



POTPOURRI FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT



Is Our Lord Jesus Bearing 'Lasting Fruit' Through You?

A momentous query for the *genuinely* born again 1-1-2025

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

In this first Potpourri of 2025 we are again reinforcing a Scriptural mandate: **If you're *genuinely* born again, our Lord Jesus requires that you 'bear lasting fruit' to our Father's glory. This evidences you're abiding in the Vine** (John 15:8,16). Bearing lasting fruit is a conclusive indicator that the Holy Spirit abides within you. It's a responsive way of life in union with your Lord Jesus!

If you've been deprogramming yourself from anti-Semitic theology, then you are able to clearly comprehend the humble and loving interactive life in His Spirit that our Lord Jesus commands you in Scripture. Our determined hope is that your life's purpose will be wholly focused on loving and serving your Lord in obedient trust as was God's servant Joshua: **"As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD"** (Joshua 24:15).

We've shared previously that the core of the Newer Testament revolves around specific life enactments our Lord Jesus has commanded you as one of His beloved whom He has called out of the world's system, that you:

- ✓ fulfill our heavenly Father's purposes by His grace and bring Him glory,
- ✓ live in obedient trust ruled by our Lord Jesus,
- ✓ live out His love, guided and empowered by His Spirit,
- ✓ retain no unconfessed sin,
- ✓ live as our Lord's redemptive ambassador to others.



Just a reminder: The revelations which the Holy Spirit continues to reveal to us during our prayer walks are passed on to you via the anointings He has given us of a *prophet* and an *exhorter*. We are not teachers. Rather, we equip those who seek to live a life of loving and obedient trust according to what God's Word commands. We share with you the *way of life* the Holy Spirit has enabled us by grace to live. For us, the preciousness of hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit revealing what He wants you to know is divinely compelling! (If you too live **obedience-based** and not **out-come-based**, you realize how much the Spirit's specific revelations strengthen your resolve to persevere because you have divine guidance and act on it. The divine assurance of our Lord's Spirit stymies all rationalizing and all fretting!)

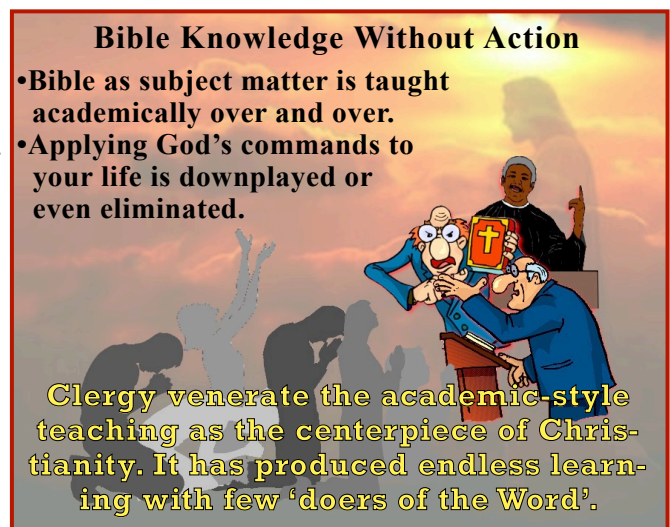
Early in our spiritual pilgrimage to our salvation the Holy Spirit trained both of us to live **obedience-based** like our father in the faith, Abraham. Because of Father's amazing grace to us, we wanted to show our loving gratefulness to our Lord Jesus by fully yielding to His in-

dwelling Spirit. As we've emphasized before: Cooperating with the Holy Spirit through the particular gift(s) He's apportioned to the *genuinely* born again •enables you to live in a way that pleases our heavenly Father in doing His will (Colossians 1:10) AND •transforms you into Christ's character along the way (2Corinthians 3:17,18). We've discovered in the 30+ years we've been sharing the Hebraic foundations that followers of Jesus who have lived led by the specific guidance of the Holy Spirit are already living by many of the Hebraic foundations. What we share encourages them that they're on the right path!

But here's why most Christians don't live obedience-based or do Father's will.

The vast majority of Christians who practice religion within an institutional framework remain bamboozled by the influence of past anti-Semitic theological controversies. One of these controversies which directly affects your own spiritual life was whether the Book of James should even be included in the Bible. James insists that our faith *must* be demonstrated by our actions (James 2:24,26. He's not alone in this stipulation! See also Matthew 7:24-27; Luke 6:46; 8:21; John 15:14; Philippians 4:9).

Certain anti-Semitic theologians renounced the biblical perspective that faith is revealed by actions as teaching "**salvation by works**"—a false view which neither the Older nor Newer Testaments set forth. Firmly against the Book of James being included in the canon, these theologians were divinely overridden by the Holy Spirit. And we who follow Jesus as our Lord are blessed by this Book's insistence that our faith be seen in our actions! Those who understand God's use of covenants in the Older Testament recognize that the *Gospel* that's voiced in the **New Covenant** is just the beginning for the *genuinely* born again to live in union with our Father doing His will to His glory.



James further testifies that in our faith-based actions as guided by the indwelling Holy Spirit, the *genuinely* born again are following in the steps of our spiritual father of old, Abraham (James 2:20-24; see also Romans 4:16; Galatians 3:7). Our Lord Jesus warns all of us, "Strive (literally, agonize) to enter through the narrow gate. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and *will not be able*" (Luke 13:24). Jesus isn't ordering us to strive to earn our salvation. Rather, He is affirming the crucial way of life for the *genuinely* born again: living in Covenant union with His Father as we endeavor to 'bear lasting fruit' to His glory.

"Produce fruit in keeping with repentance" (Matthew 3:8).

"By this *My Father is glorified*, that you *bear much fruit*; this is how you *prove to be My [follower]*. You did not choose Me, *I chose you* and *appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, fruit that will last*" (John 15:8,16).

The New Covenant that's offered you through our Lord Jesus opens the way for you to actively live in union with your Father to fulfill His purposes. Even though 'learned' theology has downplayed union-with-Father's-purposes as a pivotal issue in your faith walk, our Lord Jesus makes it plain: that only those who do Father's will can enter the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 7:21). Again, this isn't 'salvation by works'. Rather, your faith-based actions lead to Father being

glorified because HE is the One Who gave these good and righteous commands out of love for His children. Your grateful and love-impelled obedience verifies that the Spirit of our Lord indwells you and confirms that you are *genuinely* born again. **Father's will for His glory**—don't lose sight of this!

Father's will for you begins with your love and keeping our Lord's commands

Bearing lasting fruit to our Father's glory has its origin in the Older Testament. You find within that God-breathed text a way of life that is re-emphasized in the Newer Testament: **To authentically love God is to keep His commands with all that is within you** (for example, see Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Luke 10:27; John 15:14; 1John 5:2). This means that you both know His commands and do them by which you affirm your love for Him. Nehemiah was a man who trusted his Lord with all his heart and recognized Him as the God Who keeps covenant. With awe he wove together this connection of obedience and love: *"O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love Him and keep His commandments"* (Nehemiah 1:5). Our God always has a purpose for His commands. He revealed to the Israelites what living by His commands would achieve: *"Keep [God's commands] and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people'"* (Deuteronomy 4:6).

Older
Testament

In the Newer Testament our Lord succinctly summarizes obedient trust in the *genuinely* born again: **"If you love Me, keep My commands"** (John 14:15). Applying His commands to your life is the groundwork to doing our Father's will. (Another way of doing Father's will is by obeying *rhema*, His revealed specific will conveyed to you by the Holy Spirit. This occurs when the Spirit quickens a verse or passage to your spirit to take action, or you receive a prophecy, or a word of wisdom or knowledge for you to act on, or an inner prompting which aligns with our Lord's ways and character.) In you loving our Lord and keeping His commands, it's vital that you recognize how crucial this interconnectedness is in God's Word:

Newer
Testament

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| • "Lord" and "obey" appears 134 times | • "Love" and "commandments" appears 45 times |
| • "Lord" and "commands" appears 17 times | • "Lord" and "commandments" appears 139 times |
| • "God" and "commandments" appears 117 times | • "Obey" and "commandments" appears 40 times |

Please download **God's Newer Testament Commands**, a compilation we found on the Internet. You'll find it very helpful in spelling out the way of life which the 1,050 commands in the Newer Testament require of you as you follow Jesus as your Lord in loving service. Remember, they are essential for you in your life journey because of WHO gave them! One of the foremost commands by our Lord Jesus for the *genuinely* born again is to live purposely as His **redemptive ambassador**:

*"All authority in heaven and on earth was given to Me. Going [wherever you are], **make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you** [you first need to be obeying them yourself!]; and behold, I am with you all the days until the completion of the age"* (Matthew 28:18-20, a literal translation).

In the pattern of Abraham obediently doing God's will because he trusted Him, our Lord Jesus uses **His own obedience-based life as the pattern for His sheep to follow**: *"For I have come down from heaven not to do My will but to do the will of Him who sent Me"* (John 6:38). Nothing less is required of the *genuinely* born again since the same Spirit Who anointed our Lord (Matthew 3:16,17) abides in all who belong to Him. The Spirit in you produces a vibrant in-

teractive way of life as you bear lasting fruit to your Father's glory and your life reveals the character of our Lord Jesus to the world. You are "Christ on display" for others to see!

To summarize: ✨Receiving salvation is an *eternal issue* which culminates in a heavenly welcome. But serving our Father's purposes as His born-from-above child in Christ is an *earthly issue* for your life here and now which verifies that the Holy Spirit actually dwells within you and that you are heading toward your salvation. The Spirit's very presence enables you to know Father's will, to have absolute confidence in His will, and to do it. The Spirit will provide what you need in guidance and empowerment. Consider our Lord's earliest followers. The Book of Acts begins with a small band of trusting brothers and sisters meeting in homes purposing to uphold communal righteousness so that Father would hear their prayers (see 1Peter 3:12). They delighted in testifying to His faithfulness in answered prayer. Learning to become absolutely dependent on the Holy Spirit's power, intervention and guidance was their way of life.

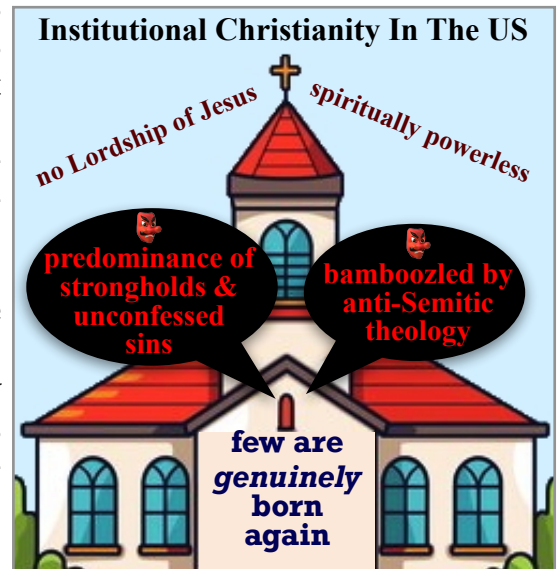
For us today, the Book of Acts bears witness to what our way of life **must be** if we authentically belong to Him — fully yielding to the Holy Spirit to work in and through and around us as Light which stands out in the midst of the ever-growing darkness. In recent years around 40 to 60 million people have left institutional Christianity in the US. Sadly, some have totally forsaken our Lord Jesus, having erroneously tied Him to the man-driven agendas and traditions of the congregations they were part of. Surveys reveal that the majority of those who fled yearn to restore what they see in the Book of Acts: the relational intimacy and spiritual power of the earliest followers of our Lord Jesus. It's the reason Father gave us the Hebraic foundations to share.

Here's the Holy Spirit's appraisal of the institutional Christianity they left behind.

There are an estimated 300,000 to 600,000 congregations of all sizes in the US. Collectively though, the people within those gatherings have absolutely no effect on society. At large, institutional Christianity today is a conglomeration of not just divided denominations and sects, but something even more sinister. **If** you could spiritually observe together with the Holy Spirit the individuals who gather for services in the US each week, you'd discover as we have over our years of ministry why so many are so ineffective in shining the Light of Jesus in their homes and among their neighbors and elsewhere: 🗡️Too many are indwelt by the same one or more demonic strongholds which attract them together because they feel comfortable with others "just like themselves". The Lordship of Jesus in their lives is non-existent. 🗡️Far too many within these congregations tolerate unconfessed sin in their lives, believing that what they do outside the gathering is their own business. 🗡️Others are like the Pharisees, bamboozled by creedally-based theology. Their self-righteous attitudes are created by blind allegiance to a particular sectarian creed. Too easily they arrogantly see the wrongs in the world, but refuse to be our Lord's compassionate, redemptive ambassadors. (Matthew 9:10-13; 23:13-28; Luke 18:9-14).

💎Within some congregations there just may be a few who are *genuinely* born again according to Scriptures and live to fulfill Father's purposes to His glory. We fervently hope that you want to live this way!

Mike & Sue



Don't be among their ranks! Read: •*The Almost Christian*; •*In 2021 Don't Be "This Far And No More"*