

RESTORATION MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

Prophetic Insight

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“Therefore we must pay much more careful heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away”

Being Our Father’s Transitional Generation! (Part 4)

Having The Spirit of Father’s Instructions (*Torah*) Saves Your Life From Death

In this Insight we want clarify the life and death difference of *how you mutually put into practice the Word of God* to build the foundations of your faith walk, a way of life which is pleasing to your heavenly Father. Paul rightly intends a sobering consideration of this statement: “[Our God] has made us competent to be servants of a New Covenant, not of the letter, but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life” (2Corinthians 3:6). We’ve probably not heard a single clergy person who has used this verse to reveal the life or death consequences depending on *how you use the Word of God and how you see its Author*.

The Hellenist Lie You Must Reject: “TORAH MEANS LAW AS LEGALISM”

In **grave error** Hellenist-inspired theologians have translated the Hebrew word for God’s commands and principles, *Torah*, as “Law” *from a legalist perspective*. So, Hellenist-inspired clergy create in their listeners’ minds a **distorted view** of God’s commands that doesn’t align with the Hebrew Scriptures.

Teaching God’s Word via an academic model of instruction (silently listening to one speaker) removes the hearer’s responsibility to obey — the only right response to God’s instructional commands because HE is the One Who has commanded them. Intimate relationship with our heavenly Father and obedient appreciation for His righteous instructions for His children is lost when His Word becomes “more information”. And the process of *how His righteous instructions become His children’s way of life through interpersonal discussion that’s guided by the Spirit* has been usurped by clergy.

All too many within Christendom connote *Torah* as “law” meaning a set of rules that were done away with by Jesus. Still others tightly adhere to traditions and rituals alongside the Bible which were established by a religious hierarchy to produce a **creedally unified community**. Violation of the established traditions requires punishment, not for violating Father’s righteous instructions, but for violating manmade ordinances.

Every Scripture is God-breathed and is profitable for teaching [practiced as a way of life], for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness in order that the man of God may be fitted, having been furnished for every good work”
(2Timothy 3:16,17, literal translation).

By His sinless life Christ has made full the meaning of God’s righteous commands. If you’re the **Transitional Generation** who are being prepared to serve during the coming Dark Days of Chastisement, you need a Hebraic understanding of God’s Word in order to use it as your heavenly Father intends for His children. This means first deprogramming yourself from your Hellenist way of thinking, and acquiring by His Spirit your Father’s perspective of His Word.

A Hebraic understanding of *Torah* first recognizes God as the SOURCE of the instruction He has given. He alone has the right to create principles and boundaries for His children since He has created each of us and loves us in ways we can't fully comprehend or appreciate! That's why God as our Father has given us His good and righteous *Torah* (see Romans 7:12) — to manifest His Father-love for us and to impress into us very specific ways in which we are to show our love for Him and for each other. Picture a good father day by day enacting God's righteous ways through word and deed with his children and using "teachable moments" to develop righteous character in them. A loving and responsible father disciplines his children in order to foster obedience and help them internalize the distinction between right and wrong. And God our Father *disciplines us* as His beloved children and punishes everyone He accepts as His son or daughter when we fall short of His *Torah* instruction from both testaments and need a rebuke (see Proverbs 3:12; Hebrews 12:5-11).



The Hebrew root word for *Torah* comes from the realm of archery: to shoot an arrow in order to hit a mark. *Torah* is akin to the arrow aimed at the mark. The target is our gracious Father's righteous instructions for His children: •how He wants us to relate to Him, and •how He wants us to treat each other. That *relational love* between our Father and His children underlies Jesus' summary of the greatest commandment in Luke 10:27, which He quoted from *Torah* in Deuteronomy 6:5. And that same love Jesus mentions toward others is the *Torah* principle underlying our Father's instruction to His children in Leviticus 19:18 to pour out onto our "neighbors."



Through His commands in the Bible our heavenly Father instructs His children how to live righteously in their relationship with Him and with one another. And as His Spirit-filled child in union with Jesus as your Lord, your trusting obedience to make His instructions your way of life demonstrates that you're His grateful, loving child.

An important truth for you to mutually consider:

As the **Transitional Generation** it's important for you to be absolutely confident how the misuse of the word "Law" within Christendom grossly distorts our Father's intent for His righteous instructions. If you will mutually pray and make the effort, you'll realize that God's righteous instruction ("the Law") isn't in opposition to the Spirit. Rather, it's today's misuse of the *letter* of God's teachings — by either ignoring the written parameters altogether or demanding obedience to them apart from the indwelling Holy Spirit — that kills. Also, the mere *academic framework* of most Bible teaching leads to greater knowledge of the *letter* of God's Word but doesn't change the heart to align with the Spirit. **Knowledge without an obedient heart kills.**

In contrast, let's see how Jesus confronted the religious leaders who used the *letter* of the Law to dominate the people. Matthew 12 provides several examples which reveal the difference between the *letter* of God's Word and *the Spirit* using the Word to represent God's heart on a matter. The Pharisees who emphasized the letter of God's instructions practiced **legalistic perversion**: *feeling good about yourself because you keep rules tightly and are thereby pleasing God.*

Jesus further illuminates the distinction between the letter and the Spirit to the people who valued their self-righteousness and were critical of those whose "letter" of obedience was inferior to theirs:



“He spoke also this parable to certain people who were convinced of their own righteousness, and who despised all others. “Two men went up into the temple to pray; one was a Pharisee, and the other was a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed to himself like this: ‘God, I thank you, that I am not like the rest of men, extortioners, unrighteous, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week. I give tithes of all that I get.’ But the tax collector, standing far away, wouldn’t even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’” (Luke 18:9-13; see also Matthew 23: 23). [Note: The Pharisee focused on his “superior self”; the tax collector sought only God.]

Another insidious twist to misrepresenting God’s good and righteous instructional commands permeates Christianity today even more than the legalistic perversion of trying to justify yourself through how you obey them. Here’s how it works:

- **First, our heavenly Father has given His children righteous instructions, *Torah*, for them to discuss and make their way of life in loving and obedient trust in Jesus as Lord (John 14:21-24).**
- **Our heavenly Father expects His children to feel guilt when they break one of His righteous instructions so they’ll repent and make restitution. Repentance is driven by the sorrow the child experiences for having violated their relationship with the Father. (See 2Corinthians 7:9,10.)**
- **When Hellenist influence took over Christianity in the second and third centuries, the *Torah* was buried as God’s written instructional commands for His children. Hellenists created a schism between God’s grace in the Newer Testament and an erroneous conception of His “Law” as done away with rather than as a representation of His grace to His people. Thus emerged a grand deception perpetrated by Satan which took hold and hasn’t let up. Since no one likes to face the guilt of their own sin, the sin nature in people initially tries to balance any sense of guilt with blame. Blame excuses self and faults someone else, as when Adam blamed Eve, and Eve blamed the serpent.**
- **In the last century a new demonic tactic has transpired: to remove any sense of guilt by minimizing or eliminating any need to keep our Father’s righteous instructions. This strategy rides on the sinister slogan, “We’re no longer under the Law, but under grace.” With all sense of guilt eliminated, any need to repent is eradicated as well.**

People who view Father’s righteous instructions as *legalism to avoid* and have been taught to *remove all sense of guilt* never allow themselves to be confronted about their sin or any wrongdoing. Rather than feeling any guilt or sorrow which would lead them to repent, they defend themselves by turning the table on you when you do confront them: they accuse you of being “controlling,” “self-righteous,” “narrow-minded,” or “legalistic.”

For further insight into the sinister outgrowth of defining *Torah* as Legalistic Law, see our May-June 2004 Newsletter: “Be Warned! Greasy Grace Fuels the Fires of Hell.”
< [http://www.restorationministries.org/download/200405_06greasygrace%20\(1\).pdf](http://www.restorationministries.org/download/200405_06greasygrace%20(1).pdf)>

**“All a person’s ways seem pure to them,
but motives are weighed by the LORD”** (Proverbs 16:2).

**“So don’t pronounce judgment prematurely, before the Lord comes;
for He will bring to light what is now hidden in darkness;
He will expose the motives of people’s hearts; and then each
will receive from God whatever praise he deserves”** (1Corinthians 4:5).

The Spirit of God's Word is demonstrated in your positive attitude toward it and in your need for your Father's righteous guidance because of your ever-present sin nature. The Spirit which gives life flows through •the person who appreciates the magnitude of our God Who created the entire universe, •who understands the depth of their own sinful depravity, •and is filled with love because Jesus paid the cost so they could be reconciled to a heavenly Father.

- Those who rely on the letter of God's Word focus on **what they do**. Most are concerned that others see the good they're doing (see Matthew 6:1,2,5,16). Or, they feel good about themselves because they have no sense of guilt over anything they're doing that violates His Word.
- Those who live by the Spirit are **focused on their motivations and attitudes behind what they do** (see Matthew 6:3,4,6,17,18). They ask themselves, "Would my Lord Jesus do this?" They're keenly aware that during their pilgrimage to their salvation, their heavenly Father is sanctifying them by His Spirit—enabling His children to become more like His Son, Jesus.

"For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God" (Romans 8:14).

In many of the materials we've produced over the years we affirm a truth that's often been pushed aside by the deceived: *"You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, IF indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ"* (Romans 8:9). It's the Holy Spirit Who convicts a person of violating our Father's righteous instructions, and this conviction produces a sense of guilt. It's the Holy Spirit Who gives us grace in our sorrow to repent, and gives us the power to make our Father's righteous instructions our way of life.

We who are indwelled by the Holy Spirit can't let ourselves be haphazard in making our Father's instructions our way of life. It begins with two or three **resolutely determined** by His grace to become more like our Lord Jesus and bring glory to our Father by fulfilling His purposes. Religion and its dependence on manmade traditions and demonic influences has nothing in common with our reliance on the Holy Spirit. Any sense of guilt over violating your Father's righteous instructions isn't a curse. It's His grace so you'll quickly restore your fellowship with Him through repentance (see 1John 1:8-10).

The **resolutely determined** know that the Holy Spirit knits Father's children together in marriage and in fellowship. Because of their mutual commitment to our Father and Lord Jesus, the **resolutely determined** readily accept being confronted about any sin they may not recognize: *"If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you..."* (Matthew 18:15a).

Lastly, in strengthening your **resolute determination** both individually and collectively, your heavenly Father uses Satan to *sift your motives* to see if they flow from His indwelling Spirit or from some other source. He's asking, *"Do your motivations find their root in His righteous instructions?"* Remember that Jesus, Job, and Peter were sifted, and you should expect nothing less. Through the sifting, your heavenly Father is validating the genuineness of your Spirit-based devotion to Him, His Son Jesus, and to His righteous instructions (2Corinthians 13:14).

- **Only the indwelling Holy Spirit provides you life as you mutually apply the Word of God.**
- **Be sure that He'll first examine your motives before He empowers you to take action.**

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