



POTPOURRI FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT

(remembrances of the Holy Spirit)

The Biblical Mandate Is To Live Obedience-Based

11-8-2024



Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Now that the elections are over and a president has been chosen, we'd like to offer you an insight about us. Over the years the two of us have purposed to live **obedience-based** as guided and empowered by the Spirit of our Lord Jesus. This means that the outcome of this election or any past election is not as significant to us as obeying the assignment which the Spirit of our Lord has given us for the past 30 years: to share the biblical Hebraic foundations on which our Lord's first followers established their faith practices. At the core of this has been emphasizing and insisting on **repentance** and **communal righteousness** among people who claim to belong to our Lord Jesus. But just as so many of the Older Testament prophets discovered that their warnings and admonitions were futile, so too it's seemed that our efforts have been equally as futile. We continue to wait to hear that sin-mired congregations throughout the US are beginning their services with a call to repentance and that their gatherings are communally righteous in our Father's sight.

👉 It's because of the widespread stench of unconfessed sin among so many of those who identify themselves as "Christian" that our Father ripped us away from our retreat ministry in 1993 and took us to Israel. The Hebraic foundations which He revealed for us to share are **relationally connected** (not centered on creedal or denominational positions). Living out these foundational truths is **dependent on repentance** (free of unconfessed sin and fully available to serve Father's will), and demonstrating love for our Father and our Lord Jesus through **trusting-obedience** (akin to our father Abraham who by trust was ready to obey God's commands no matter the outcome).

When we use the term "**obedience-based**" we're describing people who, first of all, deeply and fully appreciate the **saving grace** which they received through the blood of Jesus Who paid the penalty for their sins and saved them from deserved wrath. This love-ignited gratefulness for the new life in Christ which they received through Father's forgiveness and the regeneration of the Holy Spirit opens the door for them to live obedience-based. Their deep appreciation of saving grace is what motivated our Lord's first followers. Girded with the heartfelt foundation of loving trust and gratefulness, the obedience-based unwaveringly rely on **grace with purpose** that's given to anyone in Christ who commits their life to fulfilling Father's will.

In order to live this way, they find they have to resist the passivity of being **religious Christians**, what we've often called "complacent pew-sitters". For the obedience-based, a life which is dependent on grace with purpose completely separates them from the "outcome-based" who abound in Christianity today. Woven within the outcome-based is a thread of self-willed rebellion – "**God can't tell me what to do!**" These people may display "Christian kindness", but they resist the loving sacrifice of the obedience-based.

Christian history reveals that many churchgoers have been deceived and pacified through:

1. 🖱️ **anti-Semitic obsession with diverse creedal positions and specified religious practices;**
2. 🖱️ **replacing authentic Spirit-guided fellowship in homes with spectator gatherings in large edifices which were adapted from paganism;**
3. 🖱️ **spiritual passivity produced by the pansyism of academic-only instruction of the Bible.**

We certainly can't fully explain why our heavenly Father allowed the love-grounded way of life which our Lord Jesus's first followers evidenced by their obedient trust to be seduced by ecclesiastically-dominated Christianity over the centuries. But we do know that such widespread delusion spread through the early "Church Fathers" who were extremely anti-Semitic, even to the point of persecuting the Jews and calling for their destruction. As a result our heavenly Father was compelled to uphold His promise to Abraham, "*whoever curses you I will curse*" (Genesis 12:3). In keeping His promise to the Hebrew patriarch, His friend (James 2:23, as with 2Chronicles 20:7 and Isaiah 41:8), God allowed institutional Christianity to be deluded until recent decades. We firmly believe that as He continues to restore the Jewish people to the land of Israel which He promised them, He is also restoring the trusting obedience of Abraham to Gentile Christians. It's why He commanded us to call what we share, "**The Hebraic Restoration.**"

Over the years in which we've shared the Hebraic foundations, we've repeatedly emphasized **the interactive experience of obedience-based Christians with the Spirit of our Lord.** Out of grateful love we gladly live under the loving rule of our Lord Jesus, guided and empowered by His Spirit, so that by His grace with purpose we may fulfill our Father's will to His glory. When we're asked *why* we do what we do, we can clearly articulate how our Father's will was revealed to us. And because of Whose will we are fulfilling, we aren't given to fretting or worry like the outcome-based are.

If you are obedience-based, you are fully yielded to the rule of the Lord you love and are serving, while the outcome-based, as we stated earlier, have a thread of self-willed rebellion woven into their Christianity. This contrast is a repeated motif throughout the biblical record. The first example is Abel, who obeyed God completely while Cain did his own thing, even rebelling against God's command. (Much of the Book of Proverbs contrasts obedience and rebellious self-will.)

If our Father and our Lord Jesus are preeminent in your life, your spiritual journey would be described as **ongoing divine interaction that you experience.** Again, divine interaction occurs:

- +through the prayers of the repentant, resulting in Father answering and Him being glorified;
- +in receiving guidance and empowerment by the Holy Spirit,
- +in divinely orchestrated encounters and interventions.

This life experience is the way the obedience-based live, the way that's recorded in the Newer Testament. After we sent out our last Potpourri, we read in a daily devotional an anecdote by Corrie ten Boom about a divine intervention she experienced. As you marvel at the loving intervention of our Lord Who never fails, keep in mind the potential consequence she faced of imprisonment or even death that her "civil disobedience" could have brought about.

When I was there in Moscow, my suitcase [full of Russian Bibles I was smuggling into the country] was the last to receive the attention of the Russian customs officer. "Is that your suitcase, lady?" he asked. "Yes." "It is a heavy one!" "Yes." He looked around. "Wait. I am done with my work. I can help you carry it to the tourist car." He picked up the heavy suitcase and carried it to the car for me, never looking inside. How I rejoiced! "He has said, 'I will never fail you nor forsake you. Hence we can confidently say, 'The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid; what can man do to me?'" (Hebrews 13:5,6). Lord, give me the strength and wisdom to refuse to allow myself to be controlled by a difficult situation. I know that even the hairs of my head are numbered.

In the past we've cited other obedience-based followers of our Lord Jesus such as Richard and Sabina Wurmbrand and Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Some of you are inspired by their life stories.

But do you pray for the Holy Spirit to enable you to be obedience-based and out of love to act with the courage they did? Tonight while you're brushing your teeth, picture our Lord Jesus asking you, ***“Do you have any unconfessed sin? How did you respond in obedient trust today in which My Spirit empowered you, intervened on your behalf, or provided you with an encounter so you could be My redemptive ambassador?”*** The obedience-based are grateful to be able to respond with regular recall of these kinds of personal “God-sightings”! We want you to be among them...

Mike & Sue