

The Fellowship Of The Lordship-Committed Is Authentic

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Attached is Spot On #22, ***Fellowship Revolves Around The Lordship Of Jesus And His Spirit's Gifts!*** The mutual combined empowerment of a faith community is at the core of the "body life" of the Newer Testament. In order to buttress their dominance over the "laity," Nicolaitan clergy repressed the collective Spirit-empowerment which our Lord Jesus promises His own. But now with millions fleeing the organized religious establishment, nothing can keep the Holy Spirit's gifts from being used by Him to serve the purposes of our Lord and the will of our Father.

A personal thought: As we send out Spot On #22 we feel like we've made the final turn into the home stretch of what our Father has given us to share. We sense that whatever He intended for us to accomplish when He sent us back from Israel to the US in 1994 is now drawing to a close. And now, writing about **spiritual empowerment** and affirming the true **shepherd/teachers** of Father's children, our hearts rejoice in ways the religiously-mired wouldn't understand. We've presented the Hebraic foundations over the course of years of ever-increasing spiritual and moral decline in this nation. Often we've had to give you the prophetic warnings which the Holy Spirit revealed to us so the Lordship-committed wouldn't be enticed into the sinful lifestyles and worldly compromise of the religiously-mired. And as Nicolaitanism wanes, the prospect of wholehearted seekers of our Lord's Kingdom with its spiritual power and relational intimacy may be at hand.

We who live Lordship-committed must not let ourselves be part of any "fellowship" that lacks the Spirit's presence and spiritual power that our Lord promises (2Timothy 3:5). The mutual working of the Holy Spirit's giftings are a must in order to experience authentic biblical fellowship in both your marriage and faith community! In our 45+ years of following our Lord Jesus we have encountered fewer than a hundred people in Christianity who had identified the gift(s) the Holy Spirit had apportioned them and were being used by Him to fulfill Father's will. Whether the rest were not *genuinely* born again or had been deterred from their gifts by Nicolaitan dominance was often difficult to discern. But within a matter of a few weeks after we put our trust in our Lord Jesus, we knew what the Holy Spirit had apportioned us and were being used by Him. It wasn't hard because spiritual gifts are in the Bible and we wanted to live to please the Lord we love!

Please keep this in focus when you think of fellowship:

For the Lordship-committed, our true identity from the perspective of our Lord Jesus is far more than someone for whom He sacrificed Himself on the cross — as wonderfully loving and amazing as that sacrifice is! Unlike the perspective of the religiously-mired, our Lord Jesus views us through the Spirit's *division of labor*. This refers to the different gifts the Spirit apports to each of us so we can do our part in fulfilling our Father's will until He calls us Home. For your own faith walk, fulfilling your Father's will far more verifies that you're His child than do the self-serving/self-gratifying goals of the false "gospels" which man-pleasing religious leaders have persuaded you to believe. Be warned:

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of My Father Who is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21).

We've previously written on numerous occasions that you can't earn heaven by your efforts! But you'll find that being able to do your part in fulfilling Father's will, which requires the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, confirms whether the Spirit is indwelling you or not (Romans 8:9). All the human effort that you can expend *without* the Holy Spirit is futile in proving that you belong to Jesus. By contrast, the Spirit using you in the way that He's apportioned you is solid proof that you do belong to Jesus.

In light of our Father's will and the spiritual gifts that His Spirit apports, consider again the four

attributes that must be at the heart of those who claim to belong to our Lord Jesus – each individual, each marriage, each fellowship family. It's the Holy Spirit Who gives the Lordship-committed the grace to enact these:

1. **Their life revolves personally around the Headship of Lord Jesus in bringing glory to their heavenly Father through doing His will.** (John 15:5-8; Ephesians 1:15-23)
2. **Living repentantly by grace and helping others to live likewise in love produces communal righteousness within the relational connectedness of a home fellowship, ensuring that their Father will hear and answer their prayers.** (Psalms 34:14,15; Ephesians 4:15,16)
3. **They diligently seek the Holy Spirit's *rhema* so that by the Spirit they can specifically carry out their Father's will and glorify Jesus.** (John 16:13; Romans 8:14)
4. **The aroma of Jesus was manifested among our Lord's first followers beginning with His love, forgiveness and compassion even for those who persecuted them.** (Ephesians 4:32; Matthew 5:44)

Again, now is the time for you to verify that you, your marriage and your faith community are indwelled and empowered by the Holy Spirit. In this Spot On you'll find two anecdotes from our past which we hope will give you further understanding of spiritual gifts. And in our next Spot On we'll discuss more about this crucial topic for your own life journey in Jesus as Lord of your life.

Mike & Sue

P.S. The ever-increasing spiritual and moral decline of our nation is paving the way for a forthcoming **police state/dictatorship** and the violent enactment of **class/racial warfare**. The warning of our Lord Jesus is being sadly fulfilled right before our eyes: "Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold" (Matthew 24:12). Too many Christians who should be on the front lines of **love, forgiveness** and **compassion** are plummeting helter-skelter into the hatred and bigotry and self-preservational greed of unbelievers. If you're tempted to have negative attitudes toward any specific person or group and are disguising your sin as "righteous indignation", don't!

A word of caution. Unforgiveness toward anyone reflects the presence of bitterness in your heart. The sin of bitterness is an attitude our heavenly Father will not forgive in the unforgiving (see Matthew 6:15; 18:34,35). It's bitterness that is seducing so many Christians into the hatred and bigotry and arrogance which demons are fanning to destroy this nation. To be free of unforgiving bitterness is to be forgiven by our heavenly Father. Please don't take this lightly!

Turning **Bitterness** to **Blessing**

Comparison of the Hebraic and Nicolaitan Approaches

[From Lesson 31 of *Discussing How to Restore the Early Church*]

Hebraic: The Bible mandates that you forgive from your heart *without exception*; to belong to Jesus *is* to forgive. Forgiveness gets you out of *negative* territory on the chart to '0'. The emotional healing accomplished by Jesus occurs as you enter *positive* territory through prayer for, and good deeds toward, the one who has hurt you. The further a forgiving person goes into positive territory, the less likely that bitterness will return.

Unforgiveness				Forgiveness				Blessing												
-100	-90	-80	-70	-60	-50	-40	-30	-20	-10	0	+10	+20	+30	+40	+50	+60	+70	+80	+90	+100
seething bitterness, hatred, begrudging, resentment										prayer for, compassion, acts of love and kindness										

Nicolaitanism: Forgiveness is optional, and bitterness is seldom confronted; past circumstances such as "*abuse*" and "*dysfunctional family*" are cited as grounds for not forgiving. The unforgiving arrogantly believe their offender has to ask forgiveness first. Few even get back to '0'; those who do usually return to negative territory—unforgiveness.