

The Voice Of The Spirit Is In The Helmet of Salvation

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

In this Teaching Email we'll be discussing the rudimentary essentials to **an active personal relationship with our Lord Jesus** which entails **hearing His Spirit's voice**. This is a vibrant and meaningful way of life that's personally meant so much to us. But it's sadly foreign among the religiously mired. WHY? Because anti-Semitic scribal theology has taught them that the way both of us live, dependent on the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit, was intended only for the first followers of our Lord Jesus. That's a lie, and is as heinous as horse pucky!

Our Lord Jesus is alive and active. He's not just a historical Deity residing within the pages of the Bible. His Spirit still speaks to His own! How else could we render account to His Lordship if we don't know the specific purposes our heavenly Father wants us as His children to fulfill?

This month will be 46 years since we began to follow and serve our Lord Jesus. We were discipled in our loving trust to be obedience-based by grace under the Lordship of Jesus, a life akin to our father Abraham. We were shown in God's Word to seek the *rhema* of the Holy Spirit Who would not only reveal our heavenly Father's will to us, but would also empower us to fulfill it. Paul shares keen insights about *rhema* being a way of life for followers of Jesus. The first passage deals with the role of husbands hearing the Spirit breathe direction into a couple's lives together:

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the called-out ones and gave Himself up for her to make her holy, so that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word [rhema]" (Ephesians 5:25,26).

The next verse commands all who love and serve Jesus as their Lord to take up two essential pieces of weaponry so that we can be effective as spiritual soldiers, the helmet and the sword, the specific "*rhema* word of guidance" from the Spirit for each situation you face:

"Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word [rhema] of God" (Ephesians 6:17).

The reality of a specific *rhema* word from God was nothing new to the earliest followers of Christ. Jesus Himself cited a key truth of the Hebrew Scriptures regarding the necessity of specific *rhema* that surpasses even the need for food:

"Jesus answered, it is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word [rhema] that comes from the mouth of God'" (Matthew 4:4; see also Deuteronomy 8:3).

For decades now we've discussed the difference between two words for "word" that are used in the original Greek of the Newer Testament, *logos* and *rhema*.

- ✓ The Bible is God's *logos*, His written word and the personified Word, Christ. *Logos* represents what He wants mankind to know about Him, His ways, and His righteous commands to apply to our way of life.
- ✓ Through *rhema*, also translated "word", the indwelling Holy Spirit speaks/prompts/reveals to followers of Jesus our Father's specific will so that we can be about His purposes under the Lordship of Jesus.

Seeking the *rhema* of the Holy Spirit is humbling to our sinful, self-reliant nature that ***"likes to do things my way"***. Or, ***"I'll tell you God what I'm willing to do for you."*** Think of your

dependence on *rhema* from the Spirit like what gathering manna was to the Israelites: **“He gave them manna to eat in the desert...to humble and to test you”** (Deuteronomy 8:16).

The entire Bible contains accounts of people who were guided by the Spirit of our Lord. Our Father's children seeking His will through the indwelling Holy Spirit was the lifeblood of our Lord's first followers. That is, until **anti-Semitic scribal theology** fabricated spin-offs from Hellenism and Romanism and eradicated personal Spirit guidance in favor of ecclesiastical domination (Nicolaitanism). But be encouraged! The Hebraic Restoration is Father's means to return His children to a way of life in which His will is fulfilled on earth by each person who belongs to His Son, Jesus. This love-compelled eagerness to hear from the Spirit of Christ and fulfill our Father's will by His grace is a key identifying characteristic of us and those to whom we give the right hand of fellowship.

Sue: I've been saddened to encounter so many wives over the years who have longed for their husband to share with them revelations from the Holy Spirit — Spirit-breathed *rhema* insights. Mike has rebuked a number of husbands for their sinful disregard of keeping our Lord's command to wash their wives with the Holy Spirit's *rhema*. All too many couples live like “married singles” because they aren't walking “*one in Spirit*,” especially through a Spirit-listening husband.



Are there severe consequences when husbands don't diligently share *rhema* with their wife? You betcha! The wife then gives in to independent thinking and reaps the curse which God placed on women, ***the desire to rule her husband***. Some women will use pouting to control, while others resort to subtle manipulation. And often when a husband isn't sharing *rhema* with his wife, she becomes susceptible to nagging demonic voices in her mind, will and emotions – voices that are decidedly unChristlike. I'll be writing more about this soon. But for now, you may gain insight from our December 2003 Newsletter: ***Develop Christ-likeness—Destroy the Curse of Eve***.

And take this to heart: Mike's and my walk with our Lord Jesus isn't just another form of Christianity, like a different denomination or sect. It is THE way of our Lord Jesus as King and Ruler of His loved ones from the inside out by His Spirit. This is the way of life which His Word calls us to experience and enact. Please, confirm with the Holy Spirit what I'm asserting. Ask Him to guide you into His way of life; freed from anti-Semitic scribal theology.

“Today if you will hear [the Spirit's] voice do not harden your hearts” (Hebrews 4:7).

Both of us would rather have two seconds of hearing *rhema* from the Spirit of our Lord than years of all the Bible verses we might learn. For us the Spirit of our Lord is the personal relational Source to who we are in serving our Father and Lord Jesus. To please our Father and our Lord by specifically hearing from the Spirit and fulfilling those words in obedient trust is such a huge motivator for •why we do •what we do in life. The Bible is our Lord's reference book for not only knowing more about Him and His commands, but also to become like Him as we apply them.

Wearing the helmet of salvation is to hear the Spirit's voice.

Mike: I first put my trust in our Lord Jesus after reading the Bible from front to back the second time. I knew from the Older Testament that there exists a powerful and gracious God of mercy who uses the obedient who belong to Him to carry out His will. I also understood the depth of my own sinful depravity and my need for the atonement which only my trust in the

shed blood of our Lord Jesus could provide. The Newer Testament then revealed the amazing depth of God's love! I needed to surrender to the Lordship of Jesus in my life, and with the Holy Spirit's guidance, to obediently serve Him as His personal beloved slave/servant out of loving appreciation for what He did for me.

Being under the direct control of someone else was very clear to me. I was a Navy pilot when I was *genuinely* born again, and when I was flying I wore a helmet with earphones. Not only did I receive instructions afar from air traffic control and tower operators; my own crew also gave me instructions through my headset. I was very accustomed to hearing others instructing me even when I couldn't see them—their voice was in my head!



So when the Holy Spirit took up His residence in me, I just switched from hearing my mind's rationale to *my spirit listening to the Holy Spirit*. This is what the Bible attests to. And the voice of our Lord's indwelling Spirit is the clearest assurance of being *genuinely* born again.

With this backdrop I'd like to further share how our Lord intends for His own to use His Word (*logos*) and its good and righteous commands. Again, as a Navy pilot, all the operating procedures which dictated my flying of the aircraft were contained in a NATOPS manual (Naval Air Training and Operating Procedures Standardization). This manual specified how I as a pilot must fly my aircraft in order to safely and effectively complete my missions. God's Word and His commands in it are **His resource book of righteous guidance**. And in the process of learning and applying His commands to our lives over the years we both experienced becoming more like our Lord Jesus – developing the **"mind of Christ"** (1Corinthians 2:16).

Something to pray about while tainge a close look at yourself:

In the unChrist-like competition of congregations, denominations and sects fabricated by scribal theology, it's very rare to find any clergy who are hearing the voice of our Lord nor those sitting in front of them each week hearing either. Far too many only know about Jesus through the pages of the Bible. This experience-less "Christianity" is horse pucky at its worst, disregarding the operation of the Holy Spirit and the *rhema* that's needed to carry out our heavenly Father's specific will.

Because we both possess *direct access* to our Lord Jesus by His Spirit's presence in us we treat the Bible as a reference to guide us, but not as a go-between in our relationship with Him. Here's an analogy of what we're firmly asserting: As a pilot, Mike studied and internalized NATOPS so that he would fly within regulations. But the manual was never a go-between for him while he was actively flying the helicopter. While he was flying, he and the cockpit were intricately connected as he experienced the reality of flight.

Our intricately linked relationship under the Lordship of Lord Jesus, via His indwelling Spirit, is actively experienced by both of us. Yes, the commands in His Word are a **divine reference manual** guiding the life we live under His Lordship. But the Bible doesn't stand between Him and us. **Your take away:** The Bible is our Lord's resource for you, but it should never be allowed to come between you and you experiencing Him personally.

Mike & Sue