



Spot On #16

- 👉 **Restoring the Hebraic understanding of God's Word.**
- 👉 **Reemphasizing obedience-based loving trust in our Lord Jesus.**
- 👉 **Reaffirming the way of our Lord that glorifies our heavenly Father.**

Figuratively, the center of the bullseye is the point around which everything else revolves.

Your Way Of Life Must Revolve Around The Ever-Present, Indwelling Lordship of Jesus

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Please stop for a moment and think of Jesus. In that thought, where did you picture Him in your mind? In heaven? In Jerusalem two thousand years ago? Or, did you visualize Christ in you, as Paul affirms in Romans 8:10? His Spirit — the *Spirit of Christ* — dwells within you if you are indeed His (Philippians 1:19). Christ in you is your hope of glory (Colossians 1:27). Where your mind habitually contemplates Jesus has tremendous effect on how you live and what your life revolves around. The promise of our Lord to His own is unshakeable: "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:20; see also 1John 4:4). If our Lord is with us, how and where is His miraculous presence taking place?

Here's a crucial realization for your way of life in union with Christ. When you are born again and baptized with the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ is with you because He is within you (Romans 8:9; Acts 2:38,39). This one truth, this great reality, is the most crucial for you in being able to live as our Lord Jesus would have you live as His own.

Because our Lord knew that He would be with His own for all time, He could promise you an intensely personal experience to validate His presence in you: "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who trusts in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father" (John 14:12). It's your abiding trust in Jesus and in the grace of His promise to use you that differentiates you from others who call themselves "Christians" but whose lives have nothing of the presence of Christ in them. Furthermore, when other people encounter you, they detect the difference that our Lord's divine presence makes in you. (As Sue once told a group of clergy, if you are genuinely in Christ, others will be either attracted to the Jesus in you or repelled by the Jesus in you — there will certainly be a reaction!)

The account of Philip's encounters and the Spirit's use of him in Acts 8 is an example of the way of life that's possible for anyone who is obeying the indwelling Spirit of our Lord and doing our Father's will. As a trusting follower of Jesus, Philip had no doubts when the Spirit within him directed his actions; he heard and he went without questioning why! Again, when religious leaders questioned Peter and John in Acts 4, these leaders "were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus" (v.13). Since these two apostles had received the indwelling Holy Spirit on Pentecost, they could confidently affirm (as we should be able to do as well), "As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard" (4:20). And the disciples whom Jesus sent out were empowered not only in their words but also in being used to bring deliverance from demons and healings (Mark 6:7,12-13; 16:17-18).

We who follow Jesus as Lord of our lives speak to the reality of our Lord Jesus Who is with us. Most Christians *know about* our Lord, but we who love and serve Him as Lord *know Him* so personally that "In this world we are like Jesus" (1John 4:17). People who truly belong to

our Lord Jesus are recognized as His by His Spirit's empowerment, comfort, interventions and guidance in their lives. Our Lord's followers are **obedience-based** in their trust walk because of the inner presence of the Jesus Who loves them! If this doesn't describe your own life journey with the indwelling Spirit of Christ, we hope that with your entire being you want it to be! You can't help but experience the grateful humility of having our Lord abiding within you, and an awe of what He accomplishes through you. To reiterate: The reality of a born again person is that the Spirit of Jesus dwells within them. And His Spirit can be experienced through His guidance, empowerment, comfort, and interventions.

"I am the way and the truth and the life" (John 14:6).

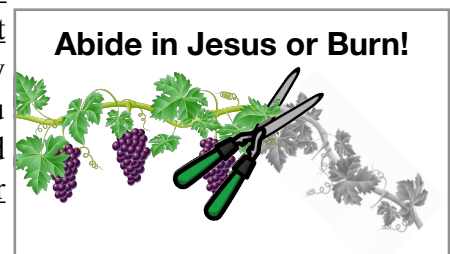
The word *truth* in the Newer Testament literally means "reality." Jesus tell us, "*I am the way and the Reality and the life*" (John 14:6). Our Lord is declaring that He is real, and that He is able to be experienced!

In our early days of following our Lord Jesus, we had a friend who had just preceded us in putting his trust in Him. One day he told us that the Lord had instructed him, "Karl, get to know Me." Karl wrote this message down on a piece of paper and kept it in his Bible. For the next two years he read everything he could get his hands on to learn about Jesus. One day, some two years after he began his quest, the slip of paper fell out of his Bible. As he read what he'd written, our Lord's words to "get to know Me", he sadly realized that he had made a grave error. His efforts had been misspent on getting to know a lot about Jesus, but he was no closer to knowing our Lord than he'd been two years earlier. It was then that Karl turned directly to the indwelling Spirit of our Lord Jesus. He began to hear His voice, and he became an entirely different person. Instead of talking about the various facts he had learned about our Lord, he began to share with us miraculous events, divine encounters, specific guidance and timings that only our Lord Jesus could have done.

Do you know about our Lord Jesus, or do you know Him? For more insight, read: Lifebyte 77, Helenism—***Why Christ-like Love Eludes Most Men***).

We've written previously concerning the New Covenant with our heavenly Father that *covenant* means to "live in union with." From the moment you are born again and are baptized with Holy Spirit by our Lord (Luke 3:16), you are given the opportunity to live in union with our Father and Lord Jesus until the day you leave this world and receive your salvation. If you've never seriously reflected on how your abiding relationship with our Lord Jesus exists, consider His own words:

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples" (John 15:1-8).



Our Lord's assurance in the above passage clearly defines the Covenant union which the born again can have and must have. In this Spot On and several to follow, we'll point out various anti-Christ writings and creeds which have been concocted by theologians. Avoid these misguided theologies which are a result of the theologians refusal to begin with the Hebraic foundations. You may get upset if what we share steps on your creedal toes. But all we ask is for you to ask the Holy Spirit first to confirm what we write. When you have His assurance and you realize that what you may have held onto dearly in your religious life is unbiblical and in many cases anti-Christ, we strongly encourage you to ask the Spirit of our Lord what you should then do. And when you receive His specific guidance, please don't harden your heart. The truths by which the Spirit of our Lord Jesus would have you live are revealed from His Spirit to your spirit, and then from your spirit to your mind, will and emotions, and finally to your actions. No rationale or pros-and-cons consideration is involved!

Obedience in your life of loving trust is something that is demonstrated by your way of life – a life that must revolve around the indwelling Spirit of our Lord Jesus. Consider this: It doesn't matter how sincere you are about what you believe. If it isn't the truth that is revealed and confirmed by the Holy Spirit through your spirit, you've been deceived!



"Sincerity is not guidance. Sincerity may say, 'I am sure this plane goes to New York.' You believe this sincerely, but the plane will go to Miami if it is scheduled for Miami, and your sincerity will do nothing to change that!" Corrie ten Boom

Block Logic vs. *anti-Semitism, Hellenism, Cosmic Dualism, Romanism, Nicolaitanism, Syncretism, Revisionism*

(Please use the Search box at [Restoration Ministries](https://restorationministries.org/) for explanation of these anti-Christ influences.)

For multiple centuries Anti-Semitism, Hellenism, Cosmic Dualism, Romanism, Nicolaitanism, Syncretism and Revisionism have been the unChrist-like forces behind much of theology. The term 'theology' comes from two Greek words, *Theos* (God) and *logos* (word). Theology is the study of the nature of God and the religious beliefs which have been systematically developed about Him. The four major types of theology which are esteemed so highly in Christianity are: biblical theology, historical theology, systematic theology, and practical theology. Each uses the rational mind to explain God and His Word. Over the centuries theologians have written countless opposing treatises attempting to explain God.

You may have heard how ludicrous theologians of the past had become. Do you recall the futile theological debate over "how many angels can fit on the head of a pin?" Then there was the tale which described the futility of theology in trying to "explain God":

While walking along the seashore one day a theologian was wrestling with understanding the triune nature of God and how to explain it. He came upon a little boy trying to fill a hole he had dug with water from the ocean. The theologian asked the boy, "Son, what are you doing?" The boy looked up and responded, "I'm going to empty the ocean into my hole." Smiling, the man told him that what he was endeavoring to do was impossible. The boy smiled back, "Just as impossible as you trying to define God!"



Our Lord Jesus' first followers were Hebraic in their understanding and worldview. They grasped God and His Word through what writer Marvin Wilson calls **Block Logic**. Block logic is key to obedience-based trust in our Lord Jesus and our heavenly Father. Just like our father Abraham (Romans 4:16; Galatians 3:7), our Hebraic ancestors who first trusted Jesus knew that they didn't have all the answers about God, nor did they need to. They were willing to live at peace with God without being able to explain everything about Him. Their faith was demonstrated by their obedient actions, not in how they could put God "in a box" through carefully developed rationale.

In **block logic**, each biblical thought or concept is able to stand alone. Not every concept agrees with others in the Bible text, but their lack of harmony doesn't need to be rationally explained. For example, in foretelling the coming of the Messiah, Isaiah describes our Lord Jesus as *"Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace"* (Isaiah 9:6). How can you "explain" each of those phrases as belonging to one Person? You can't! Centuries later Jesus, the Prince of Peace, tells His disciples, *"Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword"* (Matthew 10:34). Block logic says that both concepts are true and we don't need to understand how this can be. By contrast, theology says we need to rationally reconcile these contradictory statements about the Prince of Peace bringing a sword.

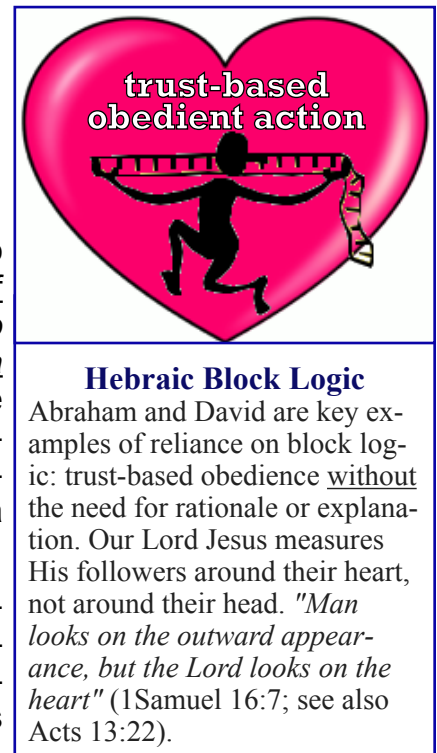
If you view Scripture as a form of block logic, it makes incredible sense. The Bible doesn't require a lot of the extra-scriptural explanation which we in the West are so used to. Westerners attempt to piece together a lot of seemingly related scriptures in order to organize the Bible into a systematized, teachable format so people can know about God. But when the Bible is viewed through block logic, you don't need the intricate extra-scriptural explanation that misconceived theologies use. Because of the indwelling Spirit of our Lord Jesus you're at peace with trusting Him and discerning Father's will, while testifying to the experience of His work in and through you. We followers of Jesus as Lord of our lives must speak about Him from experience because He's real and within us.

(For further insight into block logic and the potential hindrance of theology, read: Lifebyte 67, The Hebraic Restoration: Our Father's Plan To Restore the Spiritual Power of the Early Church – Lesson 2: ***How "Christendom" Forsook Spiritual Power (Part 2)***)

It's also important to recognize that the Hebrew language emphasizes the verb (the action part) and not the noun or subject like English does. Our Lord calls His own to a life of actively abiding in Him as dependent branches on His vine. He will abide in us. And in our abiding in Him we are commanded to live with obedience-based trust and love:

Jesus: "Going therefore, disciple all the nations... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

Jesus: "Anyone who loves Me will obey My word. My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. Anyone who does not love Me will not obey My words" (John 14:23,24).



“And being perfected, [Jesus] became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him” (Hebrews 5:9).

"We are witnesses of these things [*rhema*/words], and so is the Holy Spirit, Whom God has given to those who obey Him" (Acts 5:32).

Mike: When I became a follower of our Lord Jesus, my discipleship began under the training of three 18-year-old sailors who were much younger than I was. They sought the guidance and confirmation of the Holy Spirit so they might live as the best representatives of our Lord Jesus they could be on a ship of six hundred personnel. After I left the Navy I attended an interdenominational seminary to understand why there were so many competing denominations and sects in Christianity. I studied the creeds of the major denominations and found that all were concocted through the rationale of theologians who had no personal experience with the indwelling Holy Spirit. At seminary I was a duck out of water, encountering only a few faculty and students who could speak from their experience in the Spirit with divine miracles, interventions and timings. The majority of faculty and students could discuss any of the varied aspects of theology. But they couldn't talk about the Living *Theos* as I could! How I praise God for those three young men who discipled me.

Please answer this crucial question for yourself:

Should a born again person who is indwelt by the Spirit of our Lord Jesus have any less experience with Him than His first followers had? Just because we don't physically see Him, should our experience via His Spirit not bear the same testimonies as His first followers?

This personal testimony of our spiritual predecessors must be ours too:

"We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ" (1John 1:3).

Our Lord Jesus is as real today as He was before the creation of the world. If you put to death your mind's futile attempts to understand Him and focus instead on how you can please your Father through your obedient and loving trust, the indwelling Spirit will produce the life of Christ in you. Then you can state with grateful and humble confidence, "As Christ is in the world, so am I."

Mike & Sue

