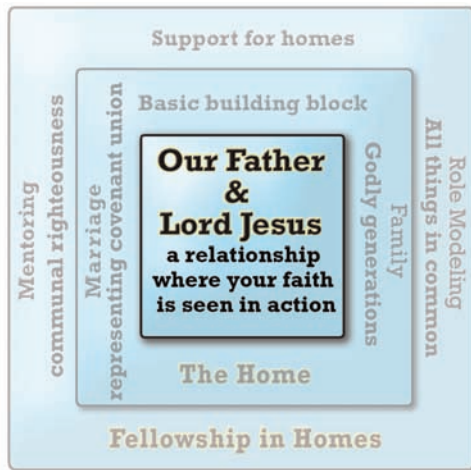


Prophetic Insights

Our Father's Children: Motivated By Loving Awe And Responsive Action
February 28, 2014



“Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? I will show you what he is like who comes to Me and hears My words and puts them into practice. He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built.

But the one who hears My words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete” (Luke 6:46-49).

Two categories of builders are cited here. Both have heard to some degree the words of Jesus, but how different their response! One digs deep to lay his foundation firmly on solid rock, while the other takes the easy route and builds with no foundation. A flood strikes both houses, but only the latter collapses unto destruction. The difference between the builders? The first *put the words of Jesus into practice*. The second was all too casual, disregarding our Lord's commands and *doing it his own way*.

Before widespread deprivation and suffering come upon this nation, *now* is the time for you to make sure your foun-

dation is on THE ROCK. Those who have “ears to hear” know that our Lord judges you by the *way you live*, not by what you know (see Romans 8:5-8). And why is NOW the time for you to make sure you're hearing with an intent to obey? In 2Corinthians 6:2 the apostle Paul announces that “*NOW is the acceptable time*” for them to make a decision. The Greek word for time that's used here, *kairos*, suggests a *definite point in time* in which a *verdict is required*. In our discussion this “verdict” for you is to decide if you'll have a responsive heart which translates into obedience to God's Word, or a willful, rebellious heart which chooses its own path and labels that “Christian.”

In the approaching days of national calamity, *responsive obedience* to the Lord we love and trust will separate those who have played at being “Christian” and those whose foundation is securely established in Lord Jesus. It's because of *His Lordship* in our lives—our obedient and grateful response to His indwelling Spirit—that we put the commands in His Word into practice. That's the only acceptable response to Him Who has called us out of the world's bondage and values!

But when the “torrent” of desperation crashes upon this nation, it will be too late for those ensnared in gratifying and preserving *self* at all cost. People will harden their hearts and look for someone to blame for their misery. And don't be shocked when so-called “Christians” are the first to betray authentic followers of Jesus. If you don't prepare yourself NOW in your heart through obedient trust by putting His commands into practice, you'll be a “Judas” when the torrent of chastisement comes. (Carefully ponder

Matthew 24:6-13 and examine your own determination to stand firm in Christ and love others more than yourself.)

Obedying the commands which our Father gives us in His Word distinguishes His loving children from every deceived and passive “Christian” who worships a god of his or her own making. No matter what you’ve been taught, please take seriously our Lord’s very specific standard for whom He’ll welcome into heaven: “*Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of My Father Who is in heaven*” (Matthew 7:21; see also 12:50). Ignorance of His Father’s will is no excuse for any of us in this land, since God’s Word is freely available to any who would earnestly and prayerfully seek Him out. How diligent are *you* to pray and pursue what His Spirit would speak to you as *rhema*, your specific marching orders to enact our Father’s will?

Also in light of *doing* your Father’s will, it’s imperative that you’re discerning about those who teach you His Word: “*Remember the ones leading you, who have spoken the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever*” (Hebrews 13:7,8). What’s being said here?

True spiritual leadership in the manner of our Lord Jesus finds a leader *apprenticing* others, that is, making disciples who will grow to maturity in their faith walk the way the leader is (Luke 6:40). Making disciples involves *role-modeling* what’s taught, a developmental process of Christ-like character being personally instilled in the disciple. That’s why Jesus is “the same” generation after generation when His way of making disciples is used. *His pattern* doesn’t change in preparing His Kingdom to be populated

by people of all cultural and ethnic groups.

Today’s seminaries don’t disciple their students to *disciple* others. Instead, they train students through the impersonal Hellenist style of *teaching at* people. Because the biblical pattern of discipleship is ignored, the outcome of a leader’s life and faith isn’t a precondition to listening to him.

From personal experience we also know that seminaries don’t focus on the prime directive of following our Lord in spirit and in truth—**to live repentantly out of loving gratefulness to Him**. *Repentance* is a key missing element in today’s sermons. Yet *Jesus* called people to repent, and taught His apprentices, the disciples, to do likewise (Matthew 4:17; Mark 6:12). Peter’s message on Pentecost (Acts 2:14-41) was a call to repentance: “*When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’*” Peter’s response: “**Repent!**”

Consider this. If the *way of life* and the *faith* of today’s religious leaders were openly role-modeled as holy to follow, *and* had they insisted on repentance, might this land actually be “*One Nation Under God*” and not in the hands of the vile and wicked?

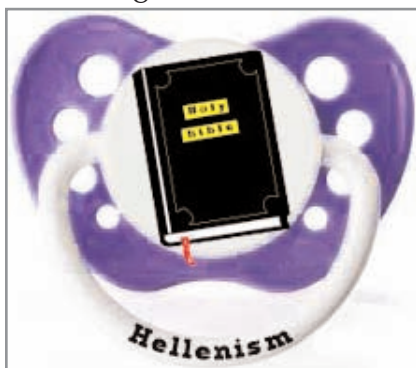
The *first followers* of our Lord stood out as “The Way” (Acts 9:2; 19:9,23; 24:14) because the *first leaders* disciplined them just as our Lord had done. You’ve most likely experienced no personal role modeling by your own spiritual leaders. (Standing behind a pulpit preaching with a pious smile isn’t the transparent, life-sharing role model of Christ’s discipling.) Nor have you likely heard sermons that resulted in *repentance* by the listeners. Yet the absence of both Godly discipling and convicting words of repentance represent **Satan’s domain—and maybe you like it that way.**

“Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful”
(Mark 4:18,19).

The Hellenist style of *teaching at people about* God’s Word without calling for and expecting an active response of repentance and/or obedience has predominated ever since that demonic principality seduced organized Christianity in the third century. Since then countless clergy have taught the Bible as if it were **information to be understood solely by the mind rather than truth that demands a response**. Throughout Protestantism people can parrot Bible verses (though far fewer folk than in past generations), but their lives reveal little of its commands as *their way of life*. [Sadly, even fewer Roman Catholics are biblically literate and practicing God’s Word.]

When the Bible is read or taught the way our Lord intends, it either produces repentance because sin is exposed or it causes you to take action. It’s NEVER just informative, but rather it’s *developmental*.

The very manner of the Hellenist teaching style in which the Bible is taught today is seductive in that it only adds to a person’s *knowledge*. It *pacifies the mind* but prompts no action. Is this how *you’ve* been taught?



Over the years we’ve observed that most Bible studies and Sunday School classes use God’s Word as a *book study* as participants analyze the content. The old adages are true for them:

- **Analysis always leads to paralysis.**
- **He who hesitates is lost.**

- Is your Bible training *developmental*?
- Does it *lead to repentance* when you realize you’ve fallen short of our Lord Jesus?
- Does it *prompt you to action* so you can bear lasting fruit to our Father’s glory?

““And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear Him”
(Luke 12:4,5).

As we wrote in our last Prophetic Insight, there’s an overwhelming lack of reverent **fear and awe of our Lord** throughout Christendom. But God’s Word is clear that at the Judgment Throne most will be thrown into hell forever (Matthew 7:13,14). Sadly, many who call themselves “Christian” like to think Jesus is referring to those “evil unbelievers” in the world. But ALL who failed to live *in Christ* and *do the Father’s will* will suffer that fate.

Now is the time for you to weigh your eternal destiny. If you’re authentically IN Christ and doing our Father’s will, you’ll be welcomed by Him. But you can’t verify whether you’ve been taught lies or misinterpretations by your leaders *unless you go into the Bible for yourself with a Spirit-guided heart and developmental attitude*. Be *prepared to repent* when He convicts you and *ready to act* when He tells you.

The Bible isn't intended by God to be an academic volume to be lectured by a teacher and filed away in some cranial compartment. Even the prophetic warnings are a *call to action* of how *NOT* to live before our righteous and loving God! And both testaments pour forth the grace and loving mercy of a longsuffering yet holy God Who has provided both the *Way in His Son* as well as the *power of His Spirit* to live according to His purpose and plan. There are 613 **COMMANDS**—instructions by God intended to be obeyed—in the Older Testament and 1,050 **COMMANDS** in the Newer Testament. A **COMMAND** is a call by our Father to obedient action on the part of His beloved, blood-bought children.

The reason we say the Bible is a *prophetic* book is because when the Spirit of Jesus imparts a prophecy through one of His servants (see 2Peter 1:21; Revelation 19:10), that word is either a call to repent or a directive to take specific action. In essence His Spirit uses a prophetic messenger to deliver a *command* that Father intends to be as authoritative as His **COMMANDS** in the Bible.

So as you study God's Word, or when you receive a prophecy and test it and find it true, remember that both are requiring you to follow through out of love-grounded obedience to Him! Nothing in your sin nature likes the word "command." But a person who lives by the Spirit of Christ willingly accepts the freedoms and boundaries He establishes because their love for their Lord makes these no burden (1John 5:3).

"You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone. As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead"

(James 2:24,26).

In our book *God's Instruments For War* we cite the importance of spiritual gifts being used by followers of Jesus as the Spirit directs (Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-31; 14:1-40).

Gifts are a Spirit-empowered way for you to take action, fulfilling your Father's will. Gifts of the Spirit are His way of using you to bless, strengthen and edify others through means that will bring glory to our Father and our Lord Jesus.

Knowing and using your spiritual gift(s) inspires grateful awe in your own heart as you realize the wonder that the Spirit uses imperfect vessels like yourself to be the heart, hands and voice of our Lord Jesus to someone else.

If you don't know the gift(s) He's given you or aren't actively being used by the Spirit as His instrument, you're depriving yourself of the wondrous joy that reveals itself in exuberant appreciation of your Father and His Son. As a result, you're missing the full adoration and praise of our God that He so richly deserves. Is this the way you want to be?

Loving awe and responsive action are hallmarks of the Father's children. Be sure these describe your own walk with Lord Jesus!

Born Again — A Way of Life Enacted Through Spirit-guided Wisdom

The wisdom the Holy Spirit gives you provides you with sufficient understanding so you can take appropriate action. *Responsive* wisdom underlies this counsel: “*Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom*” (James 3:13; see also 1:5-8). The Spirit’s wisdom enables you to *do your Father’s will*. And, seeking and following through on His guidance is a loving assurance to you that you’ll be welcomed into heaven.

Humility isn’t just the deeds you do for others; it’s also a trusting heart attitude in which you persistently seek the Spirit’s wisdom, His guidance, because you want to please your Father (Acts 8:29; 10:19-20; 16:7; 20:22). Seeking wisdom is for you what gathering manna was for the Israelites (Deuteronomy 8:16)!

If you’ve been in the Hellenist-influenced informational teaching system for long, *humility* is for you like the ‘*valley of the shadow of death.*’ That’s because all your life you’ve *analyzed* whether you want to do something before you do it, and usually chose actions which benefitted you. Most likely you’ve never let our Lord’s Spirit *command* you. But the Spirit’s wisdom can’t be *analyzed* by your mind for its pros and cons. If you try to analyze that which can only be spiritually grasped, you’ll ultimately paralyze yourself into inaction. And if you’re honest with yourself regarding your reluctance to obey, you’ll admit that the Spirit’s wisdom and the Bible’s commands are no more than “good suggestions” to you. May neither your lack of holy fear and loving awe of God nor any inclination to analyze be the means through which Jesus says, “I never knew you.”

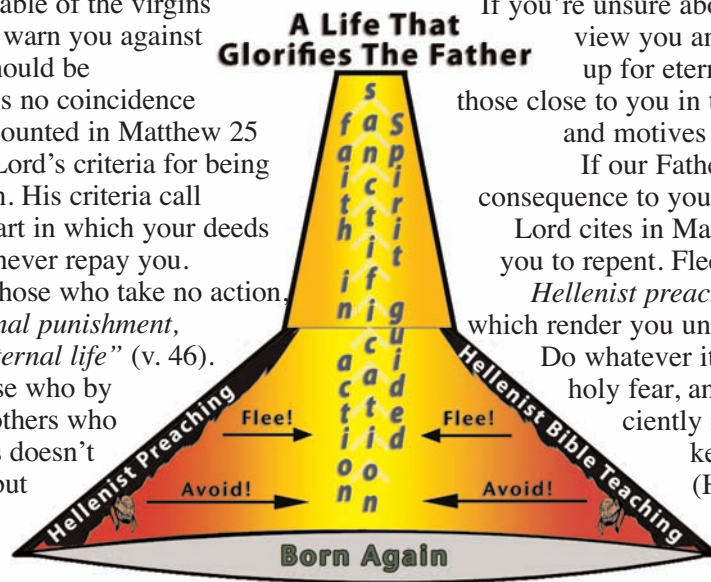
(1) Spirit Empowered Action Requires Avoiding and Fleeing ALL Forms of Passivity

Our Lord uses the parable of the virgins (Matthew 25:1-13) to warn you against passivity when you should be *preparing yourself*. It’s no coincidence that this parable is recounted in Matthew 25 which ends with our Lord’s criteria for being welcomed into heaven. His criteria call for the humility of heart in which your deeds help people who can never repay you. Our Lord warns that those who take no action, “*will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life*” (v. 46). The righteous are those who by humility act to bless others who are less fortunate. This doesn’t mean giving charity, but direct involvement in upholding the dignity of another person.

(2) “He who doubts...should not think he will receive anything from the Lord” (James 1:6,7).

If you’re unsure about how our Lord might view you and where you might end up for eternity, please discuss with those close to you in the faith your true goals and motives for being a “Christian.”

If our Father’s four goals are of no consequence to you, nor are the actions our Lord cites in Matthew 25, we encourage you to repent. Flee and avoid all forms of *Hellenist preaching* and *Bible teaching* which render you unresponsive to the Spirit. Do whatever it takes for grateful love, holy fear, and reverent awe to sufficiently motivate you to *want* to keep ALL His commands (Hebrews 12:28,29). And with His Spirit’s guidance and power, *do your Father’s will*.



(3). The Stem of the Funnel: His Spirit in You Is THE Source To Your Empowered Response

Throughout these Prophetic Insights we continue to point you to the *Spirit’s presence within you* if indeed you’re born again. Why? Because first and foremost, “*The Spirit Himself testifies with [your] spirit that [you’re] God’s child*” (Romans 8:16). This one truth is the key identity by which you must see yourself. And, you can’t know and live by this reality except by the Spirit revealing it to your spirit. It’s only by the indwelling Spirit that “*you can put to death the misdeeds of the body, and live*” (Romans 8:13).

Once you know *who you are* through the Spirit, that same Spirit wants to use you to gratefully carry out your part in your Father’s Kingdom on earth. Your spiritual gift(s) are His way of apportioning to you His specific way for you to do your part and fulfill your Father’s purpose for you. Knowing how the Spirit has empowered you through His gift(s) calls for humility on your part to even want Him to use you. And, in their fullest use His gifts are enacted with the loving concern for others our Lord Jesus would have if He were you.

If you and those with you in the faith are passive about identifying your gifts and being used by the Spirit to actively do your part, then you are shirking your privilege and responsibility to serve the One Who called you. (See Hebrews 12:22-25.) If you won’t serve then you should be filled with dread!