

September 3, 2009

Thinking Like Our King

Dear Friends,

Lifebyte 67, the next installment in our series on spiritual power, is available. It's been painful for us to write these Lifebytes on how so much of Christendom lost its spiritual power. We are exposing the events and circumstances that Satan has used over the centuries to destroy Jesus' emphasis that impelled His first followers: "*Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness...*" (Matthew 6:33). Lacking both a Kingdom focus and the need to walk in His righteous steps, Christianity became a system of organized religion. By adopting unbiblical pagan practices, compromise ensued, and forsaken for the most part were both spiritual power as well as a sacrificial willingness to act boldly to extend the Kingdom of God.

Through research and revelation the Holy Spirit has made clear how demonic influence has created the 38,000 competing denominations abounding today. This disunity and division is Satan's plan, not our Lord's. After we acquaint you with how Satan may still be influencing your thinking about the Kingdom, you'll discover in subsequent Lifebytes the path we ALL need to take as we serve our gracious King in His Kingdom purposes.

This Lifebyte focuses on ***a Kingdom way of thinking*** that His beloved servants need in order to do their part in expanding that Kingdom on earth. Over the centuries the enemy of our souls has introduced throughout Christendom unbiblical thought processes in how we consider the truths of God. We discuss this at depth because the way most people today process information comes through means established Christendom adopted centuries ago from the Hellenists. This unbiblical pattern has hindered many today from understanding the Kingdom of God and has caused all too many to live without reliance on His spiritual power. And tragically, so many among the "churched" don't even miss the power Lord Jesus promises His own!

We realize that the transformation into "Kingdom thinking" is very hard for those who have spent any considerable time in the "Christian" religious system. Why? Because the depth of personal dedication to the indwelling Spirit of Jesus requires motivation that is either *nurtured or destroyed* depending on how you've been taught or disciplined. Again, the methods and thought processes that Christianity has adopted from Hellenism have stymied the heart motivation that's needed to be wholehearted about the Kingdom on behalf of our King.

Our King commands that we deny ourselves — our own agenda and goals and inclinations — and be totally committed to following Him and fulfilling His purposes. Isn't this the point that Jesus makes for all of us who claim to belong to Him as Lord of our lives?

"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself,

and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.
For whoever desires to save his life will lose it,
but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.
For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world,
and is himself destroyed or lost?
For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words,
of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory,
and in His Father's, and of the holy angels" (Luke 9:23-26; see also Matthew 13:44-46).

Our persecuted brothers and sisters around the world grasp the depth of this passage from the moment they put their trust in Jesus. They have counted the cost! However, for us who don't face persecution because of our obedient trust in Lord Jesus, compromise with the world's ways and values is all too easy — and all too common. Toleration for sin in ourselves and in others within our faith communities as well as the distortion of biblical truth in so much of religious programming has hindered the majority of "Christians" from the self-sacrificial devotion that "losing your life" for Christ entails. To labor in His Kingdom as our Father calls for requires total abandonment to His will. "Religion" never demands this, and that's why it's so difficult to become Kingdom-minded without developing a "Kingdom mindset" **and** crying out to Jesus for the grace only He can give.

In Lifebyte 34. *The Abrahamic Covenant: Groundwork For The Hebraic Restoration*, we discuss the funnel the Holy Spirit gave Mike in a vision many years ago.

We've noted previously how important it is to stay off the sides of the funnel, which represent unconfessed sin and spiritual strongholds, and come to the center through repentance and demolishing those strongholds. Only in the center can you move down the funnel and grow in increasing Christ-likeness. Only in the stem of the funnel can you fulfill the words of Jesus in Luke 9:23-26, above.

It's also in the stem of the funnel that we develop the spiritual "eyes" of His perspective so that we can understand why our Lord has each of us where we are, whether in our neighborhood, our job, our school: "[So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view](#)" (2 Corinthians 5:16a). To participate in the work of His Kingdom requires that we stop seeing the world around us through our mind, will, and emotions which focus on how we think about it, our agenda regarding it, our feelings about it. Instead, we're called to view it through our spirit so that His Spirit can guide and empower us according to our Father's will. This is crucial if we are to assess our neighborhoods, workplaces, and schools from our Lord's vantage point — as opportunities for us to make Him known and to expand His Kingdom. He always places His people where they can do His Kingdom work. Most are blindly unaware of His desires and purpose and therefore are trapped in motives that align with the world (James 4:4) rather than the King (Romans 12:2).

So, as you go through this Lifebyte we encourage you to diligently examine if your way of thinking aligns with that of our Lord's Kingdom. Or, does Satan have a foothold in your thought processes hindering you from becoming "Kingdom-minded"?

And, please remember us in prayer...
Mike & Sue