TODAY is the time for you and your family to be counted among the righteous. TODAY is the time to trust God and to be actively involved in caring for the dignity and welfare of others. In your pilgrimage toward your salvation remember Paul’s exhortation:

“Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not

“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the LORD Almighty” (Zechariah 4:6)

consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:12-14).

If you’d like to be inspired by the true story of a humble farmer God changed and empowered to uplift the welfare and dignity of others through Jesus, we recommend the movie, *Faith Like Potatoes*. (It may be available at your library for free.) After you watch it, you’ll want to see the Special Feature where you learn more about how God is currently using Angus Buchan, the farmer. May his life’s motivation be yours for the praise of our Lord Jesus!