

The Gospel of the Covenant Is the Pilgrimage to Salvation

Preparing For Pentecost

To Do The Father's Will, You Must Have His Spirit's Guidance

*Please prayerfully take your time going through each section of this lesson and consider **both** the information and the questions. Your heartfelt responsiveness and determination matter to our Lord, so don't try to complete an entire lesson at once. Also, you'll reap greater benefit if you go through each lesson with others close to you.*

Pentecost: Deeply Appreciated Then, Under-Appreciated Now

1. Pentecost was the day on which Jews from all over gathered in Jerusalem to hear the reading of their Father's righteous commands (Acts 2:1,5). Out of the depth of love for Him, the Hebraic stream came to hear and renew the terms of their covenant with Him (see Deuteronomy 29:9; Jeremiah 11:2,3,6).



3. Our Father's righteous commands and terms of keeping Covenant with Him, along with the guidance and empowerment of His Spirit to those who trusted in His Son, all came together on Pentecost.



2. Pentecost was also the day foretold by Jesus to His followers to expect to receive spiritual power from the Holy Spirit for service (Acts 1:8). His promise still remains in effect for every person who is born again (Acts 2:38,39).



4. The value of celebrating Pentecost is vastly under-appreciated today. It's time that the born again cherish this set-apart day as our Hebraic forefathers in Christ did. We need to reaffirm our Father's terms (stipulations) of His Covenant, jointly declaring that we will carry out His will by depending on His Spirit.

"I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with EVERYONE born of the Spirit"

(John 3:5,8).

Our Lord Jesus describes a born again person as someone whose life is led by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:14). The one who is indeed born of the Spirit refuses to live spiritually cloistered, either by shutting themselves in or shutting others out—that's not the *love* of Christ He calls for! The privilege of being His ambassador to a lost world compels the spiritually reborn to seek His Spirit's guidance.

[For further discussion on how crucial it is to live as Jesus did, doing the Father's will by His Spirit, see Teaching E-mail 69. *Not My Will But Yours Be Done.*]

"Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit"

(Galatians 5:24,25; see also Romans 8:5-17).

Do you realize that we who are born again have nailed our sin nature to the cross of our Lord? Our death to our sin nature is why we need to be baptized after our new birth (see Romans 6:3-7; 1Peter 3:21). And while we will at times fail to resist temptation and give in to sin, we don't live *as slaves* to our sin nature. It's with this understanding that we can keep in step with the Spirit as we purposely live to do our Father's will.

In order for you to do His will He has given you two sources to know *how* He wants you to live and *what* He wants to you do. Two words in the Bible when

translated into English mean “word”: *logos* and *rhema*.

Logos represents God’s ways and thoughts which are forever unchangeable. The Bible is the recorded part of God’s *logos* written down for mankind to live by. It conveys His general requirements for people to live righteously and please Him. And it’s from His *logos* that His Spirit inspires each person to develop life applications (*halakhahs*)—biblically-based principles that govern our lives.



Rhema is that specific word of direction or insight given by the Spirit to guide you at a particular time. This word may come as the Spirit quickens a certain passage of Scripture by which you sense He’s directing you to do something. At other times a distinct word comes for you through a prophecy or a word of knowledge. Also, you may hear His Spirit directing you as you pray, or from other followers of Jesus on your behalf.

Both God’s *logos* and *rhema* are His means to guide His own to live a life that’s set apart to be pleasing to Him in doing His will (Romans 12:1,2). Again, the Bible is the primary source book for biblical applications that through the Spirit will help you establish Christ-like character qualities. God’s Word is also a source of *rhema* to give you specific guidance. Our Lord Jesus addresses the central priority of *rhema* as the life-giving source to knowing our Father’s specific will:

“Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word (*rhema*) that comes from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4).

Seeking *rhema* is to followers of Jesus what gathering manna was for the Israelites during the Exodus:

“He gave you manna to eat in the desert... to

Logos and *Rhema*

Don’t over-emphasize *logos* at the cost of *rhema*

Centuries of over-emphasizing the study of the *logos* with little regard for applying it or seeking the Spirit’s *rhema* have created spiritual lethargy.

Sadly, the *logos* has become an academic book read for content or historical value, lectured from within a classroom setting or from a pulpit.



Keep *logos* and *rhema* in balance



- The Bible is our Father’s revelation of His holy nature, His plan of redemption, and His righteous commands which specify a way of life that’s *opposite* the world’s values & ways.
- The Bible also reveals how He interacted with people in the past, especially with the Hebrews, so we may learn from them.
- The Bible reveals that our Father’s *specific will* for each of His children to carry out is given through *rhema*.
 - > To do His will, you must have *His rhema*.
 - > To receive His *rhema*, you must want to do His will in His way and His timing.

humble and to test you so that in the end it might go well with you” (Deuteronomy 8:16).

Too many within Christendom today have only studied and been taught the Bible like an academic textbook. The old adage, “**knowledge is power,**” certainly applies to those who use God’s Word to gain facts they can flaunt before others. But even Bible knowledge can become egotistical: “**Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up**” (1Corinthians 8:1). Those

who have acquired *logos*-knowledge alone often disdain unbelievers. Few find themselves *loving* the lost as Jesus would. All too often their disregard of love or unwillingness to love is the result of overemphasizing the *logos* with no regard for *rhema*. Overemphasizing Bible knowledge *without hearing from the Spirit* and without love for Jesus or for others has produced millions of “cloistered” Christians who refuse to be the beloved slave-servants and family of our Lord to do His Father’s will (see Luke 17:10).

- Can you cite five instances of the Spirit’s *rhema* to you that you’ve acted upon?
- Are you in a faith community where you regularly hear testimonies of *rhema* being received and acted upon?

Examples of *Rhema* in King David’s Life

The Bible as *logos* tells us that King David was a “*man after God’s own heart*” (Acts 13:22). Isn’t that how each of us should want to be known? The Hebraic first followers of our Lord understood from the Older Testament how important it was to seek God’s specific guidance: with obedience came victory.

David sought God’s specific guidance for each of his battles since he recognized that His directions weren’t always the same. For example, when the Philistines attacked Israel after David’s anointing,

“David inquired of the Lord, ‘Shall I go and attack the Philistines? Will you hand them over to me?’ The Lord answered him, ‘Go, for I will surely hand the Philistines over to you’” (2 Samuel 5:19).

On another occasion when the Philistines attacked, David again prayed. This time God gave him a different strategy:

So David inquired of the Lord, and He answered, ‘Do not go straight up, but circle

around behind them and attack them in front of the balsam trees. As soon as you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, move quickly, because that will mean the Lord has gone out in front of you to strike the Philistine army’ (2 Samuel 5:23,24).

During David’s reign there was a famine for three successive years:

“So David sought the face of the LORD. The LORD said, ‘It is on account of Saul and his blood-stained house; it is because he put the Gibeonites to death’ (2 Samuel 21:1).

David then took specific steps to address this past sin and alleviate the famine.

After the king was settled in his palace and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies, he desired to build a temple for the Lord:

“That night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying: ‘Go and tell My servant David, ‘This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build Me a house to dwell in?’” (2 Samuel 7:4,5; see 7:6-17).

Examples of *Rhema* in the Newer Testament

• When Joseph realized that Mary was pregnant by someone else, he intended to divorce her:

“But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit’” (Matthew 1:20).

• After Jesus was born, an angel again appeared to Joseph with a *rhema*:

“‘Get up,’ he said, ‘take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him’” (Matthew 2:13).

- God saw the devout heart of the Roman centurion Cornelius and responded:

“One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, ‘Cornelius!’” (Acts 10:3).

- In order to overcome Peter’s reluctance to bring a message to the gentile Cornelius, He gave the apostle a vision which led to a specific response:

“He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles of the earth and birds of the air. Then a voice told him, ‘Get up, Peter. Kill and eat’” (Acts 10:11-13).

- Through a vision God guided His servant Paul to preach to the Macedonians:

“During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, ‘Come over to Macedonia and help us’” (Acts 16:9).

- After Paul’s arrest in Jerusalem, Lord Jesus let him know where his chains would ultimately lead:

“The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, ‘Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome’” (Acts 23:11).

In both Testaments are numerous examples of our Father’s children not only being guided by His *rhema* but also being ready to act on it. These are decisive examples for the born again if they are to be His ambassadors fulfilling His will. But be aware that He only entrusts His *rhema* to those He knows will do His will. If you’re not receiving His *rhema*, it’s imperative you find out why. Keep our Lord’s warning at the forefront of your

earthly pilgrimage:

*“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but **ONLY he who does the will of My Father Who is in heaven**” (Matthew 7:21).*

Note this important point:

Just because God has provided specific guidance for a particular situation in your life or in someone else’s doesn’t mean that this particular direction will apply for *all* situations you encounter. Joshua and his people were given the *rhema* to march around Jericho seven times to gain the victory (see Joshua 6), yet God revealed other strategies for subsequent battles requiring His guidance.

Our Lord intends that we learn from the examples inscribed in His Word, even the mistakes (1 Corinthians 10:11). For instance, as the Israelites neared the Promised Land (see Joshua 9) they failed to confirm God’s will—and it cost them. The Gibeonites resorted to a ruse and approached the Israelites pretending to be from far away. Rather than seeking God’s guidance, Joshua and the leaders believed their lie.

This scenario is often repeated even in the lives of Christians today. The closer you get to fulfilling His will, the more susceptible you are to being tricked by Satan IF you don’t seek the Spirit’s *rhema*.

[For further discussion on *rhema*, see: The Way of the Lord, *Lesson 30. Living With Jesus As Lord: His Guidance Is Essential*; Proclaiming Freedom For The Captives And Release From Darkness For The Prisoners: *Lessons 7 & 8. Trust In The Spirit’s Rhema*; Discussing How To Restore The Early Church, *Lesson 39. Rhema, Seeking God’s Specific Guidance*; Discussing How To Restore The Early Church, *Lesson 48. Seek Rhema, Establish Halakhahs, Ensure They’re Followed.*]

- Would those who know your faith walk describe you as a “stagnant Christian” who has little or no heart to do the Father’s will?