

## POTPOURRI FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT

(a series of remembrances)

# Insights We've Gleaned To Warn and Strengthen You

9-5-2024

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

This new series of potpourri from the Holy Spirit is our way of presenting you our accumulated diverse remembrances, revelations and insights which He has given us over the years. Some recall events that have personally affected us in the past and some that still do. Others are observations about the Hebraic foundations as well as about Christians at large (maybe even you!). Please don't just read these recollections as bits of information. Rather, take them to heart. We sense that the Holy Spirit wants to use these as a means for you and those with you on your faith journey to scrutinize your own lives and obtain His understanding of yourselves.

#### 1. There's an overriding sadness to our ministry since Israel.

It's been emotionally heartbreaking for us these past 30 years as we've obediently shared with you that which our heavenly Father commanded us. Following through on His assignment with grateful wonder over what He is restoring yet seeing how deceived so much of Christianity has become has been very depressing. The Holy Spirit warned us in 1994 while we were still in Israel that we'd experience substantial resistance to the Hebraic foundations when we returned to the US:

"You're going to the hardest place on earth for anyone to embrace the Hebraic foundations. <u>Hellenism owns the church in the United States</u>." Then in 1997 the Spirit promised, "When the Dark Days of Chastisement come on the United States, what you share will then bear fruit."

Those Spirit-breathed words, "Hellenism owns the church in the United States", have haunted us many times as we've done seminars over the years. The organized Christian establishment has produced far too many Hellenized, self-absorbed men in particular, especially husbands. These men have been trained to not only resist any kind of rule by our Lord Jesus; they've also positioned themselves and their own wants at the center of their personal universe. Anchor this reality for yourself. When the quest for Bible knowledge (which the Reformers stressed) consumes the male mind, the <u>love</u> of Jesus doesn't flow from his heart. Rather, he completely misses the intimacy of relationship that our Father emphasizes throughout both testaments. Intimacy with Father and our Lord Jesus is the divine design for a man, because that's the kind of intimacy that's required in his marriage. (See Ephesians 5:25; Colossians 3:19.)

At times men phoned Mike as they were pursuing the Hebraic foundations. After the calls Sue would ask if the man was married. Mike would respond, "He never mentioned a wife, nor did he ever use 'we' or 'us'." Sometimes this went on for months in conversations with the same men. Having to wait so long before the man finally indicated he was married gave us reliable insight into his heart and the self-centeredness with which his wife had to deal in him. This brought to mind the retreat center where we ministered before Israel when we'd hear some wives say about their husbands, "I love the guy, but I don't like him."

After we'd been sharing the Hebraic foundations for several years, we sadly noticed this: only about 1 out of 200 husbands had the humility to halt their own self-gratifying interests and pursue our Lord Jesus until <u>His love flowed through them for their wives</u>. That's because their male ego and self-focus kept their wives from experiencing the love of Jesus through them as

husbands. But as the wives learned through the Hebraic foundations what our Lord purposed in the love they should experience from their husbands in their marriage covenant, a number became demoralized that her husband wouldn't humble himself on her behalf.

We've previously related this disheartening anecdote about the daunting impact of divorce especially on children. As Mike sat on a wall on the Mount of Olives during our last days in Israel, our Father was weeping as He spoke to Mike: "The reason I brought you to Israel is that the children of divorce in the United States are breaking My heart." Even as I now recall our Father's deep sorrow 30 years ago, my heart is as wounded as it was when I first heard His words. Maybe you view divorce as nothing more than breaking up like in dating. But we confidently attest that divorce mutilates the core of your children's emotions. When we got back to the US from Israel we read an extensive study on the children of divorce: The vast majority have an exceedingly difficult time trusting other people. And this distrust carries over to our heavenly Father in their spiritual life.

Divorce has cursed these children even as they become adults. They may become "believers", but they need Christ's emotional healing if they are to become "trusters." Take this to heart: The glory of a relationship with our heavenly Father in union with Christ is demonstrated by those who trust Him no matter what the circumstances. In trusting Him, you are entrusting yourself to His Fatherhood. Trusting God as Father is immensely more difficult for the children of divorce. If you're a divorced parent and haven't considered this tragic fact before, it should break your heart and cause you to ask forgiveness of both Him and your children. (Divorce is a much larger curse on our society than you may want to recognize. Christianity at large seems to focus far more on single or divorced mothers than on strengthening marriages so couples (especially older couples) can come alongside and help single-parent households.)

## 2. Why we are so bold in sharing the Hebraic foundations.

The Holy Spirit has instilled in us the deep fortitude we need to be able to share our Father's precious restoration with those in a resistant, Hellenized religious system. Over the past 10 years we've gradually had to reduce interaction with our personal relationships. At first it appeared that Mike's capacity to interact with people was being curtailed by the fibromyalgia and other painful outworkings of Agent Orange within him. (Even after so many years, the effects of this life-destroying herbicide used in Vietnam is like an insidious evil that gets into your DNA. It continues to attack various parts of the body as if you're rotting from the inside. Hundreds of thousands of Vietnam vets have painfully died from its effects, so we're all the more grateful to our Lord that Mike's still alive! Sue: I appreciate all the more now at this stage of our lives that the Holy Spirit gave me a *gift of faith* when I first followed Jesus as my Lord and Savior. If it weren't for His loving presence, I don't know how I could keep supportively encouraging Mike as he has needed. Our covenant union with our Lord has certainly been the solid foundation for our marriage covenant!)

Because of the often-relentless suffering Mike endures, we generally plan get-togethers with others when we're pretty sure he'll be able to interact with them with Christ's love rather than being overwhelmed by pain. Also, in light of what we've been given to share the past 3 decades, it's emotionally painful to have an encounter so many Christians who have such a low regard for the preeminence of our Father and Lord Jesus in their lives. Instead, they live with tolerated sin yet don't feel any guilt. Nor do they intend to turn from what they know displeases God. Since we couldn't take that kind of worldly compromise anymore in these relationships, we needed to let them go their own way without us.

Then the Holy Spirit revealed one day during our prayer walk that HE had been behind curtailing a number of our personal contacts. This was because the insights and revelations He'd been giving us especially the past few years have been increasingly more sobering and more urgent to hear and to share. It's not just that His messages are more serious. It's also that self-absorbed Hellenized Christians have pushed our heavenly Father to have to severely chastise this nation—the forthcoming Dark Days of Chastisement.

We're grateful that the Holy Spirit sustains Mike as he sits painfully at his computer to write the next thing He wants to be sent to you. Elisabeth Elliot, one of our missions professors, once said, "Obedience is our responsibility. The result of our obedience is up to God." We've also been heartened by these factors: •Mike's military background and his determination to willingly obey the Holy Spirit; •our mutual love for our Lord Jesus and our heavenly Father; •your faithful prayers on our behalf; •our resolute commitment by His grace to make these precious truths known. Please realize this: There's absolutely nothing special about the two of us. We were chosen by our Father in 1993 to share the Hebraic foundations even while we were at the lowest point of our marriage and considering divorce when He took us to Israel. The preeminence of our Father and our Lord Jesus in both of our lives and the interconnection of the New Covenant with our marriage covenant which were revealed to us in the Hebraic foundations not only saved our marriage but completely revolutionized it. That's why we can confidently assert that there is nothing within Hellenized Christendom that can instill in you the intimacy that our Father and Lord Jesus offer you in which divine love flows into your marriage covenant.

#### 3. We are very aware of our spiritual participation with you.

"And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father, Who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light" (Colossians 1:9-12).

Paul's prayer is at the heart of our deep concern for each of you who receive what the Holy Spirit reveals to us to send out. These truths are entering over 100 countries around the world. And the Hebraic foundations are penetrating regions which demonic principalities and powers have kept in darkness for centuries. (Sadly, much of the missions effort in some of these nations has centered on anti-Semitic theology, sectarian creedal division, and entrenching a clergy class—yet none of these elements is Scriptural.) But your prayers on our behalf have made possible the introduction of the Hebraic foundations into these lands! (Several years ago we saw that half the downloads from our website were going into a nation that's been closed off to the Gospel. As you may have noticed, we don't advertise. We trust the Holy Spirit to disseminate the truths He's given us by whatever means He opens.) There's no way that we two could reach so many people without the participation of those who pray for us. May the Holy Spirit Who opens these doors for His truths to go forth also open doors on your behalf as you press on with us for the glory of our heavenly Father.

A challenge for you to consider: Have a discussion with people you consider close to you in your faith walk about how often your faith conversations focus on the precious *Name and Person of Jesus* or on *our heavenly Father's purposes for each of you*. Are you more wrapped up with emblems of Christianity such as Bible studies and church services than with Christ Himself? If our Lord Jesus is the Head of His own, shouldn't He be central in your faith walk and discussions? The presence of the indwelling

Holy Spirit would make this happen. If this isn't occurring, then is the Holy Spirit truly abiding in you, or are you quenching Him?

### 3. Continuously counteracting the cowardice of "aerodynamics" Bible teachers

When Mike was in Aviation Officer Candidate training in the navy, a fellow student mentioned that had a doctorate in aerodynamics. Just prior to commissioning, the navy offered this man a promotion of two higher ranks if he would forego flight training and just teach aerodynamics. (As a wise friend told Mike, "The essence of flying is *flying*, not just learning about it!") That man never did fly afterwards, while the rest of us went on and experienced flight training at the hands of *operationally experienced pilots*. Mike then became one of these *operationally experienced pilots* during time of war.

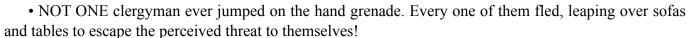
After leaving the navy, Mike attended seminary. It became deplorably obvious that the majority of the professors were "aerodynamics teachers" in their instructional approach. Few had any experience in sacrificially serving our Lord Jesus in the field or being ruled by Him in ways that they could disciple others to follow. Testimonies of divine interaction of guidance and empowerment by the Holy Spirit, indicators of truly belonging to our Lord Jesus, were sparse. Mike had experienced firsthand among the brothers on his last ship the Biblical discussion-for-application method which they saw that Jesus used in discipling. But seminary classes conducted by "aerodynamics teachers" were our first exposure to the intrusion of anti-Semitic theology and the renunciation of our Lord's instructive methods. We hope you can feel our deep sorrow in observing potential clergy being imbued with tons of Bible knowledge by learned seminary professors. But having little personal experience of sacrificial living to draw upon, these young pulpit candidates would be ineffectual role models for men in the pew to emulate.

We've often repeated this disheartening anecdote to poignantly illustrate how little that men and clergy in particular are willing to sacrifice themselves on behalf of others:

With different groups who came to our retreat center during our 11 years there, Mike simulated dropping a hand grenade in their midst. He'd tell them they had 3 seconds to respond, and then he'd count:

"1...2...3...BOOM!!!"

- Over half of the teenagers and women would jump on the hand grenade to save others.
- About 1 out of 10 men would jump on the hand grenade.



Mike was sickened by the cowardice which was evidenced by no clergy person being willing to sacrifice himself. He asked himself if these men were able to authentically apply Jesus's words to themselves: "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). And the men who as teens had a 50% chance of jumping on the grenade were only 10% as likely to do the same as adults. Think about the self-preserving, self-protection which penetrates a man's heart when he only has clergy "aerodynamics" Bible teaching! Our Lord Jesus walked what He taught and then taught others to walk the talk. In contrast, arrogant "aerodynamics" Bible teachers and learned theologians major on the talk and make the walk irrelevant.

## 4. Often attesting to the spiritual warfare which Christians must engage in

"We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the evil one" (1 John 5:19). Why should anybody who belongs to our Lord Jesus get upset over the evil they see in the world as though it were something strange? Our Lord has his own on Earth to live as His

ambassadors to free people from the grasp of the evil one. If you're not doing anything about this very real assignment, who do you belong to?

Satan was on Earth before Adam and Eve were created. When you study the Bible, you can't help but realize that warfare, especially spiritual warfare, is a key component throughout its books. In Revelation we're given insight into the spiritual battle that encapsulates the source of spiritual warfare: "And the <u>dragon</u> was enraged with the woman, and he went to <u>make war with the rest of her offspring</u>, those who <u>keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ</u>" (12:17). "It was granted to [the <u>beast</u>] to <u>make war with the saints and to overcome them</u>" (13:7).

King David, the mighty warrior known as "a man after God's own heart" (Acts 13:22), sought God's guidance in battling his earthly enemies (2Samuel 5:17-25). Our Lord Jesus is pictured as the Captain of Heaven's armies leading them into battle (Revelation 19:11-14). Warfare analogies abound in both testaments. Paul writes with lucid insight about the ongoing battle which rages around Christians in the unseen world: "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realm" (Ephesians 6:12).

It's been dispiriting for us to observe so many Christian individuals, families and faith communities being held in demonic captivity and given the crumbs that Satan allows. They've been taught by "aerodynamics teachers" that demonic activity takes place only among primitive cultures in Third World areas. So they have no idea that they themselves might be "demonized" in parts of their soul which they haven't yielded to the Holy Spirit. That's why most Christians never engage and evict the devil's spirits in the way Jesus has given His own the authority and power to so they can be fully free to hear <u>only</u> the Holy Spirit. Therefore they never experience the victory in which His disciples rejoiced: "Lord, even the demons submit to us in Your Name" (Luke 10:17).

Over the years we've used a variety of formats to produce Bible-based materials on spiritual warfare. These not only reveal how to be victorious over the devil, but also how to free your family and faith community so that you can together be fully available for our Lord to use. Like King David, we who follow Jesus as our Lord need His Spirit's guidance to effectively engage in the spiritual battle for souls. As we traveled the nation doing Hebraic seminars, we would first help attendees demolish their demonic strongholds. Do you know what it feels like, congregation after congregation, to discover that most of the people in that congregation have the <u>same prevalent demons</u> influencing and/or controlling their attitudes and behaviors?

BEFORE
You Demolished Your Strongholds



<u>AFTER</u>
You Demolished The Strongholds



Do you know how it feels <u>after</u> they free themselves from the demons in the Name of our Lord Jesus to see spiritual light filling the gathering? A frequent comment was, "Now I can <u>hear</u>

you!" We realized they were telling us with joy that with the absence of the demonic strongholds that had influenced them for so long, they were experiencing <u>God's truth and His love</u> for the first time. We illustrate this in our workbook, **Demolishing Strongholds**:

It pains us to observe our nation destroying itself because demonic activity goes unopposed throughout most of Christianity. This promise holds true today: "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). We've experienced how powerful the authority of the Name of our Lord Jesus is in evicting demons. But we've also observed the "aerodynamics-taught" clergy dissuading their congregants from anything to do with spiritual warfare. Very, very few clergy we've encountered over the years even acknowledge the existence of Satan, never mind train their flock to evict unclean spirits. Freed from contrary demonic voices, Jesus' own can then fruitfully be about our Father's will. This nation isn't "going to the dogs". Rather, cowardly 'aerodynamics teacher' clergy are handing it over to the devil.

FYI: We both want to be fully available and alert to any opportunities our Lord may bring before us especially when we're away from home. That's why it's our ongoing practice to bind demons in the Name of our Lord Jesus before we go into stores, and even as we enter the city for any purpose. Then we're often able to freely represent our Lord Jesus with people, even with unoccupied store cashiers who share personal needs with us. We take seriously these two commands: "Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:15,16). "Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone" (Colossians 4:5,6).

Filling you in on some personal anecdotes about our way of living as we follow our Lord Jesus isn't intended to impress you. But if <u>Christ's burden</u> for the lost isn't <u>your burden</u>, then you may be in far more eternal jeopardy than you want to believe. "Aerodynamics" Bible teachers, whether clergy or learned theologian, feel compelled to maintain their status quo and not shake up anyone's complacency. They're far too cowardly to actively fulfill the burden of our Lord Jesus. They and their spineless teachings which are designed to appease the half-hearted will hinder you in bearing our Lord's burden and fighting the spiritual battle for the souls which Satan is holding captive.

Please plant this firmly in your heart. There is absolutely no way that the Holy Spirit, our Lord's Spirit, would allow anyone He indwells to not have the heart and mind of Christ in representing Him. If you need to use our materials on demolishing any strongholds within yourself so you can keep in step with the Spirit of our Lord, **DO SO!** Don't allow yourself to live in self-rationalizing, self-excusing cowardice by compromising with demons. Our Lord Jesus is worthy of your full, unhampered love and obedient trust. Just because you've been deceived by cowards who fear loss of position or financial support, don't let yourself go on in that path a moment longer!