



## POTPOURRI FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT

(guidances for you from Him)

Serving Our Lord Jesus Is To Be His Peacemaker  
*A peacemaker is His love personified!*

12-6-2024



Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Before this Christmas of 2024 comes we want to help you put the **love of Christ** into your gatherings. Once you've really experienced the love of our Lord Jesus, you want nothing less in your life. In this Potpourri we want to discuss what may be hindering you if you don't experience His love, and the need for His peacemakers to intervene where there's ongoing tension. Over the years as we established the Hebraic foundations in our own lives, we became more sensitive to the **insidious relational apprehension** with which a vast majority of Christians in the US are accustomed to living, even in their marriages. You'll find persistent apprehension wherever **ill feelings** or **bitterness** or **resentment** remain unconforted in your family or faith family or even your workplace. **Wherever apprehension exists, the love of Christ doesn't flourish!** Far too many Christians don't even realize they're not experiencing the love of our Lord Jesus.

There's been so little teaching in Christianity to reveal the demonic influence behind persistent apprehension. Nor has there been sufficient guidance into how to remove apprehension in relationships. **Academic-based Bible instruction** has done nothing to help. So over the years the Holy Spirit has had us respond to this void by producing written materials and videos to help free you from living in bondage to persistent apprehension (see box at right). Persistent apprehension not only blocks you from experiencing the love of our Lord Jesus. It also knocks the blossom off relationships that were meant to reveal His love and glorify our Father.

***"The righteous are as bold as lions"*** (Proverbs 28:1)

**Be a lion! Please use these helpful materials!**

- [Demolishing Strongholds Workbook](#)
- [Growing Relationships Through Confrontation](#)
- [Being An Outside Intervener Into Blind Loyalty To A Common Darkness](#)
- [Teaching E-mail 10. Apprehension: The Silent Destroyer.](#)
- [Teaching Email 19. Replacing Apprehension With Love](#)
- [Teaching E-mail 52. Riding The Seesaw Of Apprehension](#)
- [Lifebyte 40 Do You Confront For Jesus? Or, Placate For Satan?](#)
- [Mutually Growing Christ-like Relationships](#)
- [Is Interpersonal Apprehension Hindering You From Experiencing The Love Of Jesus?](#)
- [Jesus in Your Home Byte 62 Video. Confront Sources Of Apprehension](#)

Why is the persistent apprehension which pervades so many families and faith families not confronted? Because so many live with **demonic strongholds** and **tolerated sin**. In our workbook, *Demolishing Strongholds*, we write: **Demonic strongholds are relationship destroyers**. Strongholds reveal themselves in persistent apprehension by producing fear to confront or correct someone who habitually creates unease or disquiet in a relationship. As a result you can't live as bold as a lion because of your own tolerated unrighteousness (Proverbs 28:1).

📌 **Take this to heart:** Persistent apprehension reveals a demonic presence in your relationships by blocking you from experiencing the love of our Lord Jesus and deterring you from authentically sharing His love with others. Living with persistent apprehension by refusing to evict the demons in your soul or tolerating unconfessed sin in yourself is like going on a long trip with four flat tires which you're unwilling to put air in. Consider how this parallels your close relationships by you allowing persistent apprehension to go unconforted.



Within your family or faith family, apprehension often persists *if* the **apprehension prolonger isn't exposed**. This person thwarts any attempts to confront the persistent apprehension that's hurting you all. These apprehension prolongers are **'seemingly' deeply caring people**. But in reality, through their kind acts and pleasant demeanor, they're disguising their unwillingness to evict the demons which are influencing them to be in control. Nor are they willing to recognize and turn away from their own sins, especially attitudinal ones. The demonic beings lodged within the strongholds in their soul are masters of deceit, creating a delusion in the mind of the apprehension prolonger. That inner deceiving voice convinces them that by not allowing the emotional hurt to be voiced by those who are imprisoned in persistent apprehension, the prolonger is more caring than others are.



If you're the one who is beset by this deception, you may find yourself giving gifts to keep the recipients from intervening to confront the ongoing apprehension. In other words, your overt gift-giving is your way of **'purchasing favor.'** You want the people who receive your gifts to be obligated to you and to refrain from speaking up and "rocking the relational boat". But you don't see how others in your family or faith family are suffering emotionally from the unconflicted persistent apprehension. And if this situation continues, you're exercising **power over people**.

Here are two examples of people wielding relational power:

- We once talked with an older Christian couple and discovered that the wife's sister was estranged from her own daughter. The wife, however, had frequent contact with her niece. When we asked her if she'd tried to reconcile her sister and her daughter, she angrily snapped, "I don't want to. I enjoy hurting my sister!" Her husband knew about this sorry situation but did nothing to intervene.
- In a conversation a woman told us that as she was growing up she enjoyed playing the part of the "good daughter" who always pleased her parents. She then admitted that she liked making her younger sister look bad.



Apprehension prolongers are a **bull in a china shop**, unaware or unconcerned about their own destructive behavior. This situation often requires a **peacemaker** to intervene, a righteous person who is free of strongholds and unconfessed sin, someone through whom the Spirit of our Lord can reveal His love by reconciling the apprehensive parties.

***"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God"*** (Matthew 5:9).

While ministering at a retreat center, we conducted a number of multi-generational retreats in which the participants came from the same extended family. The grandparents from each clan didn't want to go to their graves with unresolved issues, so they scheduled a retreat for their whole family, and Mike was able to serve them as a peacemaker. This was a joy for us, since our Lord Jesus first began to train Mike to be His peacemaker while he was on active duty and was sent on assignments to confront unresolved issues. Later, he tried to help his own relatives in this capacity but found himself strongly opposed by the apprehension prolongers. He did, however, find more success in confronting and overcoming apprehension when he counseled religious leaders in various faith communities and ministries.

The intended spiritual fruit of a biblical peacemaker's labor is relational love and peace which reveal the presence of the Spirit of Jesus at work. The role of the peacemaker is to provide **Scriptural intervention**. The goal of a peacemaker's intervention is that the parties involved experience the **love and peace** which only our Lord Jesus can give. It's not just 'putting a bandaid on the prob-



lem.’ The goal of **the love and peace of our Lord Jesus** is the same whether you’re reconciling people who have relational apprehension that’s been caused by ill-feelings or bitterness, or adversaries whose differing views on a matter create apprehension that is hindering their loving care for each other.

Biblical peacemaking enables our Lord’s specific commands to be fulfilled: *“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you”* (John 15:12). *“Peacemakers who sow seed in peace raise a harvest of righteousness”* (James 3:18). *“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone”* (Romans 12:18).

A biblical peacemaker acts in the role of a Hebraic *nasi* (nah’see), facilitating the dialogue between the apprehensive parties. He or she ensures that each person who is involved ‘puts all their cards on the table.’ When Mike fulfilled the role of a peacemaker, he kept these principles in mind. But if one party kept refusing to pursue reconciliation, he would turn that person over to Satan until they repented (see 1Corinthians 5:5 and 1Timothy 1:20 for Paul’s example). And when the involved persons unwaveringly pursued love and peace in their relationship(s), it was wonderful to see our Lord’s words fulfilled, *“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives...”* (John 14:27). For more on being a peacemaker, we strongly encourage you to read: “Kingdom Living Today, 39. Peacemakers Sow And Reap A Harvest Of Righteousness.”

***“So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift”*** (Matthew 5:23,24).

**Time does not heal!**  
 Don't vainly hope that time will heal, or that things will get better *without first confronting the cause of the apprehension.*



If you let another person live in persistent apprehension because of an offense you've committed against them, you're violating God's Word. You need to make peace! If you allow this apprehension to continue, you will be unable to experience the love and peace of our Lord Jesus or be able to share these with others. This is why we feel so strongly in writing this Potpourri to you. This year please don't let yourself be bewitched by the widely used marketing mantra, **“spirit of Christmas”** if

those you care about are holding onto ill feelings/bitterness/resentment. Far better that you leave our Lord Jesus totally out of your holiday celebrations than mix Him with **persistent apprehension** which you are unwilling to confront.

**With Christ's love you can support a person while confronting them**

Throughout the Bible the ability to *support a person while confronting them* is the pattern of God’s people with each other. Consider just one redemptive verse, *“If your brother sins, go and show him his fault”* (Matthew 18:15; also James 5:20). Confrontation is not conflict! It’s like house cleaning in removing dirt and clutter so the living conditions are improved for all. Scriptural confrontation removes the darkness of tolerated demonic strongholds and unconfessed sin which cause persistent apprehension. In effect a freed person can **abide** in the fulness of the love relationship our Father offers in the New Covenant.

**SCRIPTURALLY-BASED CONFRONTATION IS NEVER CONFLICT**

**Scriptural Confrontation**  
*“WE have a problem”*  
 win-win



**Destructive Conflict**  
*“YOU have a problem”*  
 win-lose



### **Something for you to consider:**

We've frequently written about **abiding** in our heavenly Father and our Lord Jesus as you give them special prominence and preeminence in your life through the indwelling Holy Spirit. This relational abiding is demanded in our Lord's analogy of the Vine and its wholly dependent branches (John 15:1-10). Sadly though, throughout much of Christianity the reality of intimate abiding has been widely downplayed in favor of an individual's commitment to attending their religious services and adhering to their particular denomination's rituals and creedal positions. Also ignored or even unacknowledged is the reality that followers of Jesus who are free of strongholds and unconfessed sin can absolutely experience His love and extend it to others without expecting anything in return. Be confident of this: Because of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit (see 1John 3:24; 4:13,15), you can experience this abiding love — provided you don't quench His Spirit through tolerated darkness (see 1Thessalonians 5:19-22).

### **A Peacemaker Is A Loving Combination of Supporting And Confronting**

(Updated from our book, Growing Relationships Through Confrontation)

**Confrontation** evicts demons in relationships, brings people to repentance, and can produce the love and peace of our Lord Jesus where apprehension once existed. Note that biblical confrontation has nothing in common with conflict, which is rife in our society. Conflict directly posits one person against another so that there has to be a winner and a loser. In contrast, confrontation is redemptive by focusing on what is harming the relationship. And, in pursuing resolution a peacemaker must be a person of justice who relies on our Lord's specific foundational guidance from the Scriptures: *"So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets"* (Matthew 7:12). If you're an authentic peacemaker, you must be void of favoritism if you're to fulfill your peacemaking role as Jesus would through you.

Yes, there are certain risks in being a peacemaker as you confront interpersonal apprehension. But there are even greater risks in not confronting it. The real issue is not "whether or not to confront," but rather *"how and when to confront with loving effectiveness."* With *supportive confrontation*, relationships can be restored with love and peace blossoming in the manner our Lord desires. For some guiding principles whether you're the peacemaker or the person who wants to be out of bondage to persistent apprehension, <[click here](#)>

***"The righteous are as bold as lions"*** (Proverbs 28:1). If you find yourself fearful to serve as our Lord's peacemaker *or* distressed to discover that you are an apprehension prolonger, then be sure that you have demonic strongholds you need to demolish, and/or sin of which you need to repent. You don't have to *try* to be a lion! It's a natural character quality of the righteous because the indwelling Holy Spirit emboldens you and speaks through you to the glory of our Father (Matthew 10:19,20).