

A Follow-up To *The Gospel of the Covenant Is the Pilgrimage to Salvation*

De-Hellenizing Mental Muck: Lesson 5

This lesson presents practical steps for *mutually* making your Father’s instructions and commands your way of life. At the core of this Hebraic method lay *three specific parameters* for how you work out together what pleases Him:

- The *mutual participation of a small group* of people who know each other well and earnestly want to do their Father’s will and see Him glorified (Philippians 2:12).
- These followers of Jesus are totally confident in the *presence of the Spirit of our Lord* to guide them as they purpose to apply their Father’s righteous instructions and commands (John 16:13).
- They are mutually committed to each other in *load-bearing relationships*—people who willingly undergird each other during tough times and function as cooperating body parts (Galatians 6:2).


Please thoroughly weigh and discuss these 3 points. They must be part of your relationship with each other or you’ll regress into just another “Bible study.” Remember, the proof that you’ve *applied* your Father’s instructions is when you’ve taken action by *demonstrating* them.

Educational studies have affirmed what our Hebraic forefathers in the faith have long known concerning how people store up information and put it into practice. What you retain depends on *how you’ve learned it*. You’ll remember:


90%	hear	see	discuss	demonstrate
70%	hear	see	discuss	
50%	hear&	see	(concurrently)	
30%		see		
10-20%	hear			

Our Lord Jesus emphasized in His teachings that His “family” are those

who *do* the will of His Father, not those who know what His will is but do nothing about it: “For whoever **does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother**” (Matthew 12:50). Not only do you need to demonstrate through *responsive obedience* His Father’s instructions, but as a result of that obedience you’ll retain **90%** of what you learned. That’s far higher than just hearing something spoken from a pulpit or podium, or discussion in a Bible study.



Hebraic emphasis:
These followers of Jesus actively *seek to apply* their Father’s righteous instructions. And they know that the Spirit of their Lord is THE Source to guide them. When these people choose to mutually bind or loose our Father’s instructions to their own lives, our Lord’s Spirit in their midst gives them *rhema to understand and apply it*.



Hellenistic emphasis:
Bible studies too often focus on *increased knowledge and/or analysis* of its content. This method inhibits any recognized need for our Lord’s presence and His *rhema* for application. Christians ensnared by Hellenism can readily spout Bible facts but often *don’t live out* our Father’s instructions.

“No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. Neither do men pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved” (Matthew 9:16,17).

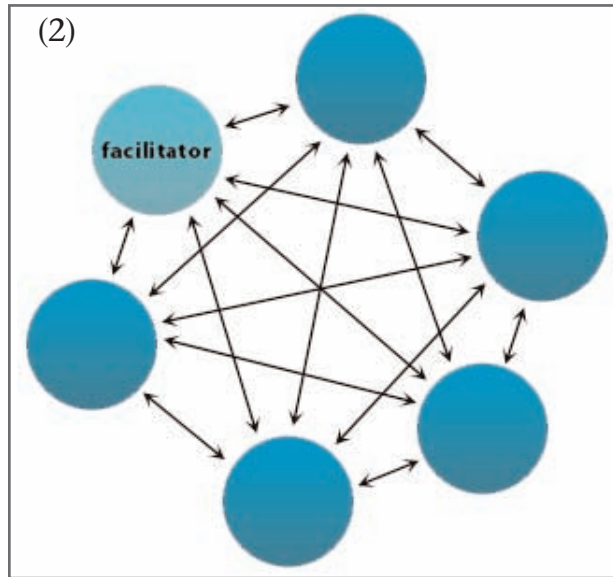
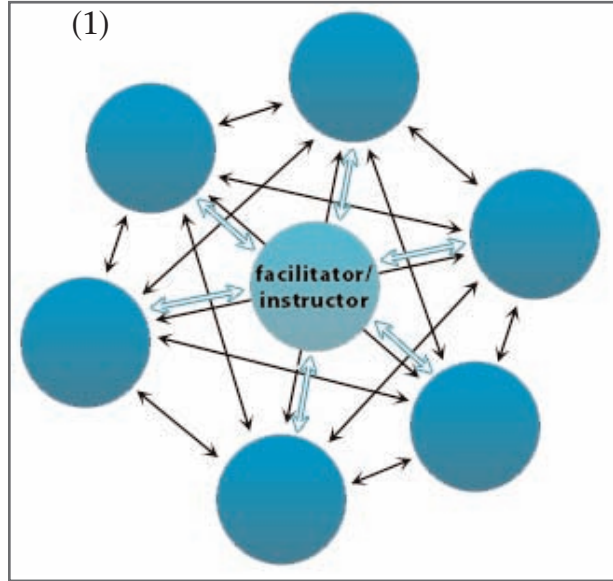
Trusting in the presence of our Lord's *rhema* as you purpose to make your Father's instructions your way of life is like pouring "new wine." The "new wine-skin" is the motive of your heart to be Kingdom-minded, setting aside your old desire for complacent and comfortable religious services, rituals, or even academic-style "Bible studies."

The steps we're recommending will be primarily the same whether you use the facilitator/instructor form of discussion-to-demonstration (1), or the facilitator method (2).

(1) The 'facilitator/instructor' presents one of our Father's instructions and then leads a collaborative discussion into various ways it can be applied.

(2) But more often the process in establishing a biblical application begins as a pressing concern that's facing someone in your group. All that's needed is someone to facilitate discussion. The matter may spring from a statement such as:

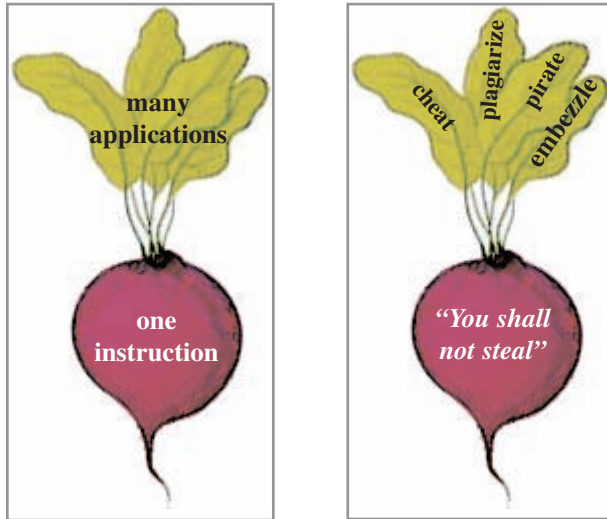
- "Every time my parents visit us, I'm a basket case when they leave."
- "My Mom called and told me my Dad may need to be put in a nursing home."
- "My best friend at school is saying rotten things about me."
- "Our daughter is living with a man. How should we respond to her?"
- "We're not doing well financially. My wife wants to get a job and put the kids in daycare."
- "When my son came home from school today, he said he has to read a book about homosexuality as an alternative life style."
- "My brother asked me to become a partner with him in his business."



Whatever the situation any of you are facing, it's important to discern how your Father would have you respond. He has a specific way that the Spirit of our Lord will guide you into.

Can you think of any situations facing you that you need to seek our Father's instruction about?

- A Bible-based application is a character-guiding principle (a fixed standard) that directs your way of life.
- The Bible cites a specific truth, such as, “*You shall not steal*” (Exodus 20:15). But from this one truth comes many applications.



Four Recommended Steps For Establishing Biblical Applications

- 1 Prayer.** To establish a *biblical application* for your particular issue, begin with prayer. Ask the Spirit of our Lord Jesus for a spirit of wisdom and revelation (see Ephesians 1:17).
- 2 Bible passages.** Next, ask His Spirit to bring to mind any verses or passages that would apply to your situation.

Some verses will be more pertinent than others. That is, you’ll find one or more of the verses to be more foundational to the issue. Other verses will add understanding to the foundation, so don’t disregard any that people may present.

And, please don’t try to apply anything to your situation until after you’re positive that you have compiled all the biblical references His Spirit wants you to use.

When you’ve taken the extra time to pursue

all the biblical leads prompted by His Spirit, you’ll experience His peace. That’s when you know you can go on to the next step.

- 3 Biblical application.** Equipped with the relevant verses, you’re now ready to address your problem or concern.

The goal is to apply your Father’s instruction(s) and commands so that you’ll do *the same thing Jesus would do* if He were you. This takes out of the picture your own preferences and rationalization.

Be very careful to not get into “if/then” reasoning as you try to apply the Word to the situation. The normal tendency of our sin-nature is to question potential outcomes and consequences: “If I do this, what will this decision cost me?” “If I do this, how will this affect others?” “If I do this, what changes will I need to make in my life?”

No matter how strong the urge to pursue the “ifs” of your decision — don’t! You need to first determine in your heart that you do have the correct biblical application for your situation. Our Lord’s Spirit will again give you peace, a ‘witness in your spirit,’ if you have discerned the correct application of Father’s instructions.

- 4 Action to take.** Only after you mutually have a ‘witness in your spirit’ that affirms you’ve correctly applied your Father’s instruction(s) for your situation is it time to take the next step, *application of grace*.

Grace is the Spirit’s power and desire to follow through on your biblical application no matter what it costs you. Remember, you are applying your Father’s instructions to your life *because of your love* for Him.

The goal of your obedient trust isn’t right behavior for its own sake. If you’re taking action hoping to gain your Father’s favor, you’ll end up self-righteously proud. You

may even disdain others who don't live or think the way you do.

But if you desire to obey Him out of love and trust, His grace will enable you to keep your new conviction. So continue to pray for grace to follow through. And repent that you haven't sought this new-found Scriptural application before this time; you've missed out on an area of wisdom and blessing!

A few special notes:

- If this method hasn't been part of your mutual faith enactment before as family in Jesus, it may take time to become "new wineskins." Be patient with each other! Each of the four steps is important. Go over them, discuss them, and demonstrate them in your lives until you are so accustomed to each one that you don't even have to think about them!

- The process of establishing biblical applications requires honesty and transparency among those who are involved. Sometimes the process surfaces someone's fear that the others will judge them if they bring up an area of darkness they struggle with. That's why it's vital that you have a strong mutual trust in each other as brothers and sisters.

- When it comes to taking action, you may find that the person or persons the Spirit is directing to act may hesitate to respond. Depending on how costly or inconvenient the step they need to take is, something may be hindering their resolve to follow through.

For example, what if the situation you're trying to help someone with is unforgiveness? Two passages that may apply are these:

- "For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men*

their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins" (Matthew 6:14,15).

- "In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. This is how My heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart"* (Matthew 18:34,35).

What if someone in your group has deep, unresolved resentment against a parent? Do you just keep insisting they forgive? *Or*, as a load-bearer who cares for them, do you help them peel away the issues that are hindering them? What if he or she needs your help to be a reconciler and go with them? Would you do that?

Sometimes it's not just the authority of God's Word alone that stirs people to obedience to the Lord they love. There may be times when your *mutual commitment to help each other* is needed in order for someone to face their hindrances. This requires relational trust in each other along with an earnest desire to please your Father. Some people assume they have these until it comes time for them to take action! So NEVER underestimate the power of grace and our Father's ability to go ahead of you in a situation.

Finally, when it comes to taking action, don't be surprised if past hurts or someone's own sin nature and/or resistance to the Spirit surface. *Or*, a person may agree to take action but later not follow through. Once a decision is made based upon the Scriptures you've used and there's a 'witness in your spirits' that you've determined the action He wants taken, it must be done.

Our Father is giving the grace and power to obey Him, and refusing to do His will is disobedience, sinful in His sight. Keep in mind the amazing gift we

in Christ have been given by Him to bind (prohibit) and to loose (allow) what accords with Kingdom purposes: *“I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven”* (Matthew 16:19).

When two or three of you in agreement bind or loose whatever is called for based on your Father’s instructions, you’re collectively attesting *“Thus sayeth the Lord.”* Someone who chooses not to follow through in what the Spirit has shown you places the rest of you in a position of confronting him or her in accordance with Matthew 18:15-17. And if you refuse to confront in love, then you’ve joined in their sin of rebellion!

Our Lord Jesus has given each of His followers the authority to apply His Father’s instructions and commands. To *not* act on the mandate our Lord has given you and to *not* follow through on the application of His Word that His Spirit has revealed are rebellion against Him. Ponder that, and examine your heart for anything you’ve told God you’d do, but then refused to. What should you do next if you do find an area of disobedience?