

POTPOURRI FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT

(a series of remembrances)

Has the Holy Spirit Removed ALL Your Religious Props?

9-26-2024



Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Shortly after we arrived in Israel in December 1993, Mike began to suffer tremendous bouts of anxiety that went on for a number of weeks. We thought he might be suffering from the "Jerusalem syndrome", a medical condition some people get while visiting the City of David for any length of time. The anxiety attacks were so intense that Mike pleaded with Bert and Exie, our hosts, to take him to Tel Aviv so he could fly back to the US. After much prayer Bert and Exie came to us and told him, *"The Spirit of our Lord is shining a light into your soul to prepare you for your future work. Darkness in the soul gets revealed here like no other place on earth."*

A short while later the Holy Spirit revealed to Sue that the reason Mike was so insistent on getting back to the States was because that was where his familiar **"religious props"** were that made him feel good about his Christianity. As soon as Mike heard these words he was at peace. He understood that he had to die to all the religious props that once meant something to him, and then replace these props with the **ALL-SUFFICIENCY OF JESUS IN HIS LIFE**. Not long after we both began experiencing the full sufficiency of our Lord Jesus, we were given the Hebraic foundations to return to the US with.

It's been over 30 years since our return. But back in the US it's been very lonely for us. Almost all the Christians we've met rely more on the familiarity of their religious props than on the all-sufficiency of our Lord Jesus first. Many ministry leaders as well as those who keep congregations running are **prop-driven**, which is also **task-driven**. Forty years ago a broad survey of clergy revealed that 9 out of 10 were "task-driven" rather than "relationship-oriented." Their task of managing the system and everything that was entailed in that was even more important to them than their personal intimacy with our Lord Jesus. (Mike once asked a clergy group if they prayed with their families. But other than grace before a meal, none interceded or offered praise together with their family. By not leading their family in prayer together, these men were revealing to their families how little the Lordship of Jesus really mattered to them even with their loved ones [John 15:16]). As sad as this spiritual void is, it's easy to recognize when ministries and congregations are being maintained by those who are **task-driven and outcome-based**. These individuals focus on the 'doing' regardless of whether or not it's Father's will for them. In contrast, the **obedience-based**, as we really became in Israel, live ruled by the indwelling Spirit of our Lord. He reveals what accords with our Father's will for us so we don't presuppose what the outcome should be.

After you die to yourself, you'll find the ALL-SUFFICIENCY OF JESUS IN YOUR LIFE.

👍 To the extent that the all-sufficiency of Jesus reigns in you is the degree you are a "truster."

👎 To the degree that you are not dead-to-yourself is the degree to which you remain just a "believer."

There's a big difference between acknowledging that you *believe* something, and *trusting* Someone so much that your life is His life. That's relational intimacy! And a religious prop is anything or anyone that hinders you from experiencing the cherished relationship that's offered you within the New Covenant. Please, before your life ends here on earth, find out if any person or

any religious endeavor is hindering you and your family from the singular preciousness of the Lordship of Jesus through His indwelling Spirit. When you and your loved ones remove from your lives the religious props which have embedded themselves within how you perceive Christ and His place in your life, you'll discover this: **Love for our Lord Jesus being revealed in your courage to act boldly in obedience to Him as His redemptive ambassadors.**

A '**redemptive ambassador**' is someone who has experienced the all-sufficiency of our Lord Jesus because they wanted it with their entire being. If this describes you, then when you encounter evil in the world, you don't sit in judgment of it. Instead, you see it as your *ambassadorial opportunity*. You pray for the Holy Spirit to give you a redemptive heart to shine the light of our Lord Jesus into the darkness through His **love, forgiveness and compassion at work through you**.

When the Hebraic foundations were revealed to us, we needed to make them real in our own lives. •It required new memory cells that deeply valued what Father had revealed. •This included deprogramming our brains from all vestiges of **Hellenism** and **Nicolaitanism**, particularly the deceptive religious props that once made us feel that our Christianity was normal and acceptable. But we gradually realized, as you will too, that pagan Hellenist and Nicolaitan practices have a deceptive way of making you believe that you're pleasing to your heavenly Father because so many other Christians are doing the same things. But in fact from our Father's viewpoint, your **"religious props"** you cling to are far more important to you than you fulfilling His purposes in your life for His glory.



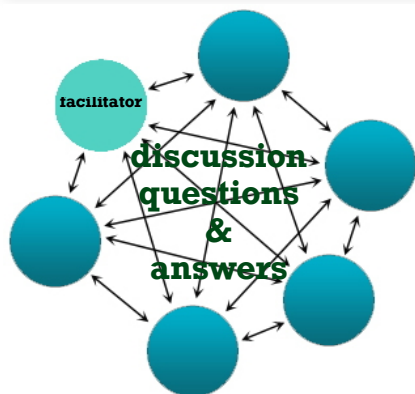
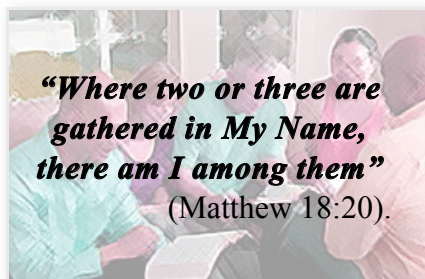
Keep in mind that these religious props will obstruct your total reliance on the **ALL-SUFFICIENCY OF JESUS IN YOUR LIFE**. The abiding "Vine/ branch" relationship which our Lord Jesus requires of His own in John chapter 15 is for the prop-less. That's how you can by grace embody the **ALL-SUFFICIENCY OF JESUS IN YOUR LIFE**.

How to go from religious props into the ALL-SUFFICIENCY OF JESUS IN YOUR LIFE

We're well aware that many of you have encountered the Hebraic foundations at different times during the past 30 years we've been sharing them. A case in point: The largest number of people at any one time who were added to our mailing list occurred shortly after the three TV broadcasts we did on the Messiah/Christ-uplifting program Jewish Voice in 1997. The way of life that our heavenly Father is restoring to you, your family and faith community has been presented over several decades. If you're new to all of this, you may be wondering where to start. Please realize that it will take your **unwavering resolve** to make these truths your way of life by first confirming for yourself that it's our Father Who is restoring these truths. In the process you'll discover what we discovered: **Religious props block your resolute commitment to live a way in Jesus as your Lord that pleases Father and brings Him glory**.

Isn't it about time for you to be that love-impelled **redemptive ambassador** who reflects the **ALL-SUFFICIENCY OF JESUS IN YOUR LIFE**? Here's something to help you gain a good understanding of what's involved. After we wrote our final book in 1997, our publisher at that time helped us prepare a summary of what the Hebraic foundations entail. It's entitled the **Prodigal Church**; <[https://www.restorationministries.org/download/prodchurch%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.restorationministries.org/download/prodchurch%20(1).pdf)>. Over the years we've updated this 33-page article, (a free download), adding insights we've gleaned in sharing the Hebraic foundations. We encourage you to read and discuss this timely article with at least one other person, whether spouse, family, Bible Study group, Sunday school or house church (home group). It won't be long before **chaotic disruption** in the US will curtail

what you might think is important now. Your current routines will be replaced with such an array of social discord and strife that you may find even your beliefs being tested to expose how much you really do trust in the **ALL-SUFFICIENCY OF JESUS IN YOUR LIFE**.



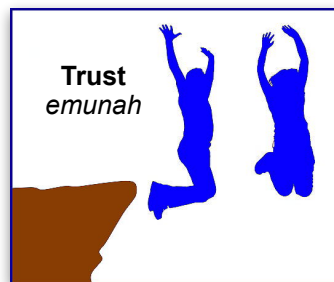
As we've repeatedly encouraged, urged and even insisted on:
✨ Make sure the Spirit of our Lord Jesus is present in your discussions. Hold our Lord to His promise, because He enjoys being with you to reveal to you how to apply God's Word and Spirit-revealed truths. ✨ Our Lord Jesus provides two essential realities to His own about making God's Word and Spirit-revealed truths your way of life: *"I tell you the truth, whatever you BIND ON EARTH will be bound in heaven, and whatever you LOOSE ON EARTH will be loosed in heaven. Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by My Father in heaven. For where TWO OR THREE COME TOGETHER IN MY NAME, there am I with them"* (Matthew 18:18-20).

Our Lord is assuring you that when you discuss His Word or any other Spirit-revealed truths, you can BIND (that is, avoid what God doesn't want you to do) or LOOSE (which means do what's right in His sight). As you live as our Lord's **redemptive ambassador**, it's vital that you're absolutely confident in HIS PRESENCE. HIS SPIRIT is your indwelling Source for both the

guidance and the power which enable you to make God's Word and Spirit-revealed truths your way of life.

Be aware! Through DISCUSSION any unChrist-like heart motives within you are revealed as you speak. As our Lord Jesus attests, *"For out of the OVERFLOW OF THE HEART the mouth speaks"* (Matthew 12:34). There's a strong connection between the WORDS you speak and the FEELINGS you expose. Together your words and your emotions reveal the MOTIVE OF YOUR HEART—WHY you do what you do. Your Father in heaven is very interested in your motives which His Word lays bare: *"For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to dividing soul and spirit, of joints and of marrow, and is able to judge the thoughts and intents of the heart"* (Hebrews 4:12).

We implore you. Larger events which are well beyond your own desires and plans are now happening! Ahead of them our heavenly Father has been gracious to reveal His way of life which has nothing to do with all the creedal and sectarian divisiveness He sees in Christianity. Be sure that you are securely focused on the intimacy which He and our Lord Jesus offer you and on the Spirit's guidance and miraculous operation through you — especially so you'll be prepared when chaos reigns. Have *emunah* in your life in our heavenly Father and our Lord Jesus. (*Emunah* – the root of this Hebrew word for trust is to jump off a cliff.)



Live with that trusting willingness to leap with our Father and Lord Jesus. You won't hit bottom...

Mike & Sue