

Avoid The Paralyzing Analysis Of The Scribes (Part 1)

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Attached is Saga 3, *The Spirit's Revelations And Interventions, And Our Frailties*. In this Saga we wanted you to envision both the trials and triumphs of our first two months at the retreat center leading up to our first retreat on April 29, 1983. Interspersed between the Holy Spirit's revelations and interventions were painful times of discouragement. Like other followers of Jesus we've known who live Lordship-committed, being deeply disheartened at times can accompany our resolute willingness to be led by the Holy Spirit. We recall the late David Wilkerson saying that when he prayed during these times of downheartedness, "the heavens seemed like brass." And if you are Lordship-committed, you may have experienced a particular disappointment yourself: that our Lord's timeframe for anything may likely be much longer than the patience level of our human frailty's expectations. God's Word points out an ongoing command for each of us to do for one another in the face of discouragement or impatience. Mutual encouragement will help act as a shield against the enemy's schemes: "Encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called 'Today,' so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin" (Hebrews 3:13).

Led by the Holy Spirit, the Lordship-committed have "gouge" to pass along.

Mike: A significant lesson was hammered home for me during my years of flying in the navy: Pilots who were more experienced in the cockpit passed along the *gouge* to pilots who lacked experience. Gouge was the experience-based insights of senior pilots which were gained by flying many successful operational missions—insights they passed along to less-experienced pilots. Among military personnel, passing along the gouge is so natural that they don't even think twice about sharing it or receiving it. (When you read Paul's letters observe the gouge he passes along in them).

As you read our Sagas, visualize them as us passing along the gouge we've accumulated under the Lordship of Jesus from the day we put our trust in Him and were baptized with the Holy Spirit. In our early years we were discipled by followers of Jesus who were experienced in being Lordship-committed. Some of these "more experienced" brothers and sisters had risked their very lives in service to the Jesus they loved and obeyed. We want you to know that our own relationship with Jesus as Lord of our lives didn't begin through the false gospels that have been concocted by anti-Semitic theologians – gospels that confine Jesus to being Savior but ignore the biblical call for His Lordship in the life of those who are His own. The day we were *genuinely* born again, we gratefully submitted to our Lord as the One Who by grace provided complete Atonement for our sins, and we humbly committed ourselves to lifelong, love-based obedient trust in service to Him.

Another step we wanted to take to confirm our commitment to Jesus as Lord of our lives was water baptism by immersion. Through this biblical identification with His death, burial and resurrection we were resolutely committing to die to our old selves and to rise up in newness of life and purpose. Romans 6 became so alive to us! We wanted wholly to be pleasing to our Father. Having been *genuinely* born again (Mike after reading through the Bible twice) we knew beyond doubt that we would be given the Holy Spirit to indwell us. He would empower us to fulfill the purposes which our heavenly Father had prepared for us in advance (see Ephesians 2:10). We mention this, not to aggrandize ourselves, but to exhort those of you who are living religiously-mired and spiritually powerless. The Holy Spirit Who inspired the Bible's authors would love to guide you into the understanding and specific *rhema* for anything that you are facing in your life!

Consider this biblical certainty about the Holy Spirit from the *Each New Day* devotional by Corrie ten Boom, author of *The Hiding Place*: "God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts. Do we realize that as Christians we have within us the selfsame Holy Spirit that was in the Lord Jesus when He was here on earth? The Spirit that enabled Him will enable us." It's a fact *if* you want His Spirit to do the same through you.

And chew on this: The Spirit-empowered life has been deemed irrelevant in most corners of Christianity today. Why? It's because of centuries of **anti-Semitic theology** and **Nicolaitan dominance**. Then why did the Holy Spirit make sure that the Bible included numerous accounts of the significant difference His indwelling presence makes in the lives of Christ's own:

- John the Baptist was the first to attest to the distinction between water baptism for repentance *and* baptism with the Holy Spirit: "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes One...Who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire" (Matthew 3:11; see also Luke 11:13). Our Lord Jesus anchors this truth for us today: "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit" (John 3:5). And our Lord assures all who would trust in Him that receiving the indwelling Holy Spirit isn't some baffling endeavor: "How much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" (Luke 11:13b).

- Before ascending to heaven our Lord reiterates a crucial point for both the apostles and for all who would become *genuinely* born again: "For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:5,8). Later, Peter, in his message to the crowd on Pentecost, summarized the words of John the Baptist and Jesus's promise: "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and your children and to all who are far off — to all whom the Lord our God will call" (Acts 2:38,39). The Holy Spirit and His power are not limited to the first apostles, as anti-Semitic theologians have falsely insisted. Spiritual power is for all the *genuinely* born again for all time.

- As a result of persecution in Jerusalem, the deacon Philip journeyed to Samaria to share the gospel. "When the crowds heard Philip, and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said. For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed" (Acts 8:6,7). Philip's display of power from the Holy Spirit aligns with what Paul affirms in Romans 15:19; 1Corinthians 1:17; 1Thessalonians 1:5.

- How and when a *genuinely* born again person is baptized with the Holy Spirit has been a matter of theological debate for centuries. In the case of the Samaritans, Peter and John followed up on Philip's demonstration of Holy Spirit power by laying hands on the people to receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:14-17). And when Paul asked the twelve men he met at Ephesus, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you trusted?" (Acts 19:2), they replied they didn't even know that there was a Holy Spirit. Like Peter and John in Samaria, "Paul placed his hands on them, and the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied" (Acts 19:6).

- A different pattern took place when Peter was at the house of the centurion Cornelius. The Holy Spirit fell on the gentiles gathered there even before they were baptized in water. Attesting to what had happened Peter said, "As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as He had come on us at the beginning. Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit'" (Acts 11:15,16). We've met many Spirit-led, Lordship-committed brothers and sisters over the years who've shared with us their experience of being baptized with the Holy Spirit. Each baptism took place in a different manner. But each one who was receiving the Holy Spirit had this feature in common: **There was a clear, unmistakable indication of His presence!**

**The "Gladiator" shares gouge in training the Lordship-committed.
The "Scribe" is only able to educate the Religiously-mired.**

In the Bible, Scribes were learned men who studied the Law, transcribed it, and wrote commentaries on it. Scribalism over the centuries, especially the practice of writing subjective commentaries on God's Word, has been the hallowed practice of anti-Semitic and Hellenist theology. For instance, scribalism within Roman Catholicism is known as "church tradition", which is placed on par with the Bible in its authority. In most Protestant denominations and sects, scribalism is expressed in the many and often contradictory "creeds" to which the religious hierarchy requires allegiance by the members.

Many years ago we were told by the director of a noted ministry who had known us for some time, "You two are like gladiators in your spiritual walk." No one had ever described our walk with our Lord Jesus as being "gladiators." So when we asked him to explain, he answered something like this: "Gladiators are in the ring fighting, learning through each experience. Successful gladiators are often used to train the novices. Up in the stands are the scribes, observers who comment on the gladiator's actions and performance—but they don't personally experience anything themselves. You two speak as gladiators. You've experienced the

Lordship of Jesus and the Holy Spirit's empowerment." We knew immediately in our hearts that being "gladiators" for Christ is how we had been discipled, as we wrote earlier.



The Scribal Paralysis Which Oppresses The Religiously-Mired

One of the heinous effects of **scribal theology** by the "learned" over the centuries is what you might term "**linguistic gymnastics.**" These learned men lacked personal experience in living with the power of the Holy Spirit. But they analyzed the Bible and wrote their own subjective commentaries about God and/or His Word. In their analyses they made Scripture say what they *wanted it to say* or believed *it should say* in order to align it with their own subjective view (see <https://www.creeds.net/Index2.htm>). Scribal theology dominates seminaries. There, biblical instruction presented for application and biblical role modeling based on personal experience are nearly nonexistent. The oppression of the religiously-mired occurs because the "learned" **anti-Semitic theologians** and **Nicolaitan clergy** create such an aura about themselves that the religiously-mired in the pews feel unqualified to serve our Lord. They feel they can't do anything for Him until they learn more.

Unlike the spiritual power that accompanied the spread of the gospel in the Book of Acts, scribal evangelism in Christianity completely relies on an academic environment to make the gospel plain. The results of this methodology are tragic. Today in indigenous countries around the world where a powerless gospel was shared in the past, Christians are being assaulted by demon-driven persecutors and are losing the spiritual battle. Even in this land Christians pursue political solutions to our national chaos rather than spiritual power which comes from trusting and using the Name of Jesus. The Lordship-committed, however, refuse to give way to the delusion of politics as the answer.

As in most seminaries, the congregations of the religiously-mired experience neither the power of our Lord Jesus nor the power of His indwelling Spirit. Their leaders don't role model that power nor do their teachers bring it up in Bible instruction. Even today's "learned" who write books about spiritual power have no personal experience that bears witness to the authenticity of the power of our Lord and His indwelling Spirit. The "learned" deal with the topic of empowerment by the Holy Spirit without personal testimony – they

have no beneficial gouge to pass along.

If you want to live Lordship-committed with the Spirit's empowerment which He promised, take this to heart: Avoid anyone teaching you the Bible who can't pass along the gouge of their personal experience in walking in obedient trust in our Lord Jesus by His Spirit at work in and through and around them. They're no more than a scribe in their teaching, and are as useless to your growth in living Lordship-committed as were the scribes in Scripture whom our Lord called hypocrites (Matthew 23:13-34).

***"[We] speak the truth in Christ and are not lying,
[our] consciences confirm it in the Holy Spirit" (Romans 9:1).***

In our series of Sagas we are disclosing to you our own way of life under the Lordship of Jesus. It's been a life of divine revelations, encounters and interventions. But we view ourselves only as clay jars — well-worn vessels whom Father has chosen to fulfill His purposes for our lives through the divine presence of the Spirit of our Lord Jesus. We're sharing these Sagas to encourage you to flee the dead teachings of scribes. Find the gladiators who can share the gouge that's come from their experiences of living with Christ as their Lord. Because their lives flow from the power of the Spirit and not from themselves, gladiators can delightedly say, "We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty" (Luke 17:10b).

Mike & Sue

You come to know our Lord Jesus by experience as you trust and obey Him and He accomplishes His work through you for His Father's glory.