

## In 2021 Don't Be "This Far And No More"

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Twenty or so years ago we traveled the country conducting seminars on the Hebraic foundations. We'd just finished a seminar in upstate New York and Mike was in the hallway answering questions from some attendees who'd stayed on. As they were discussing different points we'd made, a young pastor who'd looked grim throughout the seminar walked past Mike toward the restroom.

As the pastor reached the restroom door, he stopped and turned around. He then walked back to Mike and stood by him with arms folded, glaring. Several minutes elapsed before Mike turned toward the young man with this message: "You've told God, 'This far and no more.' He says to you, 'You have much more to learn. And when you let go of control in your own life, you will learn My ways.'"

As Mike finished relating what the Holy Spirit had given him to share, the man broke into sobbing. He told Mike and the other people standing there that he had never heard the Holy Spirit speak to him before. But as he had reached the door of the restroom, the Holy Spirit had told him to stand by Mike until Mike spoke to him a truth which he needed to hear. That pastor then told everyone in the little group, "I stood next to Mike pouting with my arms folded, silently challenging Mike to say something." Then he asked Mike what he should do to let go of control. Mike gave him a first step: **"Don't ever preach a message the Holy Spirit hasn't given you."** The pastor left for home pondering Mike's counsel.

Several weeks later we received a call from the pastor telling us that the following Sunday the Holy Spirit hadn't given him anything to teach. So when the usual time for his sermon came, he told the congregation what Mike had told him at the seminar. What followed was an hour of wonderful interactive discussion with the pastor fielding questions from those sitting before him. Many later told him that it was the best service they'd ever been to in that congregation!

A few days later the pastor met with the congregation's leadership. They commended him for what he did during the Sunday service, and confessed to him, "We've been praying for a long time for our Lord to get you to let go of control!" That was the beginning of a new Spirit-led direction for that faith community.

***"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of My Father Who is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21).***

**If your life isn't demonstrating your loving obedience to do your Father's will each day, then you're in control and He isn't.**

If you have a Kingdom-mindset, keep in mind that our Lord Jesus wasn't a "Christian". He is far, far more than that label implies. And our responsibility to gratefully serve Him the way He commands is to know deep within us that His being Lord of those who belong to Him is far, far more encompassing than most Christians want to know and commit themselves to. Sadly, the faith walk of all too many is best described as "This far and no more."

Those who love Jesus in obedient trust and live with Him as Lord of their lives in fulfilling our Father's will are His true family. All others may claim they're "Christian", but they live a lie. The Newer Testament in particular warns about having our faith walk compromised by Satan. This means that we need to pay careful attention to who we're serving in our daily lives: ourselves or our Lord Jesus (see Galatians 5:7-9; 1Thessalonians 3:5; Colossians 2:8; 2Timothy 3:1-5).

**Having an attitude of "This far and no more" leaves many vulnerable to being seduced by Satan.**

By His Spirit at work in them, the Kingdom-minded advance in love and character development in their faith walk and in their obedient follow-through in their responsibilities to our Lord. This is the pattern of ever-growing, ongoing life transformation which the Newer Testament writers exhort our Lord's followers to be doing in their lives (see 1Thessalonians 4:1,10; Philippians 1:9-11; 2Peter 1:3-9).

We've previously written about different responses among self-identified Christians to our Father's specific will and His righteous commands according to how readily people are willing to obey. We believe this is a vital insight for each one of us as we scrutinize our own spiritual lives and the lives of those with us in our faith journey in this upcoming year.

## **How People Are Inspired To Be True To Jesus In Obedient Trust**

- **Innovators** (2% of followers of Jesus) — This minority hungers to become like their Lord and to do the will of His Father. Out of love for Him they are willing to yield themselves and all they have in order to follow in His steps. Their lives are transparent and they are humbly open about their own flaws and weaknesses.
- **Early Adapters** (12%) — These people are inspired by Innovators to follow the Innovators' purpose and pattern of love-grounded obedient trust. In turn, the Early Adapters are in a position to influence and inspire others in their faith community to press on in like manner — even folks who might shy away from Innovators.
- **Early Majority** (33%) — This group is reluctant to be inspired by others in their faith walk. They don't want to be the first to respond to the Spirit like Innovators do, nor do they want to be the last to make a change.
- **Late Majority** (33%) — These individuals wait for institutional endorsement before letting themselves be inspired to make any changes in their spiritual walk.
- **Laggards** (20%) — These are people who won't allow themselves to be changed no matter what truths are presented to them. They consistently resist spiritual growth or change.

[For a more complete discussion of the above, see our Prophetic Insight, "*Have You Been Marginalized For Following Jesus?*" <[https://restorationministries.org/download/23.marginalized%20\(2\).pdf](https://restorationministries.org/download/23.marginalized%20(2).pdf)>].

Also, in light of the above descriptions, ask yourself these questions. What would be Jesus's line of demarcation between those who are really His and those who think they belong to Him but refuse to follow Him in obedient trust? Where would you put yourself in the listed categories?

***“Jesus replied, ‘Not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given’”*** (Matthew 19:11).

Over our years of conducting seminars, we noticed that when a seminar was held in a hotel/motel conference room, only Innovators, Early Adapters, and Early Majority attended. But when we held a seminar in a church building, all five types attended. The Laggards, who epitomize “This far and no more,” always played “the devil’s advocate” in raising groundless arguments and unwarranted objections.

We have learned through years of sharing the Hebraic foundations that our Lord hasn’t given everyone the grace to accept what He has called us to present. Many who came in contact with these truths found that it took several years before the Holy Spirit brought them to the place of putting these truths into practice. Two people admitted to us that our materials literally fell off the closet shelf onto their head ten years after they’d received them. They read them with understanding and used them in their own life.

If you're one of these people who is on the fence of whether to apply these truths to your life and your family's lives, we encourage to prayerfully watch our Jesus In Your Home video, "*How We Got This Message*" <<https://youtu.be/jpOZCvauhXk>>. We also encourage you to review the faith-based relationships you keep and ways in which you can lovingly spur on one another in Kingdom living. Another video that may help you is from our Jesus In Your Home series: "*Various Types Of Relationships*" <<https://youtu.be/BAG4C1w5fcw>>.

Finally, this nation has not yet learned how crucial to our collective well-being is the humble *repentance* which our Father has been trying to bring us to in a whole variety of ways. Please don't occupy yourself with the vain hope which the media tries to portray: "Everything is going to be better in the future." Count on it *not* getting better, and be found by our Lord Jesus doing His Father's will in loving and obedient trust. This is our prayer for each of you in this coming new year.

**Mike & Sue**