



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,

We want to use this Nugget to encourage your resolve as you keep dying to yourself so that our Lord Jesus fully rules your life. In submitting to His rule, your life pilgrimage will have many testimonies that bear witness to His divine reality as your Lord. It's a wonderful privilege to speak to unbelievers and nominal Christians about His reality in your life since they have no personal experience themselves of that reality. Your testimonies just might spur them on to seek out this "very real Jesus"! And, you'll notice that others who are *genuine* don't refer to their Lord as just a biblical personage. Rather, you speak of Him as Someone you personally know through interacting with Him by His indwelling Spirit. (Later in this Nugget we'll give you a personal testimony of how the Holy Spirit was refining us to prepare us to be entrusted with sharing the Hebraic Restoration. Our lives have been an ongoing journey since then of how indispensably important the Spirit of our Lord has been in transforming us and in revealing His *rhema* to us to be fully available for His use.)

✦ As we've noted before, our Lord Jesus gives His own a particular command to keep us "Vertically-focused": "*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word [rhema] that comes from the mouth of God*" (Matthew 4:4; see also Hebrews 3:15). *Rhema* is the specific revelation given by the Holy Spirit to followers of our Lord Jesus via their own spirit. This specific word occurs when the Spirit •quickens a certain verse or passage to your spirit to take action, or •you receive a personal prophecy for you, or •you are given a word of wisdom or knowledge for you to act on, or •you have an inner prompting which aligns with our Lord's ways and character.

The Bible bears witness that whenever the Holy Spirit gives a *rhema* to someone which reveals our Father's specific will and they act on it, **grace with purpose** and **spiritual power** are given to accomplish His will. (For decades we've joyfully experienced *Jehovah Jireh*, God our Provider, always meeting our financial needs. Just before we left Israel for the US with the Hebraic Restoration foundations, He told us, "*You share this message and I will provide for you.*" By grace we've kept trusting Him, and out of His great faithfulness He has always prevailed!)

We want to recap for you three specific 'marching orders' which the Holy Spirit revealed to us by *rhema* concerning the ministry assignment He gave us years ago and has held us to:

1. **To share** the Hebraic foundations.
2. **To lead** in a way that others can put into practice themselves as the Spirit guides and directs their own way of life of love-grounded obedient trust. The Hebraic pattern is passed along by followers of Jesus who enact it and then instruct others from real life experience.
3. **To contend for our Lord Jesus** in the midst of so many who are nominally "Christian" but who are actually serving the spirit of anti-Christ. (You can recognize the nominal because they neither seek nor have the Spirit's *rhema* guiding their lives. They may do "Christian" acts of kindness that they think Christians should do, emanating from their own abilities and inclinations. But they have no desire to be ruled by our Lord Jesus and seek specific guidance from His Spirit. That would mean actually having to obey what He says! In most instances, "religious" people who are 'un-ruled' have no burden for the souls of the lost in their relational sphere. Believing that "all good dogs go to heaven", they're exactly where the spirit of anti-Christ wants them: **"Christians" without Christ's rule!**)

Our Heavenly Father Recruits Unlikely People Like Us To Do His Will

First, we want you to know that we wouldn't have recruited us to share the Hebraic foundations. We felt entirely unqualified! And over the years, we've met so many followers of Jesus who doubt their spiritual usefulness and remain stubbornly adamant that Father wouldn't use them. Many have told us, "Our Lord can never use me", or, "I don't have faith like you do." But their reluctance is actually veiled rebellion against our heavenly Father. Inside their hearts they're saying, "I don't want the responsibility to live with Jesus as Lord of my life." (Years ago a religious leader told us after reading our *Restoring The Early Church* manuscript, "We can't have our people trusting Jesus the way you call for. That would cause mayhem! We need to control and direct the spiritual activities of the people in our congregation." What "spiritual infancy" these congregants were being kept in by believing they're not capable of trusting Jesus as their Lord. And what a wall was being erected between Him and them by their "captors".)

If you have been duped into disbelieving that our Father would use you, then you've failed to understand the *refining/guiding/empowering* ministry of the Holy Spirit Who helps the *genuine* through these. In order for you to serve our Father's purposes under the rule of our Lord Jesus, the Holy Spirit refines you to become more like our Lord Who also obediently served His Father's purposes. We'd like to offer you insights into our own pilgrimage of refining using some anecdotes we've written before. From the outset we knew that our being recruited to share the Hebraic foundations meant first that the all-sufficiency of our Lord Jesus had to become foremost in our lives. Then our marriage needed to be re-established on a Hebraic understanding of the covenant of marriage and the New Covenant. These priorities required the Spirit to refine us.

As we reflect back we can see how a decade before we received the Hebraic foundations in 1994 our Father was already preparing us. Using our nearly 11 years at a farm retreat center, He began refining us so we could later be entrusted with sharing the vital prophetic message of the Hebraic Restoration around the world. During this time He was also readying us to confront Nicolaitanism and the peddlers of anti-Semitic theology which so blatantly divide Christianity today.

The morning after the Holy Spirit revealed that we were being sent to Israel Mike got up early to understand why. He let his Bible flip open on the sofa as he prayed. The Spirit directed his attention to Jeremiah 1:17-19. Verse 19 ended with, "*I am with you and will rescue you.*" declares the LORD." Mike wept as he realized that divine rescue was going to be part of our future whatever form it took, including confronting Nicolaitanism and anti-Semitic theology.

As Father had planned, Jeremiah 1:17-19 was right in line with a prophecy Mike had previously received in July, 1990. The elders of our fellowship family at that time confirmed it was from the Holy Spirit:

"Hearken to My voice, My little one. For I the Lord am here to refine by fire. For My servant Mike shall be broken. I have prepared the fires that I shall make him walk through, and they shall be used to crush the flesh in him. And I promise you that the sweet and fragrant aroma of Jesus shall pour forth as he is tempered and tried by My Spirit. And My anointing shall rest upon him in purity and power, and great prophetic words shall be uttered through his mouth. But the testing that is coming upon him shall scathe him and be painful as I flush out all that is not like Me."

Shortly afterwards another prophet came to Mike at the retreat center in tears and foretold the rejection he was going to face that would be far more painful than anything he had previously experienced. For the next three years leading up to our departure from the retreat center in December 1993, Mike was assailed by a sequence of betrayals by religious leaders whom he'd previously helped. With each verbal assault the Lord forbade him to defend himself. One day the Spirit of our Lord spoke to him, "*Read the Book of Acts and find out how many plots against My people occur there.*" Mike found 13 plots. Then the Spirit spoke again: "*If I permit people to*

plot against My children, what makes you any better than they are?" Mike repented and purposed to yield to whatever our Lord wanted of him.

FYI: Sometime before 1990 Mike's friend Bert, with whose family we later lived while in Israel, related this truth to him: ***"Mike, you can never walk in the fullness of Jesus until you wash the feet of Judas."*** If you have been emotionally wounded by others, then this truth is essential for your own life *if* our Lord would use you for Father's purposes. You can't cling to bitterness or unforgiveness against anyone if you're to be fully available for Father to work through you by the Spirit. Our Lord Jesus does not use people whom His own Father refuses to forgive (see Matthew 6:14,15; 18:34,35).

The refinement that precedes our Father using you for His purposes is a pattern that's revealed in Scripture. For instance, Joseph was wrongfully confined to prison before leading Egypt out of famine. Samuel anointed David (1Samuel 16:13) as God had directed him to. But afterwards David had to run from King Saul for three years so he wouldn't be killed. After our Lord Jesus was immersed by John (Matthew 3:13) to inaugurate His office as *"a high priest of the order of Melchizedek"* (Hebrews 5:10), the Holy Spirit led Him into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil for 40 days and nights (Matthew 4:1-11). It's essential that the *genuine* understand this reality when our heavenly Father recruits you for His purposes and His glory: you will go through a time of character refinement — often longer and more painful than you want. If you're currently going through refining processes, remember that Father isn't punishing you — He's preparing you for His work through you!

Remember that the Holy Spirit's refinement doesn't occur in nominal Christianity. The nominal just do what they consider to be 'Christian' without any guidance from the Holy Spirit as to Father's will.

The Holy Spirit's Refining Fire Ultimately Results In The *Genuine* Being Used



In December 1993 we arrived in Israel emotionally broken and seriously considering divorce. With years of separate ministry labors at the retreat center, we ended up living like parallel railroad tracks and empty toward each other. Then, just prior to leaving for Israel, we received other prophecies that confirmed our Father had further use for our marriage: we would return to the US with a prophetic message to share. Feeling emotionally dead, we had a hard time believing these prophetic words.

But in Israel through ways only our Father could orchestrate, our research on earliest Christianity and the revelations the Holy Spirit gave us initially overwhelmed us *and* inspired hope in us. ***All*** that we'd been taught in seminary and experienced in various congregations had nothing in common with what Father wanted us to know, to live by and to share. It took time for us to wrap around the reality that our own prior reliance on religious organization and ritual could be so wrong. Mike would often state that we could have floated Israel on the tears we'd shed there.



At the heart of the truths comprising the Hebraic Restoration, we became keenly aware of the ***relational union*** with our Father and Lord Jesus that comprises the New Covenant. Hebraic understanding debunks nominal Christianity's reliance on religious organization and ritual, as well as the divisiveness of anti-Semitic theology. (This new understanding of ***relational union*** also deeply affected our marriage covenant being interwoven with the New Covenant. This is why we wrote ***Our Heavenly Father's Two Paramount Covenants.***

The more we understood the relational priorities and faith practices which our Lord Jesus established for His called-out ones, the heavier our hearts became. Even though we had been given the Hebraic foundations and were commanded to go back to the United States to share them, Mike in particular was very reluctant.

When we came back to the States in 1994, we spent two weeks organizing our notes at a relative's house in Miami before returning to Connecticut to stay with Mike's Mom. She'd written us that God wanted us to live with her and write. (When we received her letter in Israel, we hadn't yet received the Hebraic foundations. We remembered saying to ourselves, "Write *what?*"). In Miami Mike continued to be haunted by feelings of failure. He kept being reminded of the 5,000 people who'd come through the retreat center and how he had failed them by not knowing these key truths earlier.

On our last night in Miami, Mike had a really intense dream. In it he was brought to Mount Horeb, the Mountain of Desolation in the Sinai. As he stood on the mountaintop he heard our Father say, ***"Mike, I've desolated you for several years, removing that which was not like My Son. Listen! I never wanted you to know these truths before this time. Now, GO and FREE the captives! Wake Sue up and tell her this dream."***

When Mike woke Sue up and told her his dream, she had just had a vivid dream too! She was on a mountaintop that was a flat plateau. Behind her were darkness and steep, jagged rocks that represented her past. But ahead of Sue, light was growing brighter and brighter like dawn! She heard a voice say, ***"Press on into the light. You can look side-to-side to see who's going with you, but you can't go back."*** We both realized that our Father had given us these dreams to encourage us to go forth and share what He is restoring. He was also telling us to not spend too much time or effort with people who are satisfied with nominal Christianity.

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight" (Mark 1:3).

For over three decades we've served our Father as advance messengers in two capacities:

Sharing the Hebraic Foundations of the Earliest Followers of Jesus.

Preparing Today's Followers of Jesus to Do Their Part in His Kingdom.

Concerning us and what we share, ask our Father if the truths we claim come from Him actually do. We know we aren't liars! And you need to have divine assurance that He wants you to apply them to your life. You won't find the Hebraic foundations being implemented among nominal Christian congregations that rely on a Nicolaitan clergy system and the self-admiring influence of Hellenism which permeates sermons. Rather, Hebraic truths are quietly being carried forth by individuals and small ***repentant family groups*** who experience the all-sufficiency of our Lord Jesus and are developing the relational intimacy of the New Covenant, beginning with their marriage.

Out of loving appreciation for what our Lord Jesus did for them on the cross *and* our heavenly Father's willingness to forgive them, these authentic brothers and sisters in union with our Lord live burdened for the eternal destiny of the people around them. In the *genuine*, the spirit of anti-Christ has no foothold. That's because Jesus Christ rules them, and there's nothing too great to yield in response to what He did for them (Revelation 12:11). The *genuine* don't cower in face of the devil's assault (Revelation 12:17). They stand firm in Christ through His Spirit in them.

If you're hesitant to personally share our Lord Jesus with those in your relational sphere, please read Repentance Leads To Christ-like Character: ***The Sin of Claiming To Belong To Our Lord Jesus Without A Burden For The Lost***. May this spur you on to help bring the lost to a loving and obedient trust in Jesus as Lord!