



## POTPOURRI FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT

(a series of remembrances)

### Unrestrained Sin Calls For Prophetic Revelation

9-14-2024



Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Here's something you may have observed with dismay as we have. After all these years of ministering among a variety of Christian persuasions, we're disheartened that so few self-proclaimed Christians *unwaveringly* seek personal revelation from the Spirit of our Lord. They neither expect nor steadfastly desire to be guided and empowered by Him out of love for our Lord Jesus and our heavenly Father. Nor do they even *want* Him to convict them of their sin so they might repent and their lives enact the ***righteous way of our Lord***. We fervently believe that this neglect or downright resistance to personally hearing from the Spirit is one of the primary reasons **sin is so rampant throughout Christianity in the US**—and few seem bothered by this rebellion!

The proverb is absolutely spot-on in warning each of us, *“Where there is no prophetic revelation the people throw off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps [God's commands]”* (Proverbs 29:18). Prophetic revelation, whether foretelling or warning, is **our Lord's merciful deterrent** to people caving in to their own sin nature. Consider the mercy that's entailed in the prophetic ministry of our Lord's Spirit to communicate specific instructions to the *genuinely* born again: *“Don't thwart [or quench, extinguish] the Spirit, don't disregard [or despise] prophecies. And do test all things—hold fast what is good; keep yourself away from every form of evil”* (1Thessalonians 5:19-22; see also 1John 4:1).

Do you see what's being commanded here for followers of Jesus regarding Spirit-breathed prophesies, including words of knowledge and wisdom (1Corinthians 12:8; Ephesians 1:17; Colossians 1:9)? Yet the vast majority of Catholics and Protestants alike have no personal experience with the Spirit's purpose for 1Thessalonians 5:19-22. Their false theologies have deceived them into believing that there is absolutely no need for personal revelations from the Holy Spirit. The demonic strategy behind this deceit is: ***“Without the Holy Spirit providing revelation, then it's easy to entice Christians to sin.”*** Prophetic revelations, along with the insights of knowledge and wisdom, are sorely needed for Jesus's followers to stay the course as they press on in Him.

This one demonic victory of dissuading followers of Jesus from hearing the Holy Spirit and obeying His guidance and direction has been perpetuated by anti-Semitic theology over the centuries in both Catholic and Protestant camps. It has prevented countless numbers of Christians from ***experiencing interactive communication with the Holy Spirit and the delight of fulfilling Father's specific purposes***. We know from personal experience and the testimonies of others: The moment you become resolute in hearing the Holy Spirit, you'll find your tolerance for sinning dwindle (1John 3:4-9; and weigh the Spirit's warning in Hebrews 10:26,27 if you do keep sinning).

### The backdrop to the Holy Spirit using us to expose and confront unrestrained sin

Early in our ministry the Spirit revealed to Mike an assurance which even now underscores all of our Potpourris: ***“You are of the tribe of Issachar, who understands the times and knows what God's people should do”*** (see 1Chronicles 12:32). The Holy Spirit had been giving him an understanding of situations that were *way beyond what his mind could have generated*. Then years later while we were living in Colorado Springs, an older widow from England was visiting our house church. The moment she entered the room she walked straight toward Mike and told him, “You are of the tribe of Issachar!” We believe the Holy Spirit used this godly woman to rein-

force Father's purpose for Mike, especially that he would bring forth revelations and messages from the Spirit's to guide Christians during **times of unrestrained sin**.

✠ ***“Be filled with the Spirit!”*** (Ephesians 5:18) is God's straightforward command for everyone who is born from above. Although learned theologians have argued about what *“being filled”* means, demonic spirits fear a follower of Jesus who lives under the guidance and empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Since Pentecost the devil has seduced Christians into believing theological lies which negate the Spirit and His ministry to and through our Father's children. Demons succeed when Christians go on without the desire to be filled with the Holy Spirit for His use of them. And without the love of the truth with which the Spirit-filled abound, Christians make themselves vulnerable to deception and delight in lawless living (see 2Thessalonians 2:9-12). Therefore ***“God sends them a strong delusion, so that they will believe the falsehood”*** (2:11). ***If*** you don't want to be among the deluded, then repent and turn to the Holy Spirit! Live so filled with the Spirit that others can recognize Him in you.

For a number of years "Bill", a certain church leader whose congregation often used our retreat center, balked at Mike's emphasis on the necessary operation of the Holy Spirit in those He indwells. One afternoon a transformed Bill came to see Mike:

“I have something I want to confess to you. A few nights ago the Lord gave me a dream. In it you and I were leading a group of people across a meadow toward a river. Upstream was a large waterfall. As we got to the river bank I rationalized what seemed to be the easy way to go. I said, ‘Everybody in the river! We're going downstream.’ You spoke up and said, ‘That isn't the way the Lord would have us go. We must go upstream.’ Everyone went with you except me. You all jumped into the river and begin to swim upstream.

I followed you all, walking along the river bank. At the bottom of the waterfall I found steps that led up to the top of the waterfall. Somehow I knew the steps led to the Throne of God. As I climbed the stairs I kept looking out at the falls to make sure I was ahead of you. At the top of the stairs I reached God's Throne. He looked at me and said, ‘Bill, you didn't come here the way I have ordained. Look at your feet.’ I looked down and my feet were all muddy. As I looked back I could see that I'd muddied all the stairs on the way up. God ordered me, ‘Go back down the way you came and clean each stair as you go. Then you may come up the waterfall the way I have commanded.’

As I went down the stairs, cleaning each one, I looked over toward the falls. I saw you and all the people with you ascending the falls without any effort at all. You weren't climbing the falls, but drifting up them. I then realized that the Holy Spirit was the stream Who carries Christ's own, and that He is the One Who enables people to ascend to the Throne of God.”

When Bill finished sharing his dream he told Mike, “You personally know the power of the Holy Spirit that comes from going upstream.” Bill had finally realized that the Spirit's power flows out of personal interaction with Him and with your obedience to go “upstream” no matter what everyone else is doing. ***Consider this:*** Your testifying to how the Spirit of our Lord has used you may irritate Christians who've been duped to disregard His reality. But stand fast! In time, if you don't resent those who are denying the Holy Spirit, He will convict them in one way or another.

✠ ***When you stop to ask the Holy Spirit for guidance, you'll discover that His direction is most often completely opposite your own inclination!*** And ***if*** you are willing to seek and abide by being Spirit-led, you'll avoid a death trap: *“There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death”* (Proverbs 14:12). Take this to heart: *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths”* (Proverbs 3:5,6).

Here are some essential points for you to pray about and discuss since they have such a deep impact on the decisions that will be facing you shortly.

### 1. **Unrighteous men without the Spirit's revelation are precipitating US chastisement.**

Immediately after we finished writing our book [Pastoring By Elders](#) in 1997, the Holy Spirit revealed to us a prophetic warning that, ***“When a woman becomes President will be the sign that the Dark Days of Chastisement are almost upon this nation. Men have abdicated their role as leaders and vessels of honor through whom the righteousness of God is made known.”*** We've repeated this prophetic warning over the years. But **EVERY Christian** to whom we told it completely missed the point! They'd respond by disparaging prominent women politicians such as Nancy Pelosi, Hillary Clinton, Kamala Harris, or other liberal women as being at fault. Yet the Holy Spirit faulted men who abdicated their God-given role of upholding righteousness as servant leaders. A vast number of self-identified Christian men have been seduced into sin by false theology, so 🙅 **they don't live ruled by our Lord Jesus** 🙅 and **they thwart the guidance of the Holy Spirit.** Without these essential biblical responsibilities, generations of self-identified Christian men have led this land's populace toward the forthcoming chastisement.

Whoever is elected President is actually a peripheral issue for us as we press on in Father's purposes. For us, preparing followers of Jesus to be His ambassadors in the Dark Days of Chastisement which are coming on this country is our Father's primary assignment (2Timothy 2:4). Chastisement is coming because of unrighteousness, and no human leader can stop it. Only widespread repentance may alter Father's plan.

The testimony against Christian men is obvious! Look around you at the men from any Christian persuasion who are living primarily for this world's goals and values. Rather than personally leading their families to live the **righteous way of our Lord**, these men have been and are now allowing demonic influences to lead their progeny astray. Here is heaven's denouncement of fathers and grandfathers: ***“You [spiritual] adulterers [against God], do you not know that the friendship of this world [system] is enmity against God? Therefore whoever resolves to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God”*** (James 4:4, literal). It has been disheartening for us to have observed so many Christian men leading their families into becoming God's enemy through promoting and approving this world's goals and values. When our Father looks at compromising Christians in the US, He sees entire congregations gathering as His enemy! Please don't let this be you.

Our intention in writing [Pastoring By Elders](#) has been to encourage older men to fulfill their biblical role as the shepherd/teachers of our Father's children (Ephesians 4:11-16). This book along with several later articles refutes the dominating Nicolaitan clergy system which infused itself into Christianity like a demonic cancer. In order to gain the upper hand, clergy created an **organizationally-structured religious establishment** to direct and control the 'laity'. To sustain its dominance, each religious establishment uses particular creedal positions and denominational interpretations which its adherents must believe. This demonic evil relieves the men in particular from the responsibility of seeking personal revelation from the Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit restraining their sin nature, congregations of cowardly self-serving men who outsource their wives and children to the religious establishment thrive today and precipitate this nation's downfall!

### 2. **The impending chastisement will need leadership by men who are dead to self.**



In the US it has been very rare to even encounter older men who can pass the dead-to-self test of jumping on the grenade which we mentioned in our previous Potpourri. The identity of many older men is **“leisurely golfer”** (or any other activity which satisfies their social inclinations) rather than foremost being a love-driven **“dead-to-himself ambassador of our Lord Je-**

**sus**". Please realize that we aren't against golfing or any other sport or activity. But we do stand **firmly against** any follower of Jesus who is preoccupied with golfing etc. without first being our Lord's personal ambassador to your family, relatives and others you care about. By your very refusal to serve as His ambassador, you are denying Him. **If** you've been denying our Lord this way, please REPENT!

For you men in particular, our Lord soberly reveals His non-optional criterion for your life: *"If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever will lose his life for the sake of Me and the gospel will save it"* (Mark 8:34,35). Our Lord Jesus is attesting to the inner character qualities He requires in those who belong to Him. He came as an Ambassador of His Father, so why would anything less be required of those who are His? If you're a father or a grandfather and have rejected living as our Lord's ambassador to your family and those you care about here on earth, repent and ask their forgiveness. (In our next Potpourri we'll discuss how you can change course.)

Years ago when our Father commanded us to **"contend for My Son Jesus,"** we didn't fully appreciate at the time that the most difficult arena to affirm His preeminence would be among self-identified Christians, especially men. Sacrificial men, men who place the interests of our Lord Jesus and of others ahead of their own, have no hesitation to be the first to jump on the grenade (Philippians 2:1-8). But in the current religious environment, too many cowardly clergy **outsource the men in their fold to para-church ministries** because they are unable to role model the death-to-self **righteous way of our Lord**. Here's a personal anecdote about this very topic:

When we returned from Israel in 1994, Promise Keepers and its 'football style' rah-rah was just getting into full swing. After prayerfully considering the seven promises to which men were to adhere, there was one promise to which Mike couldn't commit. We'd moved to Atlanta several months after our return from Israel, and each week Mike taught a group of businessmen the rudiments of the Hebraic foundations. During that time he mentioned his hesitance about the unbiblical nature of one of the Promise Keeper promises.

One of the men in the group insisted that Mike be his guest at a Promise Keepers breakfast. As they walked into the dining hall, a man at the door separated Mike from the man who'd invited him and directed him to sit at a certain table. Mike didn't initially realize that he was put at the head table and seated next to the then-president of Promise Keepers. As they talked together Mike shared with him highlights of the Hebraic foundations, especially about men's roles and the home being the basic place for spiritual development. The president responded, ***"This is what Promise Keepers needs! As many Promise Keeper groups are dissolving as forming. Wives and families have discovered that Promise Keepers takes their husbands away for the 'big event with the big name' but nothing changes at home."*** Many other para-church ministries to men are equally fruitless as most rely on instructional techniques void of dead-to-self role models.

As we've written previously, there's nothing special about the two of us. Our Father recruited us to share this message and told us that as long as we remained repentant He would use us. We've done this and have also lived confident of the Holy Spirit's guidance that has kept us in the center of our Father's purposes for us. Anyone who loves our Lord Jesus and appreciates what He did for them can live as we do according to how Father would use you. It delights us to seek to glorify our Father in our lives. And we hope this will be the core of your life purpose too.

And when you consider *personableness*, find out for yourself from our Lord's Spirit why **"the LORD your God"** appears 401 times in the Bible. Actively belonging to our Lord Jesus has far more love-motivated personal responsibility wrapped in it than just believing in Him. Through our Lord's indwelling Spirit He is wanting to communicate to you. **LISTEN UP!**