

## Have You Seen What We've Seen? (Observation 8)

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Beginning with this Teaching Email and several to follow, we'll be sharing observations about the work of demons in their ongoing attempts to sidetrack your fruitful service in our Lord Jesus during your pilgrimage to your salvation. You and/or those close to you in your faith pilgrimage may already be resolute that by grace your character become more like our Lord Jesus as you live as His family and His beloved slave/servants. But know that in so doing you'll also find yourself being more intensely targeted by the enemy. That's because Satan is relentless in sending his demonic minions to try to seduce you into "**sidetracked unfruitfulness**."



A common tactic used by our soul's enemy to lure you into unfruitfulness is through demonic "drive-by" attacks. A demon will sneak up on you and sound just like the voice in your own head. Their goal is to get you to sin or to doubt your Father's love for you or to make you feel sorry for yourself or remind you of past pain or failures. And by listening to any of these unChristlike thoughts, you make it that much easier to be sidetracked. These spirits will also use people over whom they still have control through un-demolished strongholds to do their disheartening work.

But you can discern these deceptive voices if you've learned to hear the inner voice of the Holy Spirit and if you take seriously God's commands in His Word. Keep in mind, "*You can't listen to the voices of demons and hear the Spirit's voice or experience His power at the same time.*" ✨ **In the Name of our Lord Jesus rebuke the demons who try to deceive you or agitate your thoughts. ✨ Jesus has given you that authority as His own follower, so trust Him and do it!**

(To have a clear understanding of the unseen battle for your mind, will, and emotions we encourage you to read Lifebyte 41: *A Turf War For Souls That You Must Win!* <<https://restorationministries.org/download/41.turfwars.pdf>>).

***"[We] write the more boldly to you in part, to remind you, because of the grace that was given to [us] by God"*** (Romans 15:15).

If you no longer depend on religion as a crutch in your life, be aware that the demons dominating the system may still be holding you captive. In congregations in which we gave out the List of Strongholds from our book ***Demolishing Strongholds***, we found that almost all the regular attendees of each congregation were beset by the same agitating stronghold(s). People felt comfortable there because their fellow congregants were "just like me!"

Those same strongholds may still be influencing or agitating you even after you've left the religious system



you were part of. And that will go on until they are demolished in the Name of Jesus by His authority. Making sure that you're free of stronghold(s) will keep you free from being easily sidetracked into unfruitfulness, as will confirming that you're meeting your God-given seven needs His way.

(Be sure to revisit Chapter 5 of Demolishing Strongholds until you and those close to you are rid of mental toxicity. You'll find multiple ways to establish victory *and* prevent strongholds from reforming. Remember, even after a stronghold is demolished, the toxic memories and motivations they developed in your mind will continue to prompt you to misperceive people and situations – just like a knee-jerk reaction. Others close to you on your faith journey are absolutely needed to help you recognize your unChrist-like thoughts or responses. See Lifebyte 73 for a more complete understanding of toxic thoughts and mental renewal <<https://restorationministries.org/download/73.replacingtoxicity.pdf>>).

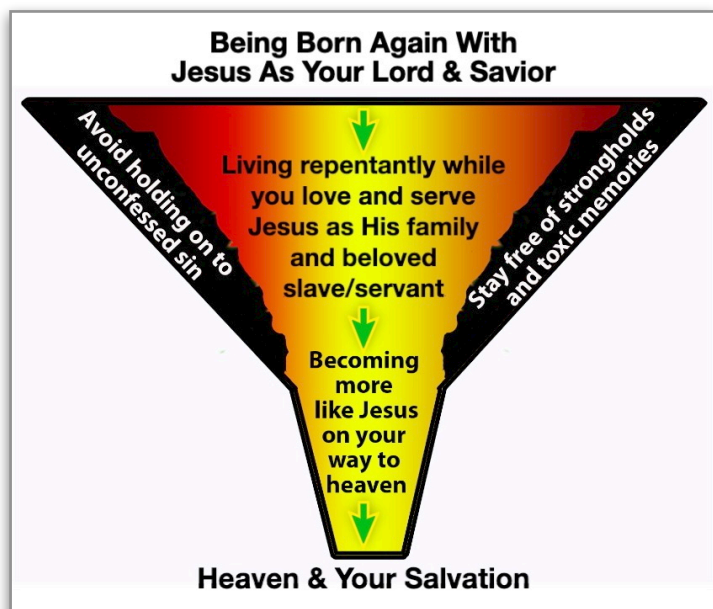
**A caveat when it comes to you becoming part of a fellowship family with others, whether a home group or a congregation. If they don't require *repentance* as a condition for fellowship together, they're either supporting tolerated sin and/or they are a fellowship that's influenced or controlled by the same demon(s).** (Take seriously 2Corinthians 6:14-18.)

We've previously written about various types of deceit that seduce people from fruitfulness in the Kingdom. Please read and discuss the series, *Habitual Hellenized Mental Deceits* <[https://restorationministries.org/download/34.lordship\\_of\\_jesus.pdf](https://restorationministries.org/download/34.lordship_of_jesus.pdf)> <[https://restorationministries.org/download/35.abraham\\_obedient\\_trust%20\(2\).pdf](https://restorationministries.org/download/35.abraham_obedient_trust%20(2).pdf)> <[https://restorationministries.org/download/37.more\\_habitual\\_deceits%20\(1\).pdf](https://restorationministries.org/download/37.more_habitual_deceits%20(1).pdf)>

***“No one who is born of God goes on sinning, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot continue sinning, because they have been born of God”*** (1John 3:9).

If you've been using our materials in your faith pilgrimage, then you're familiar with the funnel image which the Holy Spirit revealed to us decades ago. The center of the funnel represents progression down through the stem. It begins the day you're *genuinely* born again until you reach heaven and your salvation. Being *born again* encompasses far more than the deceit by which theologians have misled so many into believing this:

**That being born again means just getting saved, and that Jesus is just a Savior to you.**



From the viewpoint of our Lord Jesus, when you're *genuinely* born again you've embarked on a life of grateful love and ongoing repentance and fruitful service to Him. He is your Lord and you are His family member, part of His body and His beloved slave/servant. On your journey to your salvation you seek to become increasingly like Him in character and in resolute determination to fulfill our Father's purposes and will. We hope this describes you. And, if you're *genuinely* born again, consider these two realities:

**1. Our Lord Jesus has chosen you by calling you out of the world's system to do great things on His behalf (John 14:12).**

• *"If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you"* (John 15:19).

• *"Very truly I tell you, whoever trusts in Me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father"* (John 14:12).

The day you were *genuinely* born again you were chosen, no less than were our Lord's first followers. And He gives to you the same assignment: *"Come, follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men"* (Mark 1:17).

**2. Within you on your way down through the funnel stem is your spirit being guided and empowered by the indwelling Holy Spirit:**

• *"From [Jesus] the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work"* (Ephesians 4:16).

• *"For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others"* (Romans 12:4,5).

• *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms"* (1Peter 4:10).

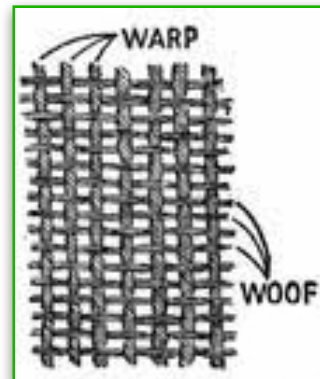
- The works you do in serving our Lord Jesus don't get you to heaven. He's done that for you.
- Your works in His service demonstrate that your trust is heading you toward your salvation.

As Paul assures us in Ephesians 2:10, you've been chosen by grace to accomplish our Lord's work while you're on this earth, and that work can only be fulfilled through His Spirit in you. When you extend fellowship to others, you need to take your cue from our Lord Jesus and His first followers before you give the right hand of fellowship to another person. Here's the pattern: *"James, Cephas and John, those esteemed as pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me"* (Galatians 2:9).

What grace of our Lord and what indicators of His indwelling Holy Spirit do you see in those who tell you they belong to Jesus? Don't lose sight that even our Lord didn't accept those who couldn't wholeheartedly follow Him (see Luke 18:18-25; Luke 9:59-62). Be very discerning!

***“For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself”*** (Romans 14:7).

To reiterate: The human body is made up of countless cells and organs arranged together to support the whole and its purpose for living. The body of our Lord Jesus parallels the human body (1 Corinthians 12). We’ve shared this analogy previously: Imagine a fabric piece in which our Lord wants to use *you* as a stitch throughout your spiritual journey to your salvation. (A fabric’s weave is composed of the *warp* — the threads that run lengthwise — and the *woof* — the threads that run across.) This fabric depends on your mutual cooperation with other “stitches” who have His indwelling Spirit in order to have a viable fellowship family that serves our Lord Jesus. If you each stay in the center of the funnel, He’ll use you many times as a stitch alongside others with you. But if you get sidetracked, you will leave a hole where our Lord needed your stitch to be. Ask yourself, “How many holes in the fabric do I want to leave as my life’s testimony?” We hope you don’t want to leave *any*.



Our Lord may also want to use you to be His stitch to reach someone who is still an unbeliever. When He is weaving a fabric to reach an unbeliever, you may find yourself being His next stitch in the person’s life. You may not even realize which stitch you are. You might be our Lord’s 6th or 12th or 30th stitch in the pattern of His fabric to reach another person. But each stitch is needed to affect the life of someone so they’re brought to repentance and place their trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior. It’s crucial that you don’t miss your divine opportunity to be His stitch which by His grace will accomplish this wonderful goal. Your willing and immediate obedience to His indwelling Spirit enables you to be His woof or warp at the moment He needs you. Don’t get sidetracked!

(For how we received our Lord’s guidance to press on down the funnel so we could be His stitch at the right time and not get hung up on past regrets, read page 1 of our October 30, 2013 Prophetic Insight, “*You Can Look Side-to-Side!*” <[https://restorationministries.org/download/10.side-to-side%20\(1\).pdf](https://restorationministries.org/download/10.side-to-side%20(1).pdf)>).

In upcoming Teaching Emails we’ll discuss the many ways in which we’ve observed followers of Christ being sidetracked into unfruitfulness — some even forfeiting their journey toward their salvation.

Mike & Sue

***“Therefore by their fruits you will know them”*** (Matthew 7:20).

The resolute who mutually remain in the funnel center or who immediately get back to the center through repentance when they sin, readily bring up the Name of Jesus in their conversations. They cherish their intimacy with His indwelling Spirit and their mutual privilege as His beloved to serve Him. They experience true fellowship together far differently than religion can ever provide. Is this what you want? Then make the center of the funnel your home!