

5/15/2026
Prophetic
Nugget

THE GENUINE'S LIFE EVIDENCES OUR LORD JESUS

Our Lord Jesus Mandates Your Complete Deference

A Holy Spirit-guided/empowered way of life is promised in the New Covenant.



For the best spiritual benefit, please prayerfully discuss this Nugget with those with you on your faith pilgrimage.

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Have you recognized how scarce in Christianity are •complete deference to our Lord Jesus and •living repentantly? Four decades ago when Mike was in his late 30s he was conducting a men's retreat at the center where we lived and taught for over 10 years. His emphasis that day was the indispensable Christ-like character quality of **deference**, a quality which had rapidly been disappearing in the US following the rebellious 1960s. The older men in the group interrupted Mike because they realized the younger men weren't grasping the crucial significance of what he was saying. One man piped up on behalf of the older guys, "Mike, you're a dying buffalo! You're one of the last people who understands the importance of deference in the life of a Christian." (How Mike's upbringing and the influence of older men who taught him deference is a topic for another Nugget.)

During our time at the retreat center Mike also discovered why *deference* and even teaching about *God our Father* was seldom taught from pulpits. It turned out that the majority of clergy whom Mike counseled over the years had unresolved issues with their earthly fathers. As a result of this personal discord, most avoided sermons about our heavenly Father. Nor did many emphasize the vital importance of deference in their relationship with our Lord.

(For an overview of deference, read Chapter 9, "Following Jesus As Lord Requires Your Deference" in our online book *Pastoring By Elders*)

Matthew 8:5-13 records an example of **deference** which our Lord Jesus highly commended. A Roman centurion had come to Him to ask for the healing of his servant. When Jesus heard the deference in the soldier's explanation, He marveled, "*Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!*" (v.10). He then gave this warning to the Jews whose religious arrogance made them so self-assured about their standing with God but who failed to show Him deference:

"I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of the heavens. But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 8:11,12).

This rebuke was needed because a number of Jews thought their religious status was secure just by being Jewish and trying to obey God's laws. But their vain self-appraisal is just as applicable to many Christians today. Being a "Christian" is a label for just about anyone who "goes to church" or is "a good person". In the years since leaving the retreat center and sharing the Hebraic foundations, our efforts to help Christians acquire the vital character quality of **complete deference** have been as futile as convincing them of their need to **live repentantly**



Christians today may have traces of humility in their walk, but don't live in complete deference to our Lord Jesus. Why? They have areas of their life which they refuse to relinquish control. Many ignore or defy our Lord's commands, or fear He may command them to do something they don't want to do, or go where they resist going.

When you don't give our Lord Jesus complete deference, you have created an idol of yourself.

out of loving regard for the Lord Who is their Master. We sadly found that the absence of living repentantly and the failure to give complete deference to our Lord Jesus revealed how powerfully their **sin nature** controlled their attitudes and actions. Examine yourself. If you hold back something from the rule of our Lord Jesus because you want to be in control, you're opening yourself to all kinds of fears, misgivings, and possibly even questioning whether you're saved. 🙏 Without complete deference to Jesus as your Lord, you can't live the life of the genuinely born again. **Deference** that's achieved through your **love-based obedient trust** is indispensable for the *genuine*.

In Practice 5 of our series, *Coaching Fathers To Serve Lord Jesus* we wrote: Since the 1960s our nation has been in severe moral decline, and the descent is plunging!... When a society becomes this degenerate, it's because the majority of people make the pursuit of pleasure and sensual self-indulgence a major focus of their lives. Since the '60s parents have resisted disciplining and correcting children to the extent that NO no longer means NO! Thanks to the influence of Dr. Benjamin Spock and the widespread impact of humanism in public institutions of higher education, resisting sinful drives has become passé. Selfishness, rebelliousness, covetousness, and other passions which emanate from our sin nature are unrestrained. (See Practice 5 for further understanding of the deep impact of Dr. Spock on society and on Christian parenting, and the unchecked influence of humanism on the national psyche.)

"I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after My heart, who will do all My will"
(Acts 13:22b).

David lived with complete deference to the spiritual guidance (*rhema*) our Lord gave him so that he would succeed. David deferred to God out of loving and obedient trust in Him, as so many of his psalms testify. No less deference is demanded of the *genuinely* born again as the bedrock of their loving obedience to Him, especially since the Holy Spirit is within them. Would our Lord be able to say that YOU are a person after His own heart who does His will? If you're unable to give a resounding "YES!", then where does that place you in His sight? As with David's complete deference, the Hebraic Restoration finds much of its basis on the obedience-based deference of our Lord's Hebrew friend, Abraham (James 2:23). The patriarch is noted for the complete deference he gave God by immediately obeying whatever he was commanded to do. This response of obedient trust is no less so for the *genuine* of today. Is the deference of you trusting obedience able to respond as willingly as Abraham did regarding his son Isaac? (Also see Matthew 10:37-39.)



As a matter of Biblical fact, to live *genuinely* born again you must anchor your life choices in the complete deference which our Lord Jesus gave to doing His Father's will: ***"For I have come down from heaven not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me"*** (John 6:38). First, doing Father's will as our Lord did is an identifier of you belonging to Him: ***"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven"*** (Matthew 7:21); ***"For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother"*** (Matthew 12:50). Second, it's vital to know that followers of Jesus who live doing Father's will are able to verify the truths of God's Word: ***"Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will know whether My teaching comes from God or whether I speak on My own"*** (John 7:17). If you refuse to do Father's will, you'll set yourself up to being deceived.

Complete deference to our Lord Jesus is the only means for you to bear fruit to our Father's glory.

Father Has A Wonderful Purpose For Your Complete Deference

During the Exodus, God intended to raise up the Israelites to be His beloved people who would live under His authority and give Him complete deference — full control of their lives. They NEEDED Him since only God knew the way to the Promised Land, and only He could perform the impossible: provide food, water, and guidance across the empty wasteland. He wanted the Israelites to offer Him obedient trust as His own treasured possession since they were to be His testimony to the pagan world. And out of love-grounded obedient trust no matter what hardships we go through along our life's journey, our Lord wants to use the *genuine* who give Him complete deference to accomplish His specific purposes.

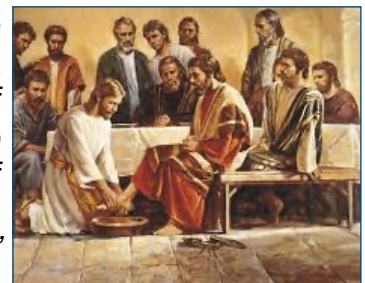
Here's a true story of a family on the mission field in the jungle. It epitomizes the complete deference of a trusting child toward his father. A young boy was walking toward his father, and as he was about to pass under a hanging limb the father yelled, "Son, duck!!!" With no hesitation the boy immediately fell to the ground. Hanging on the limb was a poisonous viper.

- If our Lord commanded you to "duck", would you act immediately? Or waver by asking Him "Why?"

The Complete Deference Of The Genuinely Born Again

"They overcame him [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives even unto death" (Revelation 12:11).

Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego exercised complete deference to their Lord in the face of death, whether in a lion pit or a fiery furnace. These men are inspiring examples to anchor for yourself if you're *genuinely* born again — refusing to love your life even unto death. Our Lord Jesus is warning each of us to resist any thoughts of self-willed preservation: *"For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it"* (Mark 8:35). Losing control of your life is a heartfelt motivation at the core of complete deference to our Lord Jesus. Remind yourself that it's His Spirit in the *genuine* that enables us to be 'dead to ourselves'.



**Deference is humility
put into actions.**

(For further insight into deference, read Lifebyte 9, *The Book of Daniel (Chapters 1-3)* •Personal Responsibility •Deference •God-dependence; and Lifebyte 10, *The Book of Daniel (Chapters 4-6)* •Humility •Glorifying our Father)

"You are the 'relational arm' of what our heavenly Father is restoring today."

After our return from Israel with the Hebraic foundations, we were told by the leaders of a particular ministry that we are the 'relational arm' of what is being restored to followers of Jesus. Intimately relating to our Father and Lord Jesus is at the heart of what we've been sharing over the years. Others have been called to theologically argue certain points about the restoration. But that isn't Father's assignment for us. Our relationship with our heavenly Father and the complete deference we give to our Lord Jesus are what enable us to share boldly in advance of the Dark Days of Chastisement which will descend on the US. In preparation for this devastating period these truths are being made a way of life by the *genuine* who have the **grace with purpose** to do Father's will and bring Him glory. These brothers and sisters already live with love-based obedient trust. Unlike many self-identified Christians, they aren't outcome-based trying to achieve specific self-set goals, nor are they bent on pursuing their own desires.

Only the *genuine* who live with Jesus as their Lord possess complete deference.

In Teaching Email 72. *Does the Deference of Jesus Abide in You?*, we wrote that the stronghold of deceit keeps many from the fullness of a relationship with our Father and our Lord Jesus. Satan is a master deceiver, and deceit's symptoms of *rationalization, wrong doctrine or misuse of Scripture, syncretism, and delusion* result in much of modern Christendom being a demonic prison camp. And who are the prison guards? Wherever a **clergy-centered religious system** exists, the rule of our Lord Jesus and the guidance and empowerment of the Holy Spirit are minimized or even eliminated. Many of you who are reading this are fruit of this evil intermediary system that gives no deference to Jesus as Lord of the life of each of His own.

When Jesus isn't Lord of all of your life and you're not totally obedience-based in love-grounded trust, you are vulnerable to man-contrived techniques in Christianity that please your sin nature-influenced soul. You are enticed into prayer techniques such as repetitive prayer rituals or emotion-pleasing forms of worship while you still hold onto unconfessed sin. These unbiblical religious fabrications give you a soulish religious experience, but they're not based on your spirit interacting with the Holy Spirit.

The worst fear of Nicolaitan clergy dominance is that you would submit to the rule of Jesus as Lord and rely on the guidance and empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

If you think the above statement is too brash, ask yourself how has the Holy Spirit been guiding your life so you can testify to the specific direction He has given you? How has He been using you through the spiritual gifts He has apportioned to you so that you're fulfilling Father's purposes? If you can't answer these questions which would attest to the reality of the Spirit in you, then Nicolaitanism has influenced and imprisoned you.

Even many clergy are imprisoned by their fear of being displaced from the dominating power which that position holds in Nicolaitanism. It's a difficult addiction to let go of. History reveals that Nicolaitanism was embraced by the Roman Catholic hierarchy who adopted the autocratic rule of the Roman Empire to cement their power and influence. Clergy dominance later was ingrained into most Protestant denominations as a position of control, ignoring the biblical call for wise older men —elders— to disciple and shepherd each flock. We've been blessed to meet defrocked clergy who were removed by their denomination when they submitted to the Lordship of Jesus and experienced the indispensable role of the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit.

They're not alone! During the past 25 years over 20 million have fled institutional Christianity in the US so they might experience a more spiritually intimate walk of obedient trust and authentic fellowship in His Spirit like our earliest Hebraic forefathers did. And most totally rely on the authority of Scripture without theological filters and denominational biases. In complete deference to the rule of our Lord Jesus in their lives, they had the courage to flee religious systems and institutional structures. May each of them experience the very personal *Abba*/child relationship with our heavenly Father and delight in the rule of our Lord Jesus! This is the relational intimacy of the New Covenant in union with Christ by the Holy Spirit.

Our Father wants His children in Christ to interact with Him in total dependence by His Spirit. This has to be at the core of understanding your own trust in Him as Abraham did. Our prayerful hope is that you would embrace the singular authority of Scripture. God's Word is the Holy Spirit's guiding source for your life. We've been sharing the Lord of Scripture, not a theologically-contrived view of Him. He is a Father Who interacts intimately with His children in Jesus through the abiding Holy Spirit and uses His children to fulfill His purposes. This is the spiritually abundant life to which the Bible speaks. Are you living this way?