



THE GENUINE'S LIFE EVIDENCES OUR LORD JESUS

Would Our Lord Jesus Commend You As His Ambassador?

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,

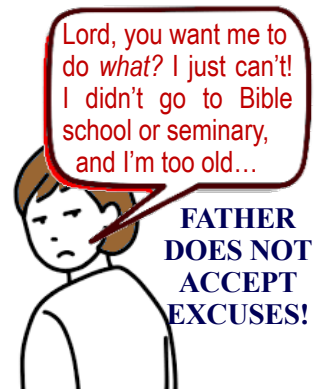
A number of years ago our heavenly Father informed us for the first time of His forthcoming chastisement of the US for collective **tolerated sin** and **cowardly men** — a warning which we've often voiced in our materials. It saddens us to realize how few have taken this warning to heart. They've just continued living their "Christian" lives as they see fit, focused on their own values and goals and satisfaction. But **if** you're *genuinely* born again, we earnestly hope that your life is firmly and unwaveringly anchored on God's unchanging Word. This is vital, because the difficult times that will swoop down upon you and/or your progeny will scathe your soul. We aren't being "alarmist"! Rather, we're urging you to live more purposefully in being rooted and built up and strengthened in obedient trust in Jesus as Lord of your life (Colossians 2:6,7).

Now is the time if you're *genuine* to **intentionally develop relationships** that are held together through biblically-based values (**value-based relationships**). Keep this biblical truth in mind: Because of the divine presence of the Holy Spirit within each *genuine* follower of Christ, there is a specialness, a holy love-grounded distinctive both in your relationship with Father and Lord Jesus and with each other which nominal Christians and unbelievers don't experience. It's the mutual specialness of the *genuine's* relationships with each other that enables them to live **obedience-based** as ambassadors of our Lord Jesus.

FYI: Father is fully aware of what He can do through His children who live obedience-based out of their grateful love for Him and for His Son Jesus. For many centuries He has viewed with delight what the Holy Spirit has accomplished in His children as they have fulfilled His purposes. Father neither needs nor depends on your human proficiency or capability in order for Him to use you for His purposes, whether individually or collectively. The Spirit of Christ in the *genuine* enables far more to be accomplished through them than human capabilities ever can. That's why these revitalizing words strengthen us as Christ's own: **"Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the LORD Almighty**" (Zechariah 4:6).

Maybe you are one of the *genuinely* born again who has been falsely led into believing that our heavenly Father couldn't use you because of your perceived inadequacies, such as: •"I don't 'measure up' to folks who are in full-time ministry." •Or, "I'm too old for God to use me." (Mike and Sue are 80 and 78 as we send out this Nugget, and our hearts overflow with joy in how our Lord has made Psalms 92:14 so real for us!)

We strongly encourage you to cast aside your doubt and misgivings about Father using you. His unfailing Vertical perspective sees you in ways that you can't picture about yourself. **"People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart"** (1Samuel 16:7b). He is focused on your **heart motive** to fulfill His purposes for His glory, foremost of which is to obediently live in loving trust as His Son's ambassador (see 2Corinthians 5:14-21). Again, God's way are not man's ways (Isaiah 55:8,9). So take to heart what our Lord Jesus says about His Father's "kids" who seem insignificant compared to the world's standards of achievement: **"I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and understanding**



and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was Your gracious will" (Matthew 11:25,26; see also 1Corinthians 1:27). In union with Christ you are never insignificant or unable when Father is calling you to do His will!



If you're a senior, remember that Moses was age 80 when God called him. The man who led millions out of Egypt initially balked and gave God excuses: "O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue" (Exodus 4:10). God's response to Moses's attempt to evade obedience? "So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses..." (Exodus 4:14a). Making excuses for your disobedience to our Father is a situation in which you as a *genuine* should never find yourself.

(On page 6 of Lesson 40 in our series, *Discussing How To Restore The Early Church*, we offer a lively insight into how mere human evaluation of people can be so off-base. Please take a moment to read the humorous memorandum from *Jordan Management Consultants, Jerusalem*).

A reminder from our previous Nugget: Holy living means being set apart in Christ to fulfill Father's purposes. Being "holy" is a command from Father that's repeated throughout both testaments. It's His specific call to be holy because He is holy. "Holiness" isn't confined to a specific occupation. We've learned over the years that wherever Father puts us, whether where we live or what job we do, we are primarily there for the souls He wants us to reach as **ambassadors** of His Son, Jesus Christ. This viewpoint stands in stark contrast to the centuries of Nicolaitan clergy dominance of nominal Christians. This domination is the primary cause that so many in Christianity feel unworthy or inadequate for Father to use them. Anchor this for yourself: If you belong to Jesus as your Lord, then Father calls you to live a holy life (1Peter 1:16). Your holy life is enacted in doing His will in the power of His Spirit in you. And foremost in His will for you is to live as our Lord Jesus's ambassador!



We live with ***firm resolve*** because of the Holy Spirit within the *genuine*. Our hearts are filled by His grace with strong unwavering determination to please our heavenly Father. This undergirds our ***steadfast commitment*** as our Lord's ambassadors to reconcile unbelievers to our heavenly Father. Mutually committed ambassadors are a Spirit-empowered force in the Kingdom!

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).



In order for you to become *genuinely* born again, Father revealed Jesus to you so that you'd put your trust in Him: "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day" (John 6:44; also John 6:65). You initially perceived Jesus as your Savior. But that isn't where your relationship with Him ends. You are also called to live ruled by Jesus as your Lord so that your life fulfills Father's purposes to His glory just as our Lord lived.

Throughout your life the Spirit of our Lord enables you to live with the same obedient motives of our Lord Jesus: "*Therefore, my beloved, as*

you [plural] have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but now much more in my absence, work out the salvation of yourselves with fear and trembling, for God is the One working in you [plural] both to will and to work for His good pleasure" (Philippians 2:12,13. literal). This is written in the plural so that mutually your value-based faith family who are walking with you on your journey to your salvation are living to please our heavenly Father as well.



LOVE & HUMILITY PERSONIFIED

Love and *humility* are foremost character qualities which the *genuinely* born again must acquire via the Holy Spirit. As with our Lord Jesus, love is a character quality that compels the *genuine* to fulfill all our heavenly Father's purposes for His glory. And humility is the character quality that upholds the dignity of others.

❖ We've just described the ongoing life of the *genuine* of which the Bible speaks. Again, one of the key purposes for your life is the salvation of mankind for which the *genuine* are our Lord Jesus's ambassadors of reconciliation.

"All this is from God, Who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God" (2Corinthians 5:18-20).

Being an ambassador of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords is no small calling. No one who is *genuine* should ever fail to appreciate the immense privilege of living as Christ's ambassador, seeing other people through His eyes. And in serving Him, we must become like Him through His grace at work in us. Our Lord's *love* and *humility* allowed Him to be approached by lepers (Matthew 8:2) and other undesirables. We must seek to have no less than His love and humility in order to be able to "wash the feet" of anyone and everyone He sends our way.

Our Lord doesn't want bitter ambassadors!

Here's an undeniable biblical truth. Unforgiving people fail to fully appreciate the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus on their behalf. This is why our Father won't forgive those who refuse to forgive — and He warns us to not let a root of bitterness pop up (see Matthew 6:14,15; Colossians 3:13; Hebrews 12:15). If you're an ambassador of our Lord Jesus, you must have no negative attitudes against anyone no matter how much they've hurt you, let you down, or responded against you in any way. → Your choice to forgive opens the way •for the Holy Spirit to heal your heart, AND •for Him to use you as our Lord's ambassador. Only the Spirit of Christ within you can heal your heart and emotions; you can never heal yourself.

"You can never walk in the fullness of Jesus until you can wash the feet of Judas."



Our Lord is well aware that we'll be hurt and betrayed at some point during our lives. With this awareness, a wise and dear friend spoke to us the above statement prescribing how we should respond since we had been hurt and betrayed by people close to us. Remember, Jesus responded to His betrayer, Judas, by washing his feet. And our Lord had placed Judas in the position next to Him at the last supper. This place was reserved for the person the host wanted to honor. Consider the love and humility with which our Lord treated His betrayer.

Richard Wurmbrand, founder of Voice of the Martyrs, teaches a profound and accurate interpretation of the Lord's Prayer. He states that *"forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors"* should be translated, ***"forgive us our debts as we have already forgiven others their debts."*** Only by fully understanding forgiveness could martyrs throughout history have responded as our Lord's ambassadors, even unto death. Those who are faithfully suffering for their trust in Jesus have already forgiven their tormentors. It all begins with the loving words of Jesus, repeated by Stephen, ***"Father, forgive them..."*** You'll find that the very person who has hurt you is the very one our Lord wants you to represent Him to in forgiveness. Can you do that?



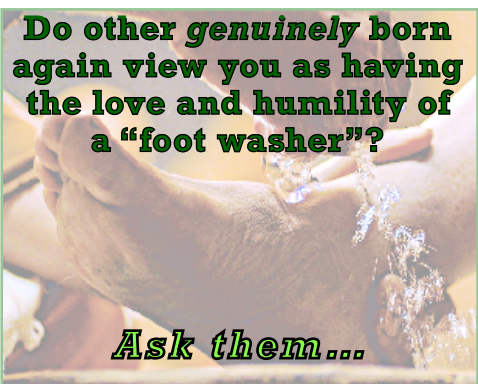
Don't be deceived by popular teaching today that you don't have to forgive someone unless they ask for forgiveness. We are to walk in the steps of our Master, and neither the religious authorities nor the Roman soldiers asked Him for forgiveness! You are to forgive from your heart, regardless of whether the nature of that relationship ever changes. Extend that which the heart of our Father has extended to you. *"Forgive us our sins, for we too have forgiven everyone who has wronged us"* (Luke 11:4).

"Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil" (Ephesians 6:10,11)

In order for you to lovingly and authentically serve our Lord as His ambassador on earth, be aware that this service isn't without demonic opposition. Keep in mind that every soul that becomes *genuinely* born again is a soul which Satan loses. The devil will fight you! That's why you are told in advance (Ephesians 6:10,11). And never lose sight of this reality which is as true for the *genuine* today as it was for Jesus' first disciples: *"Lord, even the demons submit to us in Your Name!"* (Luke 10:17). Ask yourself this essential question: Does your loving appreciation for what our Lord Jesus accomplished on the cross on your behalf compel you to fight for the souls of unbelievers around you?

FYI: One of the "devil's schemes" about which Paul warned followers of Jesus in Ephesians 6:11 is what we call the "sweaty-body scenario." For thirty years Mike played a lot of pickup basketball. He normally perspires a lot during activity, and he began to notice an interesting trend in attitudes toward perspiration: many young men hate to get sweat on themselves. They avoid body contact as much as possible. Realizing this, Mike would purposely come up and slide against them. Sure enough, they'd back off and fail to adequately guard him. So he was free to make any shots he wanted!

✚ Don't ever allow the devil to rub his 'sweaty body' on you to deter you from fully being our Lord's ambassador to everyone He sends your way. We can assure you that whenever you lose your grateful appreciation for what our Lord Jesus accomplished for you by His love-motivated sacrifice, you are susceptible to the sweaty body scenario. You'll back off and stay silent when Father orchestrates an encounter — and you'll be disobedient to Him in doing your own will rather than His will. Is that really your heart's response to your loving and holy Father when you call yourself a Christian but resist letting Him use you in Christ's love and humility?



In a *genuine's* marriage or in their home fellowship family, you are mutually called to serve as our Lord's ambassadors. This is a privilege to fulfill with the humility and love that Jesus enacted.