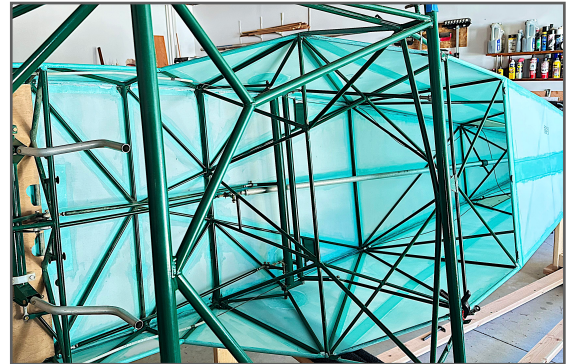


"I AM where two or three are gathered in My Name."

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

One fundamental characteristic of a home fellowship of the *genuinely* born again is that each person mutually supports the others in the larger purposes of our Father. This interconnection was recently illustrated to us by the airplane which our neighbor is building in his garage. (The photo shows how the frame exposed beneath the skin is held together by the many connected parts.) As we looked at the frame we were reminded of the interconnected support which spiritual gifts provide in the spiritual warfare in which the home fellowships of the *genuinely* born again must engage as faithful soldiers of Christ Jesus.



 For the *genuine*, the mutual supportiveness of the spiritual gifts which are specifically apportioned to each person by the Holy Spirit enables the extended spiritual family of a home fellowship to fulfill Father's purposes. In the forefront of your understanding of a fellowship family, remember that our Lord Jesus considers as *genuine* those who are indwelt by His Spirit and who do His Father's will. This demands unconditional confidence in Jesus's role for each of you together: **"From [Jesus] the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work"** (Ephesians 4:16). This mutual supportiveness is reiterated:

- *"Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good"* (1Corinthians 12:7).
- *"For as in one body we have many members, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, use it in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who gives, in generosity; the one who leads, with diligence; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness"* (Romans 12:4-8).
- *"As each has received a spiritual gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To Him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen"* (1Peter 4:10,11).

With our Lord Jesus as your Head, the spiritual gift(s) which the Spirit gives to each of the *genuinely* born again creates a fellowship of interlocking relationships – **you need each other!** Our Lord's Spirit imparts guidance and empowerment for the home fellowship family to fulfill Father's purposes. His purposes are uppermost for true fellowship. And in fulfilling your part in the extended spiritual family of a fellowship, never let yourself or one another be limited by your own capabilities. Always have confidence in what the indwelling Holy Spirit can accomplish through you as each of you does their part. **"But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us"** (2Corinthians 4:7).

Spiritual Gifts Are The Holy Spirit's 'Division Of Labor' In Spiritual Battle

Each Gift Has The Spirit's Specific Purpose In Supporting The Other Gifts

With our Lord Jesus as your Head, each *genuinely* born again person must discover the specific gift(s) the Holy Spirit has given them. Knowing these enables you to be that much more effective in collectively cooperating with others in your fellowship family. It's vital that you each recognize that the interlocking cooperation of spiritual gifts has eternal consequences. In the spiritual realm, a vicious war is being waged by an unrelenting enemy for the souls of people all around you. It's a battle that the *genuine* can't avoid and still be true to our Lord Jesus. It's with this understanding that God's Word encourages the *genuine* with this admonition:



*“The **Spirit Himself** bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, **provided we suffer with Him** in order that we may also be glorified with Him” (Romans 8:16-17). “For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, **leaving you an example, so that you might follow in His steps**” (1Peter 2:21).*

Our Lord suffered for the eternal destiny of all mankind. Should the *genuine* have any less purpose than He, or seek to endure less suffering than He did? You must not allow nominal Christianity and its anti-Christ teachings seduce you into expecting a pain-free life and social acceptability! Nominal Christianity is designed to retain the passive in comfortable complacency. But the *genuine* are called to mutually engage in spiritual warfare on behalf of the eternal destiny of others. Their mutual working together in supporting each other in the spiritual battle we must fight is a matter of eternal life or death for the lost. Paul's exhortation is for all *genuinely* born again:

“Finally, you [plural] be empowered in the Lord and in the strength of His might (see Zechariah 4:6). You [plural] put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For our conflict is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world rulers governing this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:10-12).

You are either 🖐️ standing firm in the Lord in fighting against Satan on behalf of your family, relatives, neighbors, classmates and co-workers, or 🖐️ you are the devil's cowardly prisoner. If this biblical reality of spiritual warfare hasn't been part of your scriptural understanding in the past, then reread the Newer Testament concentrating on the responsibility our Lord Jesus is commanding you to accomplish together on behalf of the eternal destiny of others.

He isn't leaving you alone to fight, nor is He depending on your own capabilities. That's why He baptizes His own with the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:16). It's through the indwelling Holy Spirit that our Lord directs your effective use in spiritual battle. The Spirit-directed life of Paul (below) clearly encapsulates our Lord Jesus's description of the *genuine* with the indwelling Holy Spirit as He directs our path: *“The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know*

where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit” (John 3:8). Paul’s reliance on the Spirit needs to be the life testimony of all the *genuinely* born again:

“And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, ‘Come over to Macedonia and help us.’ And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them” (Acts 16:6-10).

“Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word (rhema) that comes from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4).

Consider how spiritual gifts such as prophecy, knowledge and wisdom can work in a home fellowship family for specific guidance, *rhema*, from the Holy Spirit. The Hebraic first followers of our Lord Jesus clearly understood that having God’s specific guidance in spiritual warfare is paramount. They comprehended from the Older Testament that obedience to God’s direction brought blessing and victory. For example, King David sought God’s specific guidance for his battles. When the Philistines attacked Israel, *“David inquired of the Lord: ‘Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will you give them into my hand?’ And the LORD said to David, ‘Go up, for I will certainly give the Philistines into your hand’”* (2 Samuel 5:19).

On another occasion when the Philistines attacked, David again prayed. This time God gave him a different strategy: *“Do not go straight up, but circle around behind them and attack them in front of the balsam trees. As soon as you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, move quickly, because that will mean the Lord has gone out in front of you to strike the Philistine army”* (2 Samuel 5:23,24). Just because God has previously provided your fellowship family with specific guidance for a particular circumstance doesn’t mean that the same strategy will apply for all situations you encounter. Joshua and his people were given the *rhema* to march around Jericho seven times to gain the victory (see Joshua 6), yet God revealed other strategies for subsequent battles. The first followers of our Lord Jesus knew they required spiritual revelation, not human reason, to guide them. The *genuine* of today must have that same unwavering confidence in the Spirit’s guidance in fulfilling Father’s purposes.

FYI: Augustine (AD 354-430) advocated reliance on ***human reasoning***. He taught that through reasoning alone God and His will could be known. Centuries later when the Godless ***“Age of Enlightenment”*** infiltrated much of Christianity, reliance on human reasoning became even more deeply embedded in theological circles. For further insight into the detrimental effects of the Age of Enlightenment on Christianity, read: [*Avoid The Paralyzing Analysis Of The Scribes \(Part 8\)*](#).

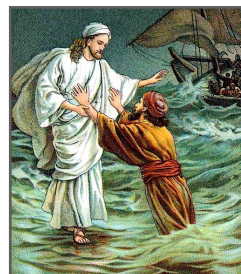
“Discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect” (Romans 12:2b).

If you are *genuine*, then it’s crucial that you recognize that your spirit living in union with the Holy Spirit guarantees that you have access to divine guidance. It is the Spirit Who guides and empowers us to walk in obedient trust in the Lord we love, not our thinking abilities or level of theological education. This Spirit-to-spirit sequence is foundational for us to live in the pattern of David or Paul, as noted above, anticipating that Father will make His next step for us clear so we can walk in His will. Reliance on rational thought can never bring understanding of the ways of the Holy Spirit. Both as an individual and as a home fellowship family, take seriously our God’s description of Himself:

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways’, declares the LORD. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes out from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:8-11).

The Spirit-revealed understanding of what our God wants us to grasp of His incomparable thoughts and ways enables the *genuine* to avoid the rationalized thinking on which the unbelieving world and nominal Christians depend. **Remind yourselves:** The lives of the Spirit-dependent have our Lord Jesus as their Head and are interconnectedly supported by the gifts of the Holy Spirit. These two essential biblical facets are foundational to experiencing true fellowship with each other. Your complete confidence in living this way by our Lord's grace is what the Bible prescribes when God's Word isn't filtered through the ineffectual and fruitless teachings of anti-Semitic theology. As your Head in the spiritual battle you are called to fight, our Lord provides you with divine guidance and the power you require to do Father's will. Why would you want to put your trust in human reasoning the way the unbelieving world does?

Always be the one who gets out of the boat! An example of *rhema* versus reason can be gleaned from Peter walking on the water (Matthew 14:25-32). Of the disciples in the boat as our Lord drew near, only Peter got out of the boat. Yes, he did give way to fear. But the same Lord Who had told him to come out of the boat was also there to rescue him when Peter cried out. This scenario can happen to you if you do receive the Spirit's guidance. You may be susceptible to fear because the Spirit's *rhema* is often opposite every human inclination (see John 21:1-6; Acts 9:10-18). But be assured! When the *genuine* cry out, the same divine help is at hand as it was for Peter.



Now think about this. Why didn't the other disciples leave the boat? Could it be because they reasoned that it was safer inside the boat and bolstered by the group? This is similar to the reasoning of nominal Christians who sit side-by-side with each other every week, and yet refuse to seek and rely on the Spirit's guidance in their daily lives. Israel of old put similar misplaced confidence in their reasoning rather than trusting God's guidance. God sent the prophet Jeremiah to tell those in Jerusalem to leave the city and go out to the Chaldeans who were besieging it (Jeremiah 21:9). Instead, they placed false confidence in the walls of Jerusalem to protect them. Eventually they were captured or killed.

When your obedient trust reveals the Holy Spirit working through you, you can be sure that you'll get noticed by demonic spirits. This is by no means a cause for fear! If the devil doesn't know who you are, it's because you either don't have the Holy Spirit, or you habitually quench or even blaspheme Him. **REPENT!!!** Your mutual reliance together on the interlocking support of spiritual gifts is your means to make manifest a specific purpose for our Lord becoming man, *“to destroy the works of the devil”* (1John 3:8). Key among Satan's goals is taking as many of the deceived to hell with him as he can. The *genuine* cannot sit idly by and let this happen!

In light of the suffering that our Lord Jesus endured to redeem you, ask yourself this:
How much are you and your fellowship family willing to suffer if need be as His obedient and love-compelled ambassadors so that even one more soul will experience eternity with our Lord Jesus?

For further insight into home fellowships, please read: TODAY! What Would Jesus Be Doing If He Were You?, Insight 11. [With Jesus As Your Lord Your Relationships Must Change](#)