

RESTORATION MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

Prophetic Insight

12/5/2019 “Therefore we must pay much more careful heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away”

You Must Go Back for Your Future

Dear Friends In Christ Jesus,

In our early days of sharing the Hebraic foundations through our seminars and the materials we produced, we often used the phrase *You Must Go Back for Your Future*. Many times over the years the Holy Spirit has impressed on our hearts to repeat this encouraging word.

In recent weeks the Spirit has been reminding both of us about the emotionally painful experiences we went through ourselves in order to throw off the vestiges of **Nicolaitanism** and **Hellenism** in our own lives. When it comes to faith practices and traditions, it's so difficult to ever believe that you've been lied to. But, the underlying goal and establishment practices of Nicolaitanism and Hellenism is to do just that: to deceive people through **LIES!**

Please prayerfully consider what our Lord's Spirit has revealed to us concerning the powerful pandemic captivity which these two forces have inflicted on Christians for hundreds of years. Through His prompting we've reflected back on our own experiences when we were held captive by these two prison-keepers, **Nicolaitanism** and **Hellenism**. Here are some observations for you to discuss with others close to you as you follow Jesus as Lord of your life.

1. Because of the widespread centuries' long influence of Hellenism through humanist public education as well as within much of organized Christianity, most Christians see themselves as the **center of their own world**. They have no inclination to discern and obey our Father and carry out His specific will and purposes in their lives.

Think of the Christians you know. How many ever tell you that they are seeking the **rhema** of the Holy Spirit that would reveal the specific will of our Father for the decisions and choices in their lives? If they're honest, most would instead confess that their lives are motivated by what's *advantageous to them* — which means **they are the center of their world!**

Giving God “lip service” but living for self is inherent in the Hellenist practice of lecturing people about *Bible content* the same way they learn history or math or science: hearing information with no expectation that their lives will be changed by it! But relegating God's Word into a category of “interesting truths” which require no alteration in your life just fosters more “Christian” **ME-centeredness**.

Acquiring Bible knowledge has been exalted as some sort of “intellectual connection” between our Father and Christians even when there is no Spirit-breathed determination to put what's been learned into practice.

What a sorry contrast to the biblically Hebraic way of discipling followers of Jesus: spiritually mature role models come alongside disciples who hunger to walk in the steps of Jesus their

¹ “This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘Give careful thought to your ways’” (Haggai 1:7).

Lord. These are the 2Timothy 2:2 “reliable men and women” who love their younger companions in the faith enough to confront them when necessary as well as to encourage and spur them on in their obedient trust. That’s the *reproducible pattern* of biblical discipleship by which previous disciples are equipped to reach and disciple others.

Sadly, through the Hellenist influence even public worship is ME-centered, focusing on how you feel during religious services rather than fixing your attention with grateful awe on the holy God Who should be the center of your worship.

Even sadder for so many who consider themselves “Christian” is the absence of the Spirit of our Lord Jesus within them because they have never been born from above — and they don’t even miss His absence. Yet the Spirit is THE source of connection between our Father, His Son Jesus and the individual. How tragic that so many especially within Protestant circles have embraced a shallow “**Sinners Prayer**” or “**Health And Wealth Gospel**” — neither of which represents the authentic Gospel of the LORDship of Jesus in the life and heart of His repentant, Spirit-indwelled follower.

In effect, Hellenism’s evil influence is a *barrier* throughout Christendom. By convincing people that they are basically good, the deceit is perpetuated that you don’t have to repent or crucify your self will to Jesus. But from our heavenly Father’s perspective we human beings are desperately sinful and enslaved to our sin nature! (See Romans 1:8-32 for Paul’s account of how detestable to God are the thoughts and practices of people apart from Christ in them.) If someone’s sinful actions and attitudes and motives *aren’t* utterly sinful to them, they won’t desperately flee them and run to Jesus for forgiveness. And shrugging off the reality of their sinful depravity shows that they have neither understanding nor appreciation of what the Cross cost our Father to watch His precious sinless Son die on humanity’s behalf.

Hellenist-molded religious leaders readily deceive people into believing that they won’t be held accountable by a holy God at the Judgment no matter how sin-dominated their lives are.- So the spiritually blind and deaf sit placidly before entertaining pulpiteers who avoid all mention of sin and repentance. They purposely avoid the truth that our holy Father cannot be in the presence of sin, and that reconciliation with Him comes only by becoming a new creation through repentance and obedient trust in Jesus. Apart from the indwelling Holy Spirit in their lives, people ARE subject to a much-deserved wrath — a reality you aren’t hearing in today’s self-help, self-gratifying pulpit sermonettes.

In sharp contrast, the biblically Hebraic truth is that the Holy Spirit is our Father’s primary connection to provide His direction to His children. Through His indwelling Spirit we are empowered and inclined *do His will* and *fulfill His purposes* (see Philipians 2:12-15).

2. The overriding influence of **Nicolaitanism** within Christendom further strengthens Hellenist captivity by placing an “ordained individual” above and between a person and our heavenly Father. This practice is evident particularly in the organizational process of seeking converts: people are recruited into a religious system, whether a denomination or a congregation.

The clergy person is seen as Christ's representative, a "surrogate Head" to mediate between Jesus and the individual in the pew. By allowing this deception to continue, clerics minimize or even nullify the scriptural truth of Lord Jesus as the only Head of His called-out ones and His Spirit as the crucial connection to our Father.

A further Nicolaitan practice reinforces the captivity of those in the pew: teaching which emphasizes the individual as **the center of their personal world**. This means that self-identifying "Christians" are free to live any way they want, even according to the world's standards — because they're assured they are not "under the Law" of a righteous and holy God. Shame on those who make their listeners twice the sons of hell as they are (Matthew 23:15,33)!

***"Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins
and will raise up the age-old foundations;
you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls,
Restorer of Streets with Dwellings"*** (Isaiah 58:12).

After 25 years of endeavoring to live out the Hebraic foundations through the grace of our Lord Jesus, we daily seek to view our lives on earth from our heavenly Father's vantage point and purposes. In this light you're able to see the continuity of His Person and His ways throughout the entire Bible. You feel **His love and compassion toward mankind**, as well as **His willingness to forgive** from the beginning of Scripture to the end. He has clearly made His provision for us known in His Son Jesus!

The doorway for each and every person is repentance, intentionally turning away from sin and turning toward Father through Jesus. Our initial repentance brings our justification through trust in Christ, and our being made new by His Spirit's incoming begins Father-child fellowship. And all throughout our pilgrimage on earth, we have the assurance of experiencing that fellowship of love as we continue to repent when we do sin.

As you continue to press on in your pilgrimage in the Spirit, you grasp in your innermost understanding that Father uses those whom He already knows will relate to Him according to His motives and purposes. The decisive truth: Our Lord chooses a person to carry out His purposes on earth. Jesus was speaking to all who authentically follow Him:

"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit — fruit that will last — and so that whatever you ask in My Name the Father will give you" (John 15:16).

The important questions you need to ask yourself are:

- "Who do I live for? For *me*?" or for my heavenly Father?"
- "What actions am I doing — and what choices am I making — that prove my Father's will is being fulfilled by me?"

With the Hebraic advantage of looking at yourself from our Father's viewpoint, you won't get mired in theological arguments about law and grace, about adherence to creeds and traditions, nor in allowing a human being to come between you and your Father. Nor do arguments over "once saved, always saved," or "you can lose your salvation" even arise as an issue.

Please, unless you ask the Holy Spirit if what we are sharing emanates from our heavenly Father for such a time as this, you'll squander the opportunity to view your life and the events that have occurred in it from His perspective. And, if you believe that you are doing Father's will and living as a vessel of Christ's love toward others, then you can clearly make known how the Holy Spirit showed you through His *rhema* what He wanted you to do.

Mike & Sue
(2Corinthians 5:11)