

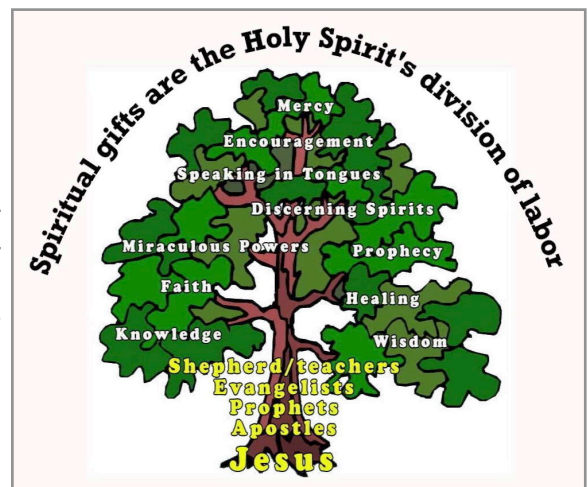
The Way Of Our Lord Is Being Restored

Reality 29. The Genuinely Born Again Rely On The Spirit's Guidance & Empowerment

Christ's Plan ~~Before~~ Anti-Semitism and Nicolaitanism Devised And Subjugated "Laity"

In Reality 28, [The Older Testament Is Your Necessary Introduction To The Holy Spirit](#), we discussed how recurrently the Holy Spirit guided and empowered a number of God's people in the Hebrew Scriptures. The prophet Zechariah underscores the significance of the Spirit in fulfilling God's will: ***"Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the LORD Almighty*** (4:6). *"By My Spirit"* continued into the Newer Testament as we witness the Holy Spirit's anointing of Jesus at the Jordan River (Matthew 3:13-15), followed by the anointing of our Lord's first followers at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4). Peter then affirms the everlasting nature of our Lord's promise of the Holy Spirit for all the called-out ones, the genuinely born again: *"...you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself"* (Acts 2:38,39).

Our Lord Jesus intended for His called-out ones to be a **unified spiritual family, guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit**. This plan of love-motivated unity as His body was to be accomplished through the **spiritual gifts** He apportions to the genuinely born again (1Corinthians 12:11,12). The gates of hell couldn't withstand these Spirit-guided, Spirit-empowered called-out ones (Matthew 16:18). Our Lord Jesus, the only Head of all His called-out ones, specified that apostles, prophets, evangelists, and older men serving as shepherd/teachers would mutually equip the called-out ones for unified service (Ephesians 4:11-16). And this is a reality that's being restored to the genuinely born again who do their part in the Spirit's "division of labor"!



If our Lord's plan for His own isn't your mutual way of life together, you must make it so.

What a tragedy that the Spirit-empowered, Spirit-guided life in union with Christ was eradicated by **anti-Semitic theology** that refused to acknowledge the crucial importance of the Older Testament. And **Nicolaitan clergy domination** hid our Lord's plan for His own from the "laity". Through centuries of these arrogant influences, most people who read this Reality don't live in the spiritual power of the Holy Spirit as promised in the Bible. Throughout Christianity this is evidenced by the widespread absence of: •personal loving responsibility to the rule of Jesus as LORD, and •resolute grateful reliance on the Holy Spirit for guidance and empowerment.

We told you in a previous Reality that our Lord Jesus soundly warns people who live fruitless lives: *"Now the seed that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity"* (Luke 8:14). The frightful consequences of fruitlessness can't be overstated. Why do we tell you this? Our Lord's earliest followers understood that salvation occurs at the end of your life journey when your name is announced before the hosts of heaven. In contrast, anti-Semitic 'gospels' assert that the moment you're declared born again because you agreed with some verses, you're "saved" no matter how you live afterwards. So bearing lasting fruit is meaningless to them.

Our Lord was well aware that the presence of the Holy Spirit in His followers who were heading toward their salvation would be a life of fruit-bearing. This is why He warns us, “Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire” (Matthew 7:19). And, “if anyone does not abide in Me [a life of fruit-bearing] he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned” (John 15:6; see John 15:1-8).

🔴 Stop a moment and be honest with yourself: Is your life bearing fruit in our Lord? Are you being transformed by the Spirit with fruit which bear witness to your character in Christ (Galatians 5:22)? If you want to know for sure how our Lord views your life, just ask Him! Our Lord Jesus shed His blood for you and has no desire for you to burn in hell. If our Lord’s plan isn’t your way of life, then change is needed!

While you still have breath, you have the opportunity to bear fruit under the guidance and empowerment of the Holy Spirit. It’s not the “good” things you do that matters as much as the actions and character changes the Holy Spirit does in and through you as you fulfill our heavenly Father’s purposes. Be assured that the indwelling Holy Spirit will reveal to you what Father wants to accomplish through you—perhaps just one step at a time. And then He’ll empower you to fulfill it for Father’s glory!

“You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses... even to the remotest part of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

The salvation of mankind is a key part of our Father’s purpose for creating the visible world. The unbelieving world absolutely needs to know Who He is in His reality as Creator—a role Satan denies through pervasive lies of humanism and evolution. Both Testaments affirm our Father’s divine purpose which culminates in an everlasting kingdom ruled by our Lord and King:

“And to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed” (Daniel 7:14).

“After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” (Revelation 7:9,10).

Too many in Christianity lose sight of the divine plan for mankind that began with creation. It’s only with you and your faith family *collectively* viewing your faith walk together as part of the larger purposes of our heavenly Father that you appreciate being called-out of the world system and given the Holy Spirit to guide and empower you through the spiritual giftings He apportions. It’s the *communal cooperation* that enables our God to be known throughout the world and for people to respond to Him by repenting and putting their trust in His Son, our Lord Jesus:

“All authority in heaven and on earth was given to Me. Going therefore, disciple all the nations, immersing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey all things that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you all the days until the completion of the age” (Matthew 28:18-20, literal translation).

Our Lord Jesus is speaking to ALL who belong to Him for ALL ages. His words offer clear guidance to the genuinely born again, the called-out ones who live by grace under His Lordship. The Spirit-guided, Spirit-empowered boldly take action in the world and represent our Lord Jesus in His love, forgiveness and compassion. Our Lord’s “marching orders” in Matthew 28:18-20 are intimately connected to the whole world knowing about the one true God. The

Bible affirms a crucial truth of the Lordship of Jesus which He has privileged all who possess His Spirit to bear: ***Our Lord's burden for the lost is your burden as well.***

Having His heart to reach the lost not only verifies you really belong to Him. It also assures you that the Holy Spirit is within you and operating through you. "Lordship" is what our Lord Jesus does in and through you by His Spirit, both individually and collectively! No matter what you've believed about your salvation until now, *if you have no desire to make Jesus known in the world or have no compassion for the lost, then you're effectively denying Jesus as your Lord.*

"About gifts of the Spirit...[we] do not want you to be uninformed" (1Corinthians 12:1).

When you fathom our covenant-giving, covenant-keeping God through the pages of the Older Testament, you *first* realize that there are stipulations you must meet in order to enter the New Covenant. *Second*, you realize that when you embrace the Gospel of that New Covenant, you become His divine choice to fulfill His divine purposes particularly as you cooperate with others in union with Christ. It's this foundational understanding that enables you to make sense of the crucial importance of the indwelling Holy Spirit in fulfilling Father's purposes, and the decisive reason the Spirit apportions spiritual gifts to each genuinely born-again person (see 1Corinthians 12:1-12).



As soon as you're genuinely born again, Jesus becomes your Lord. He is your Head. With the guidance and empowerment of His Spirit you fulfill our heavenly Father's purposes as you and your faith family mutually edify and serve each other through your spiritual gifts. This is the way it first was and is now being restored as a way of life for the genuinely born again. Never lose sight of this truth: There's always a clear indicator when the Holy Spirit takes up His presence in you. It doesn't have to be prophesying or speaking in tongues, examples we see in the Book of Acts. But there is a clear unmistakable demonstration of His presence that others will recognize. And the guidance and empowerment of the indwelling Holy Spirit make you part of a worldwide purpose of bearing lasting fruit: ***redemption of the lost.***

Both Paul and Peter describe the life of Spirit-indwelled, called-out followers of Jesus:

• *"For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, in generosity; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness"* (Romans 12:4-8).

• *"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another; as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God; whoever serves, let him do it with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To Him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen"* (1Peter 4:10,11; see also Galatians 5:13).

Here's just one example of how the Spirit's division of labor was manifested among the called-out ones in Antioch:

"Now there were among the [called-out ones] at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and

Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, *the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’* Then, having fasted and prayed, they laid their hands on them and sent them off” (Acts 13:1-3). See 1Corinthians 14:26-32 and Colossians 3:16 for insight into the characteristics of the gatherings of our Lord’s earliest followers. Their gatherings were a mutual interplay of spiritual gifts for building up each other in their trust walk.

If your weekly gatherings aren’t an expression of the Holy Spirit’s presence, then most likely you attend a **“stage performance”** which Constantine and Roman Catholicism syncretized from the pagan Greeks. This "performance" purposely eliminates the Holy Spirit by playing to the kind of soulish satisfaction you get as if you were attending a play or going to a movie or concert.

What you should take away from this Reality

To live guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit isn’t something you can just read about. For the genuinely born again it's a way of life of love-grounded obedient trust that must be lived with resolute determination. Consider this summary statement of what we’ve been sharing:

The genuinely born again are those whom our heavenly Father has called out of the world's goals and values and beliefs to make His purposes and His priorities *their first purpose and priority.* It's this central motive of love-compelled resolute commitment to our Father's purposes and priorities and to the loving rule by Jesus in His Lordship that enables each called-out one to be fruitful, individually and mutually, through the guidance and empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

If you're to even begin to grow in a life of being Spirit-guided and Spirit-empowered, you must be genuinely born again. Starting around 200 years before the birth of Jesus, the Holy Spirit inspired the Hebraic Stream of Jews that they must be born from above — be born again. Spiritual rebirth is a separation from reliance on religious ritual and practices. You instead live an active, trust-based, obedient relationship with God akin to Abraham's. This is the life our Lord described to Nicodemus. To be genuinely born again is a life of walking in step with the Spirit:

“The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit” (John 3:8; see Galatians 5:25). If this isn’t describing you, you may need to cry out to our Lord to experience a new birth by His Spirit. Anyone can be “Christian” without Christ. But no one can belong to Jesus without the Holy Spirit: *“Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him”* (Romans 8:9).

If you’re genuinely born again, it's vital that you and your fellowship family know which spiritual gift(s) the Holy Spirit has apportioned to each of you. Then collectively seek Him to use you to do your part in the division of labor that unites the genuinely born again as His family.

If you are genuinely born again and need further insight into the division of labor that's afforded by the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the spiritual battle for the souls of mankind, read: [God's Instruments For War – Discovering & Coordinating Spiritual Gifts As Weapons Of Warfare](#). The included survey will help you discern your spiritual gift(s).

As you're pursuing being used individually and collectively as divine instruments of the Holy Spirit, we've produced some lessons to encourage and urge you onward for His glory:

Lifebyte 66, [How “Christendom” Forsook Spiritual Power \(Part 1\)](#)

Lifebyte 67, [How “Christendom” Forsook Spiritual Power \(Part 2\)](#)

Lifebyte 68, [What God's People Must Do To Regain Spiritual Power \(Part 1\)](#)

Lifebyte 69, [What God's People Must Do To Regain Spiritual Power \(Part 2\)](#)