



POTPOURRI FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT

(remembrances of the Holy Spirit)

Disciplers Help the Discipled Live Dead-To-Themselves

10-24-2024



Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

In this Potpourri we'll delve further into the biblically non-optional life of those who love and serve Jesus as their Lord and Savior: **living dead-to-yourself**. *If* you'll confirm with the Spirit of Christ that it's Jesus our Lord Who requires this way of life as He makes clear, then you will lovingly appreciate the fullness of what He did for you and the grace you'll need to die to yourself.

“Do I not have the right to demand that you die-to-yourself so that I will live through you to fulfill our Father’s purposes?”

“Salvation is free, but to be our Lord’s disciple will cost you your life.”

This declaration by Dietrich Bonhoeffer is profoundly true. Contrary to any anti-Semitic theology you may have been taught, our Lord Jesus lays down stringent requirements for you to belong to Him as His disciple—especially living dead-to-yourself. His stipulations for you as His disciple are difficult to accept unless you clearly perceive your own sinful depravity. Realizing your desperate need for the forgiveness and reconciliation which come only through Him sparks your deepest loving gratefulness for His sacrifice on your behalf. *And* with His grace you'll unwaveringly keep pursuing dying-to-yourself so that our Lord Jesus lives through you by His Spirit. This new way of life begins with you taking Christ at His Word about the intensity of the commitment He requires of you:

“If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross [execution-stake] and come after Me cannot be My disciple. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be My disciple” (Luke 14:26,27,33). **A disciple is someone who loves and follows our Lord Jesus by trusting Him and imitating His example.**

“Whoever picks up his own cross [execution-stake] and follows our Lord Jesus is able to disciple others to be like Him.”

Regarding the process of discipling, our Lord Jesus provides clear insight concerning the outcome: *“A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when having been fully trained will be like his teacher”* (Luke 6:40). An effective discipler who can reproduce a disciple who is like himself must possess Christ's character qualities which have been developed from picking up his own cross and dying to himself. Such disciplers are humbled because they're keenly aware of WHO gave them the grace to carry their cross. This powerful experience of WHO enabled the discipler allows him or her to mirror for those they disciple the same humble interactive relationship with the Spirit of our Lord Jesus. This is the core of what our Lord means when He affirms that *when he*

Hebraic Biblical Discipler
One who has carried his cross and replicates himself in others.

“Remember those who lead you, who instruct you in God’s Word. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their trust. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever”
 (Hebrews 13:7,8)

has been fully trained, he will be like his teacher. Through his discipler's patterning, the disciple sees what it's like for him to represent our Lord Jesus in the world.

Discipleship is replicating the Christ Who lives through you by His Spirit!

When we first followed Jesus as Lord of our lives, we were discipled by individuals who had carried their own cross and were gratefully ruled by His Lordship. In our spiritual pilgrimage to our salvation we've consistently been spurred on by the accounts of others who've carried their cross. Since Mike had been a navy pilot for 8 years before he read the entire Bible for the first time, he concluded that flight training is discipleship as it should have continued in Christianity from the time of our Lord Jesus. Here's what we mean. Flight training is a process of discipling, with the instructor pilot replicating himself in the student pilot. The methodology is •instruction •discussion and questions •demonstration •then do it!

You likely haven't experienced this pattern of being discipled by those who've taught you the Bible. We hope to help you so that our Lord can use you as an example of Himself in fulfilling our Father's will through you. In light of you living dead-to-yourself, it's vital that you carefully weigh our Lord's description of how His true followers will be treated in the world: *"And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved"* (Mark 13:13; see also Acts 14:22). And building on the foundation of our Lord's words we are reminded, *"They overcame [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony. They did not love their lives even unto death"* (Revelation 12:11). We're affirming here what the Bible itself says about those who truly belong to our Lord Jesus. Being our Lord's example in the world costs you everything, even the desire to be accepted in it!

Our Lord primarily used direct experience to disciple others.

The Hebraic method of Christ-like discipleship is based on **direct experience – it's up front and personal**. This is the very way our Lord Jesus trained His disciples and the way Paul trained his. Yes, there was instruction and discussion; but even more so, those who discipled others demonstrated and role modeled their teachings and then sent the disciple out to do the same. Being an example of our Lord Jesus to the degree in which you picked up and carried your own cross is the first thing you can offer to anyone you intend to disciple. It's your intimate interaction with our Lord Jesus working through you that you seek to replicate.

This is why the character qualities of the discipler must be closely scrutinized *before* you submit to his or her instruction: *"Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their trust. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever"* (Hebrews 13:7,8). These verses refer to character qualities of our Lord Jesus in the discipler which are evident to others. In 1Corinthians 11:1 Paul wasn't bragging about himself, but rather affirming the interactive relationship and character qualities which carrying his cross produced in him: *"Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ."* Disciplers in the pattern of Christ are the example of being our Lord's **redemptive ambassadors** in the world:

- ❖ *"That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church"* (1Corinthians 4:17).
- ❖ *"Brothers, join in following my example, and keep your eyes on those who are walking this way, as you have us for a pattern"* (Philippians 3:17).
- ❖ *"Let no one despise your youth, but be an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity"* (1Timothy 4:12).

❖ “In everything set them an example, a pattern of good works. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness” (Titus 2:7).

When direct experience is unavailable, the discipler uses simulation to disciple others.

Simulation helps the disciple to put himself or herself into the situation like our Lord Jesus did by using parables. For instance, to reflect the depth of commitment that's needed to authentically love your neighbor, Jesus told the parable of a Samaritan helping a desperate Jew who'd been robbed and beaten (Luke 10:30-37). (To understand the full impact of the parable, remember that at that time Jews despised Samaritans. Yet our Lord's parable illustrated how a Samaritan offered extravagant aid to a Jew.) Through this story His listeners could judge their own degree of love as they evaluated the different responses of the priest, the Levite, and the Samaritan.

✦ Simulation is why we frequently include our own anecdotes of living to serve the Lord we love. Our stories aren't meant to deepen any regard for us, but rather that you would glean insight for yourself from our 'dead-to-self' life. For further insight into this, please read: Teaching E-mail 57, [Our Father's Children Bear His Burden](#). You can also read our semi-biographical [Kingdom Living Today](#) series.

Academics-only Christian instruction has consisted of pansies reproducing pansies.

It's not an exaggeration to state that the dead-to-self discipleship that's presented in the Hebraic foundations produces courageous and redemptive ambassadors who purposefully live as examples of our Lord Jesus. But the Hebraic method of personal replication stands in opposition to the efficient and expedient **academics-only 'pansy method'** that was syncretized into Christianity from pagan Hellenism.

“Pansy” in slang describes a timid, cowardly person. And people who are fearful pansies about openly and lovingly representing Jesus especially to unbelievers have been the fruitless result of **academics-only Bible instruction**. This "scholastic" approach rejects the way our Lord Jesus raised disciples. (It's interesting to note that in nature, pansies are beautiful in color but they stay self-protectively close to the ground. They don't boldly stand up like a sunflower!)

During the years Mike counseled clergy, he found that each one had been instructed by their seminaries that **their primary role was to academically impart Bible knowledge to their congregants**. He also discovered that in order to keep their job in their congregations, the clergy were trained to manage the flock so that everyone is content in being there. In other words, the clergy person was trained to be a pansy among the pansies. How tragic that people-pleasing pansy-ism has taken over so much of Christianity today! Passive listeners to Bible teaching that's offered as an academic subject have nothing in common with our Lord's first followers who put their life on the line for His Name's sake and were vivid role models of living dead-to-themselves. From heaven's viewpoint, too much of modern Christianity has consisted of congregations of self-satisfied, academically-instructed pansies whose goals and values differ little from the unbelieving world around them. And they're far more likely to disdain the lost than reach out to them with the **love, compassion and forgiveness** of Jesus!



The attitude of Christian pansies
“We don't appreciate with grateful hearts the shed blood of Jesus on our behalf. We don't love Him enough to be His redemptive ambassadors and face possible rejection in the world. We live as 'good Christians'. It's just too demanding to live 'holy' as He demands. And *if* Jesus were dead, we'd just keep living the way we do because we're surrounded in our faith community with others just like us! So being a pansy suits our comfortable, me-first lifestyle.”

A sad note to share: Today, the majority of world might be under the rule of our Lord Jesus if it weren't for the vast number of pansy congregations within Catholicism and Protestantism. *If* the Hebraic and seemingly less efficient and less expedient model of **personal discipleship through replicating authentic disciples** had been used over the centuries within Christianity, how many more Christians would be living dead-to-themselves as redemptive ambassadors of Christ? As it is, seminaries (which are not in the Bible) and denominations (which reveal the divisive nature of pansy-ism) have shrugged off Jesus' discipleship pattern!

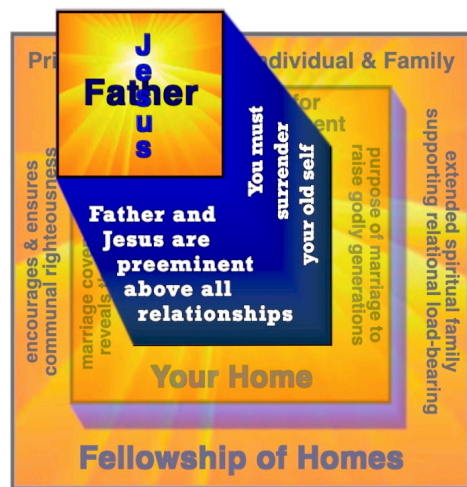
'Bigfoot' anti-Semitic theology has been elusive and above questioning.

In too many corners of Christendom, the creedal positions of anti-Semitic theologians are held in higher unquestioning regard than the words of our Lord Jesus. Attempting to question their 'learned' teachings is more elusive than finding Bigfoot. **'Bigfoot' theologians** have eradicated the truth of our Lord's own words when He defines who really belongs to Him. And since many clergy are fearful of losing their job, they are unwilling to reveal their own doubts about the divisive Bigfoot-concocted creedal positions which their denominations and seminaries have impressed on them to uphold.

When Hellenism's religious systems became syncretized into Christianity, its **'keep the pagans content'** religious services became the soil for growing Christian pansies. Throughout Christianity religious services have become a tranquil means of keeping people passively content and paying the bills. How few Christians live as spiritual warriors battling a demonic enemy for the salvation of all mankind!



"You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13).



In this Potpourri and in previous writings we've been exposing how you may have been bamboozled by theological travesty. But it's not hopeless. Remember that everything in the Hebraic foundations emanates from your heart's intimacy with your Father and Lord Jesus and Their preeminence in your life. Ask the Holy Spirit if your relationship is what They want of you. And if you fall short, ask the Spirit to help you until you do experience what has been promised you in the New Covenant.

In the absence of dead-to-self role models discipling you, find others who are *genuinely* born again who also wish to die-to-themselves so that our Lord Jesus lives through them. All it requires of each of you is your prayerful discussion, questions and answers, then going to do it! This is a biblical fact! It's your

heart motive of loving surrender that our heavenly Father and Lord Jesus are seeking from you and from those journeying with you.

Have you ever read *Hinds' Feet On High Places* by Hannah Hurnard, a prophetic book describing the pilgrimage of every genuinely born again person? Recall how Much Afraid's human love was transformed into divine love resulting in her becoming Grace & Glory. In her new identity she sought to be the Shepherd's redemptive ambassador, for the Shepherd had transformed her. And our Lord's Spirit will do the same for each of you *if* you truly want to die-to-yourself and have our Lord Jesus live through you with His love.