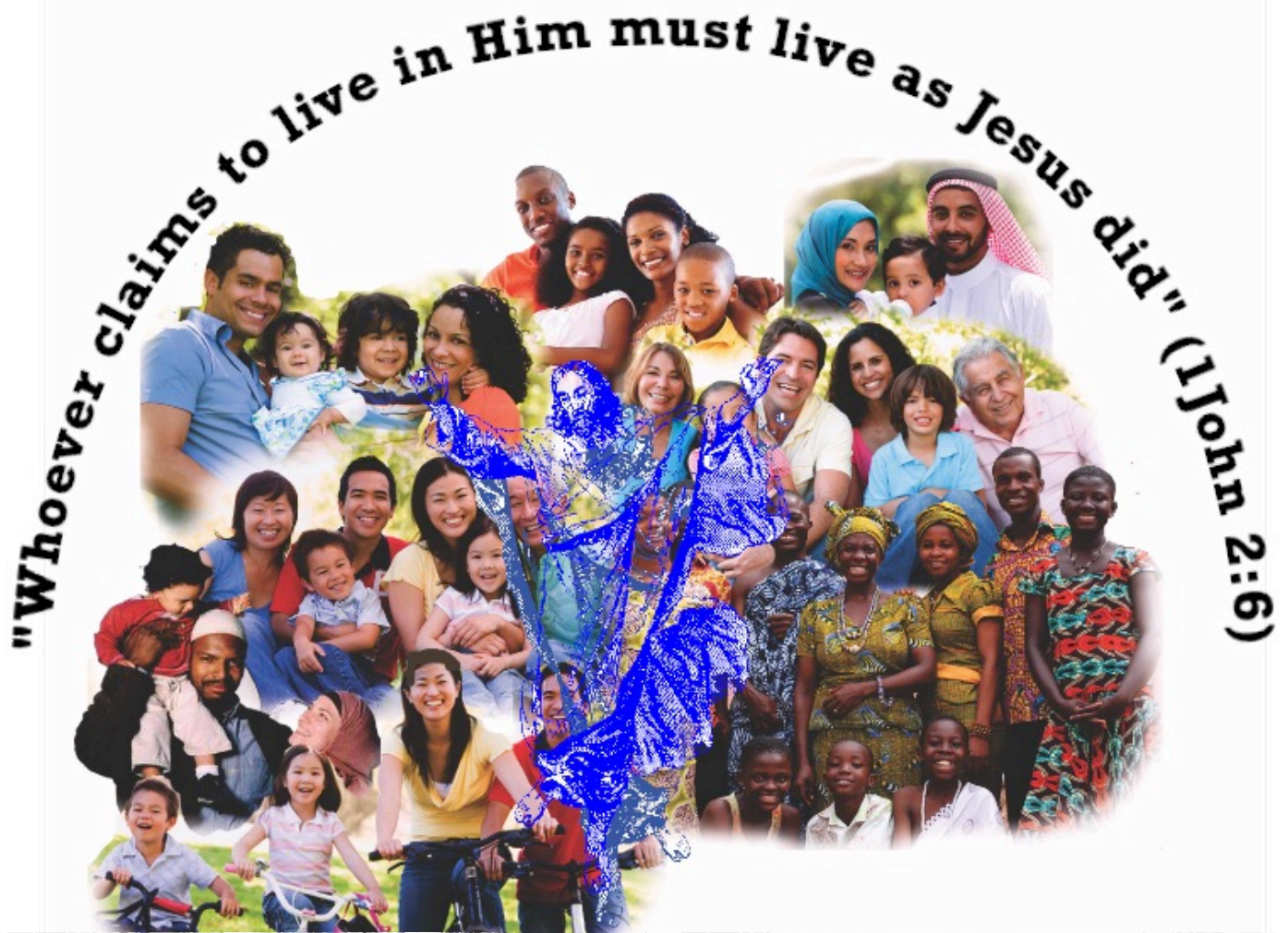


Being The Reality Of Jesus To A Wicked World

Reality 21. You Must Be A Spiritually Valiant Older Woman!



Pinpointing Key Facets Of The Hebraic Foundations

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It's a joy to remind you that while these Realities may be directed specifically to older women in their life journey of **loving obedient trust**, you who are younger are heading in that direction and can glean insights to help you be more fully prepared. (These Realities can also help men of all ages to more fully understand Father's role for older women!)

On page 1 of our [July 2000 Newsletter](#) is our account of meeting Norma Blacksmith, a Lakota Sioux grandmother on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Norma and some other Lakota grandmothers often went to the high places using our workbook [Demolishing Strongholds](#) to bind the demons that plagued their people. (We wrote again about Norma on page 4 in our [August 2000 Newsletter](#) and her efforts to restore dignity to downtrodden Lakota men.) I wanted you to know about Norma's because of the nature of what I'm addressing in this Reality. She and the other elder Lakota women stand out as valiant and Christ-like **older women of spiritual nobility who live to fight the spiritual battle for their family and their people**. We've never met such a group of older women who were so committed to the Lordship of Jesus on behalf of others, no matter what their ethnicity! But I'm delighted to report that after Mike's Mom was genuinely born again, she became such a woman, standing up boldly for things of our Lord. Sadly, no other woman stood alongside her in this pursuit. Mike and I were her main support in her desire for others around her to know Jesus as their Lord on a deeper level.

***“No one can serve two masters.
Either you will hate the one and love the other,
or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other...”***

The past few Realities have broken ground for you as an older woman in Christ to urge you to intentionally use your time and opportunities wisely for His purposes. In this Reality we'll concentrate on "putting off" and "putting on" two very real spiritual aspects which directly oppose each other: •the Jezebel-influenced life of control which you must adamantly resist, and •being a woman who is wholly devoted to our Lord and serving Him together with others as His valiant witnesses. If you didn't have to face demonic opposition to the life our Lord wants you to live, then you wouldn't have to be "valiant". But the spirit of Jezebel will always be looking to thwart you. This demonic entity will take advantage of your **sin nature** and **your innate desire to rule**. (Revisit [Reality 17. Make Absolutely Sure You're Free Of Jezebel!](#) to remind yourself of the many ways this demonic entity can influence you.) In this Reality I want to remind you how this spirit tries to gain access within you. And even more vital, I'll exhort you to be a valiant spiritual fighter for your own family and faith family.

Jezebel rules the USA!



I've mentioned previously that the name Jezebel means "I have no co-equal". That's to say, I'm in charge of not only my own life but of anyone else I can gain control over. You don't have to look far to see its impact in this nation today in the defiantly ungodly lifestyles and choices being thrust upon girls and women from all avenues of society. Christians aren't immune to its effects, especially if they are prone to tolerate sin in themselves or in those who are close to them. Take a close look at how

this spirit exercises control over followers of Jesus in Revelation 2:18-28. These are Christians who are being led astray by a woman who calls herself a prophetess, meaning she's claiming to hear from God — even though her teachings are in direct opposition to the holy obedience which

God calls for. The Jezebel spirit misleads God's people into sexual sin and perversions of all kinds, and compromises with pagan practices alongside their good deeds and service for God. This is spiritual adultery from our Lord's perspective!

This spirit will cause you to resist wise correction from anyone. You find yourself firmly defending your unChristlike words or actions. Or you end up badmouthing the person who corrected you. The Jezebel spirit also works within families through an individual who tries consistently to dominate, control and "fix" people. It operates most effectively when there is an Ahab kind of husband who abdicates his responsibility of spiritual leadership in his home as well as responsibility as head of household.

Your brain can be the devil's playground

Let's move on to another access point in which the enemy of your soul can influence your thoughts and emotions and subsequent actions: your brain. Your brain is an incredible "internet" of neurotransmitters and chemicals which determine whether your thoughts and emotions and memories will be positive or negative. Talk about being "fearfully and wonderfully made"!

The One Who created our minds knows that our thoughts and any actions or decisions we're considering can be transformed through discussion with others who are wise. That's why our relationships especially with other women who love and trust Jesus as Lord of their lives are so important. And the deepest relationship that followers of Jesus can have with each other is based on mutual commitment to each other's Christ-like character development. In these relationships you have the freedom and mutual responsibility to correct each other and to help each other keep pressing on. This is the essence of Christ-like love for one another!

We've written previously on how your brain has been created to develop and store thoughts and memories which are either toxic or beneficial. I'll briefly discuss this essential part of your life here. But for in depth insight into the interplay of your thoughts and memories with demonic strongholds which haven't been demolished, please read pages 4-12 in [*Lifebyte 73. Stop Toxic Thoughts—Replace Toxic Memories*](#). You'll be astonished at your brain's intricate wiring!

In connection with our workbook and video series, [*Demolishing Strongholds*](#), Mike and I were amazed by the research of Dr. Caroline Leaf, a follower of Jesus from South Africa who specializes in the brain's inner workings: Initially, your five senses send signals to your brain, which immediately attaches either positive or negative chemicals to that signal. These chemically-laden thoughts then travel to the part of your brain in which similar memories exist, whether healthy or toxic. Your memories are stored on "memory trees" which grow as new memories are added. And your emotions and actions are deeply affected by your memories.

Let's connect the physical intertwining of toxic memories with the spiritual outworking of demonic strongholds. Toxic memories in your brain are memory trees of your unbiblical, un-Christlike responses to emotionally painful encounters you've had with people or situations. A toxic memory, whether it has attached to it a bitter, insecure, or rejection chemical, will be your default response when similar negative thoughts enter your brain. A new toxic thought will seek out similar toxic memories and form a stronghold around it. That's when demonic influence is able to assume control of that area of your brain that you've yielded. And as long as toxic memories remain in your brain, you'll NEVER acquire the love of Jesus for others or fulfill His purposes for your life even at this late stage of your life!

Thankfully, the chemical composition of toxic memories can be changed as you cooperate with the Spirit of our Lord. That's when you're transformed by the renewing your mind so you can fully know and do God's perfect will (Romans 12:2).

“For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ” (2Corinthians 10:4,5).

First, you must demolish, in the Name of Jesus, any strongholds which are influencing you. Then the chemical composition of your toxic memories can be replaced as you fill in the old responses of sinful attitudes and behaviors. Deliberately capture any new negative thought that's entering your mind and make it become obedient to Jesus. He is THE source for your determination to hear only from the Holy Spirit, so each thought must be taken captive. (2 Corinthians 10:5). But what does it mean to bring a thought into obedience to Him? Instead of a toxic memory being formed, Jesus enables you to develop the emotional conviction to **love**, to **forgive** and to have the same **compassion** as He does. Having these Christ-like character traits at work in and through you, and you applying His Word to your life are intricately connected (Hebrews 4:12).

“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:9).

One of the worst presumptions you can make is that our God thinks like you do. That's why He uses the **rhema** of the Holy Spirit to reveal His specific will to His children. Keep in mind that our heavenly Father never promises anyone that everything will go smoothly in their life; quite the contrary actually! Things often don't go the way you hope or expect. But your heavenly Father is far more interested in whether you'll trust Him and live under the Lordship of Jesus, or if you'll choose to take control of things yourself. In Reality 17 I wrote that Eve's sin was **false expectation** and **presumption** – that in eating the fruit she would become like God. False expectation and presumption, along with our larger corpus callosum which processes information faster than a man's can (see Reality 19), can expose us to being used by the spirit of Jezebel. We'll especially miss being transformed into Christ's character because we're choosing to be in control.

The reality is that throughout your pilgrimage to your salvation our Lord intends to develop His character in you, and to instill in you His way of living. No one who belongs to Him can live in a comfort zone and complacently remain as they are! Read Acts 10, for example, and see the way our Father put together the Roman centurion Cornelius and the reluctant Peter who at first resisted entering a Gentile home. Our Lord needs you to be the fitting instrument He can use in the lives of others. This is especially true for older Christian women since so many men have ducked their God-given role to lead in righteousness. Like with Peter and so many others throughout the Bible, our Lord will use “negative” circumstances as His way of preparing you to trust Him no matter what. This story may help you take in this truth:

It's All Good!

“A king in Africa had a close friend that he grew up with. The friend had a habit of looking at every situation that ever occurred in his life (positive or negative) and remarking, “This is good!” One day the king and his friend were out on a hunting expedition. The friend would load and prepare the guns for

the king. The friend had apparently done something wrong in preparing one of the guns, for after taking the gun from his friend, the king fired it and his thumb was blown off. Examining the situation the friend remarked as usual, 'This is good!' to which the king replied, 'No, this is NOT good!' and proceeded to send his friend to jail.

About a year later, the king was hunting in an area that he should have known to stay clear of. Cannibals captured him and took him to their village. They tied his hands, stacked some wood, set up a stake and bound him to the stake. As they came near to set fire to the wood, they noticed that the king was missing a thumb. Being superstitious, they never ate anyone who was less than whole. So untying the king, they sent him on his way.

As he returned home, he was reminded of the event that had taken his thumb and felt remorse for his treatment of his friend. He went immediately to the jail to speak with his friend. 'You were right,' he said. 'It was good that my thumb was blown off.' And he proceeded to tell his friend all that had just happened. 'And so I am very sorry for sending you to jail for so long. It was bad for me to do this.' 'No,' his friend replied, 'this is good!' 'What do you mean, "this is good!"?' How could it be good that I sent my friend to jail for a year?' He replied, 'If I had NOT been in jail, I would have been with you!'"

Our Lord has allowed every circumstance you face in life. If you fail to trust Him and His purposes, then the Jezebel spirit will use your negative response to that circumstance. And your fast thinking corpus callosum will help establish a toxic chemical memory in your brain. As long as false expectation and presumption rule your thinking and outweigh your trust in our Lord, these toxic memory trees will keep growing. Jezebel will make things seem far worse than they are so that you'll want to take control. But your confidence must be in this assurance: *"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; also 2Corinthians 10:4,5).

Valiantly Walking As Jesus Would Have You Walk

As an older woman, if your life in Christ hasn't been lived valiantly on behalf of others, you'll need the help of another woman who is also seeking to become more like our Lord Jesus. Ask her to confront you when you voice unChrist-like thoughts and motives. This is the best way for you to ***make your thoughts obedient to our Lord Jesus*** – willingly accepting when someone else confronts your unChrist-likeness so you can then walk by His grace according to the Spirit in that particular area. Do your part to think deeply about things that are true and pure and praiseworthy, as Paul commands in Philippians 4:8. And diligently monitor what comes into your thoughts — the world's channels of "entertainment" will fan pollution in your mind and release negative chemicals that will influence other thoughts and memories.

Finally, the preeminent issue for us older women is our relationship with our Lord Jesus — walking by His Spirit in love-grounded obedient trust. This is a very personal daily decision to live by lifting Him up in love and service as you listen for His voice. That's a relationship which doesn't depend on how others in a congregation choose to live or even by what creedal stances they may take. Your relationship with our Lord isn't defined by these, but rather by His rule in your life as you fulfill our Father's purposes for an older woman. Get your older Christian friends together and develop biblical applications for yourselves as to what His Word requires of you as His own. I think you'll find it helpful to discuss and use "The Four Steps Needed In Establishing Halakhahs" (pages 33,34) in our book, ***Christian Halakhahs***. Please don't live like a compliant pawn of Jezebel. Instead, be a valiant follower of Jesus whom He can attest to with praise: *"Well done, good and faithful servant!"*

Sue (with loving support and input from Mikel)

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer" (Romans 12:12).