

POTPOURRI FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT

(remembrances of the Holy Spirit)



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Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Here's a startling thought for you to seriously weigh. You may be among the very people who have never **died-to-yourself** so that the Spirit of our Lord Jesus <u>actively lives through you</u>. A Christian who *lives for yourself* has discarded an essential command of our Lord Jesus: to die to your own will and purposes so that by the Spirit within you, you live to bring our Father glory and fulfill His purposes for you. The institutions of both Roman Catholicism and Protestantism have supported *living for yourself*, not dying-to-yourself. The insidious incursion of **anti-Semitic the-ology** and **religious indoctrination** over the centuries replaced you dying-to-yourself in favor of you passively being part in a religious organization.

"Do I not have
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Have you considered this: EVERY pertinent Scripture affirms that our Lord's offer of salvation is free. *But* living genuinely born again requires you **dying-to-yourself** so that the Spirit of our Lord lives through you in fulfilling our Father's purposes to His glory. Those who are dead-to-themselves can be *entrusted with the Holy Spirit's guidance and power of His gifts* because their lives exist to bring our heavenly Father glory under the Lordship of Jesus. Please don't shut out or dismiss what we're sharing here because of your prior anti-Semitic theology beliefs and religious indoctrination.

Ask the Holy Spirit to confirm for you what we are writing and be guided by Him. *FYI*: Christians who continue to live for themselves have failed to lovingly and gratefully appreciate the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus on their behalf. This widespread negligence has been perpetuated through centuries of anti-Semitic creedal positions and religious system indoctrination. These have inhibited so many from living the dead-to-self life as our Lord Jesus commands in His Word: "Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life" (John 12:25). "For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it" (Mark 8:35). You can readily see that there's a dreadful eternal consequence if you refuse to die-to-yourself. You'll remain spiritually blinded until loving appreciation for what our Lord Jesus by grace accomplished on your behalf compels you to desperately die-to-yourself.

Living dead-to-yourself means you wholeheartedly pursue experiencing the Spirit of our Lord Jesus operating through you. We're not talking about earning salvation through your works. Far from it! We are reinforcing a biblical mandate for which the patriarch Abraham is commended (see James 2:14-26 for an example of his trust working together with his obedient actions). Your actions don't earn you anything. But they are a living verification that you really do belong to our Lord Jesus. When you live fully committed to being dead-to-yourself and actively living as our Lord's redemptive ambassador, you're bearing witness to your spiritual status both here on earth and in heaven.

When you die-to-yourself, our Lord Jesus gives you <u>His way of life</u> with the spiritual guidance and power you need to do Father's will. This ongoing process of transformation is best described like this: "*Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up*" (James 4:10). If you claim to belong to our Lord Jesus, then you should respond to this

process with a resounding "YES!" In each generation our Lord makes the same offer: for Him to live fruitfully in and through the dead-to-self. Our lament is that we've observed so many Humanist-influenced Christians pursuing their own happiness and agenda with a little spirituality tacked on. They live like self-absorbed drug addicts seeking another fix to make themselves feel good.

The Demonic Snare Of The 'Theologically Learned' And Their Nicolaitan Cohorts The Lordship of Jesus and the Nicolaitan clergy system are diametrically opposed!

Earlier we cited verses 2:14-26 from the Book of James which affirm this Hebraic understanding: that the actions of those who are dead-to-themselves verify their faith. Abraham, the father of all the *genuinely* born again, is a prime example of such a person (Romans 4:16; Galatians 3:7). You may not realize what a controversial book that James has been over the centuries. The 'learned' opinion of anti-Semitic theologians was that the book should not have been included in the Bible Canon.

One of their objections is that the book appears to emphasize justification by works. Reformers viewed this as Roman Catholicism's dogma that particular works are necessary for salvation. But this errant understanding of the book of James exists for three major reasons. And these reasons are why the majority of Christians are so dormant in fulfilling our Father's will and bringing Him glory. Check your own heart to see if any of these have contributed to your spiritual passivity and reluctance to openly live as Christ's ambassador:

1. The majority of the Reformers were obsessed with **faith with no evidence to verify its authenticity**. Their 'learned' opinion was that "works" opposed pure faith. For example, Martin Luther's position was that the Book of James contradicted justification by faith alone. He and other anti-Semitic theologians refused to accept the interconnected Hebraic understanding that **faith is verified by the actions it produces**. Disregarding their (and our) Hebraic ancestors in Christ, they refused to acknowledge that **faith-based actions** are the <u>evidence</u> of being *genuinely* being born again: <u>keeping God's commands and doing His will as empowered by the indwelling Holy Spirit</u>. This is the very evidence which James 2:26 cites to warn against "dead faith" which does not view **faith-based actions as verifying faith**. Our Lord Jesus makes clear the way of life of those who really belong to Him:

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

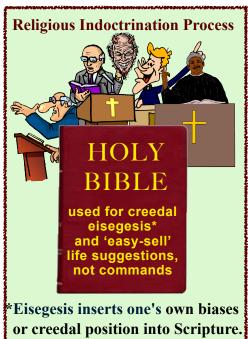
"Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and does them is like a wise man who built his house on the rock" (Matthew 7:24; see also Luke 8:21).

Paul too reiterates faith which aligns with action: "The things which you have learned and received and heard from me, and seen in me—<u>keep doing these</u>. And the God of peace will be with you" (Philippians 4:9; see also 1Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 3:17).

Christian writings of the 1st and early 2nd centuries emphasized the faith-based actions of following Christ as Lord. John emphasizes this truth: "Dear friends, if our hearts know nothing against us, we have confidence in approaching God; then, whatever we ask for, we receive from Him; because we are obeying His commands and doing the things that please Him" (1John 3:21,22). Today Humanism has caused a misinterpretation of God's "grace" to allow Christians to sin, and to live for their own happiness. Obedient, faith-based actions are often viewed as opposing grace! This distortion has resulted in 'Christians' who live the same way as their worldly unbelieving counterparts. And they are just as spiritually powerless and spiritually blind.

2. Both Roman Catholicism and almost all of Protestantism place an inordinate priority on academically-based religious indoctrination. And, contrary to Scriptural practice, both groups emphasize 'creedal unity' in which participants must agree with their particular creedal persuasion. Having discarded our Lord Jesus's pattern of interactive instruction and role modeling faith-based actions, the organized religious systems instead favor Greek oratory and eloquent sermons before silent audiences. It is hard to find biblical elders and leaders who lead the way for the flock under the Lordship of Jesus in fulfilling Father's purposes?

In most denominations and sects *creedal unity* is promoted through "catechisms." Their 'learned' creedal position is the filter that's used to <u>indoctrinate congregants into their particular interpretation of God's Word</u>. This method of teaching interprets a biblical text according to the teacher's own biases or agenda or their personal presupposition of what they think the Bible *ought* to say. Tragically, the Scriptures in



their entirety are not allowed to speak for themselves. Rather, only the Scriptures which align with the distinctive creedal positions of that denomination or sect are publicly taught. This single demonically evil practice is at the forefront of Christian divisiveness and spiritual powerlessness!

3. Salvation has devolved into unbiblical "easy-sell gospels." Theologian John Calvin was the first to make salvation an 'easy sell' by strongly emphasizing God's sole part in predestination and that those whom God has chosen can never "lose their salvation" even if they fall away from His path for them. He expressed the opinion of "once saved, always saved" in the mid-16th century, believing that an individual had no say in whether he was of the "elect" or not (ie, "saved"). Initially called "perseverance of the saints", this unbiblical "gospel" quickly spread through various Protestant denominations, and in the early 20th century, "once saved, always saved" became a defining creed of Southern Baptist and Plymouth Brethren theology. Many Protestant denominations with roots in Calvinist theology falsely believe that 'Christians' can never lose their so-called 'salvation' despite biblical warnings against apostatizing and falling away (see Hebrews 6:4-6, 10:26,27; 1Timothy 4:1). Today, almost all Baptist denominations and Presbyterians hold this belief, which is also known as "the security of the believer".

Anti-Semitic theology over the centuries has resulted in a variety of easy-sell "gospels" that completely refute the Gospel of our Lord Jesus in the New Covenant. To make their teachings an easy sell, they altered when the promise of salvation would be fulfilled at the end of earthly life as our Lord's first followers understood. In its place these false, man-pleasing "gospels" offer a guarantee of salvation on the day a person is declared "saved" no matter how he lives. All reference to a *life of faith-based actions* as a true indicator of being *genuinely* born again has been eliminated in order to retain contented congregants.

In order for the clergy to retain adherents (bill payers) very little is expected of them. They downplay such biblical truths as: •living repentantly, •verifying someone's faith through their actively fulfilling Father's will, •dying-to-self and living under the Lordship of Jesus in His love and forgiveness and compassion for others, •living guided and empowered by the indwelling Holy Spirit. The audacity of these anti-Semitic theologians and clergy can be summed up in what they falsely imply about our Lord:

"Lord, we theologians and clergy know better than you do. You don't really know how to pass along the Bible from generation to generation to retain adherents. But we do! The various creeds and positions concocted by us who are 'learned' have far more influence in Christianity than does Your Holy Spirit. You just stay in heaven and let us construct our own 'Christianity' here on earth!"

When you cut through the theological mumbo jumbo, you realize that these anti-Semitic theologians and clergy are Deists at heart. Deism is a belief that our Lord was once actively involved but now has left everything up to mankind's 'enlightened' opinions and rationale.

"What must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30)

Prior to anti-Semitic theology infusing itself into both Catholicism and Protestantism, salvation was understood to occur at the Judgment Throne when your name was pronounced to the hosts of heaven. The <u>journey to salvation</u> began the moment you were *genuinely* born again and received the indwelling Holy Spirit. Your life journey to your salvation demanded that you live dead-to-yourself and allow the Spirit of our Lord to operate through you in doing Father's will to His glory. Your actions confirm your faith! How? Because the Spirit within you reveals Himself through guidance and empowerment and ongoing transformation into Christ's character. The Book of Acts and Paul's testimonies reveal this way of life in the Spirit—a Spirit-empowered life which, centuries later, anti-Semitic theologians claim doesn't happen.

Consider this reality: "You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him" (Romans 8:9). Belonging to our Lord Jesus is to have the Holy Spirit living within you. But in their 'learned' audacity, theologians claim that while the Spirit may be within a person, He isn't active anymore. Thereby they nullify our Lord Jesus's testimony to those through whom His Spirit lives: "He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit;... This is how My Father is glorified — in your bearing much fruit; this is how you will prove to be My disciples (John 15:5,8). In Scripture, "abide" means to dwell within, to be in close and settled union, and to persevere together.

<u>Please scrutinize yourself</u>: To *abide* in the rule of our Lord Jesus with His Spirit actively using you requires you to be dead-to-yourself. <u>Are you?</u> If it's hard for you to die to yourself, here's an insight from what we've observed over the years. Where have you put our Lord Jesus in your thinking or motivation? There's a certain way in which you handle concepts, opinions and general information in your mind. There's also a way in how you handle your special relationships, especially the emotions you attach to that person. Over the years, we've experienced that the vast majority of Christians who've received <u>religious indoctrination</u> by someone instructing them in an academic manner treat our Lord Jesus like a concept. He's relegated to an idea alongside their other opinions or beliefs. You can recognize this because there's nothing *precious* about Him in their words or tone— that is, *if* they even mention the Name of "Jesus".

Be honest with yourself and ask the Holy Spirit if we haven't been describing you and the unbiblical influences that have kept you from <u>living dead-to-yourself</u> and wholeheartedly loving Father and <u>Jesus and fulfilling Father's will for you</u>. Repentance and crying out to our Lord Jesus for help goes a long way to having Him living in your life!

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