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Prophetic
Nugget

THE GENUINE'S LIFE EVIDENCES OUR LORD JESUS

Is Our Heavenly Father's Business Your Business?

A Holy Spirit-guided/empowered way of life is promised in the New Covenant.



For the best spiritual benefit, please prayerfully discuss this Nugget with those with you on your faith pilgrimage.

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

When you read what young Jesus told Joseph and Mary, *"Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"* (Luke 2:49), do you realize that His declaration is divinely intended for your own life as well? In this forthright statement our Lord was proclaiming His complete submission to His Father's life purpose for Him. In this account, Luke records the word "must" to substantiate Christ's total commitment to doing His Father's will. (In contrast, most nominal Christians conclude that Jesus's "commitment" pertained only to Him because He is God's Son. And they limit His becoming man solely to atone for sins.) But this minimized view of our Lord's purpose completely eliminates the larger 'business' of God which is first expressed in the Older Testament and is then reinforced for the *genuinely* born again in the Newer Testament. In particular, take careful note that threaded throughout all of the Bible our heavenly Father chooses specific people to fulfill His specific purposes: to be about doing His 'business.'

Our heavenly Father chooses the *genuine* by grace to do His will!

If you're *genuinely* born again, then understand that Scripture bears witness for Father's specific purposes to be done through you as His beloved child. He chose you to be His own in union with Christ through the Holy Spirit not only so that you'll experience eternal salvation at the end of your life's journey. He has also purposed for you to carry out His will with no less loving commitment than that of His Son, Jesus. Please reflect on the supreme significance of this relational truth in your own life: *"[He] saved [you] and called [you] with a holy calling, not because of [your] works but because of His own purpose and grace, which He gave [you] in Christ Jesus before the times began"* (2Timothy 1:9). Read that again. If you are among the *genuine*, then you are an integral part of carrying out Father's 'business' on earth.

What *if* you had been instructed in the Older Testament prior to becoming *genuinely* born again as were our earliest forefathers who first placed their trust in our Lord Jesus? Then it would have registered in you that our God chooses specific people to do His 'business' on earth. Consider for example Abraham, Moses, David, Gideon, and all the prophets. If you'd understood this prior to your conversion, your commitment to live a life of fulfilling Father's specific purposes for you would have been significantly enhanced. So, *if* you're our Father's child, then internalize these Scriptures as being personally written to you. You do have a God-breathed life purpose:

- *"May the God of peace...make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen"* (Hebrews 13:21).
- *"And we know that to the ones loving God, He works all things together for good, for those who are being called according to His purpose"* (Romans 8:28).
- *"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them"* (Ephesians 2:10).

Divine Choosing To Fulfill Divine Purposes



“You are the light of the world...>Let your light so shine before men, >that they may see your good works and >glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:14a,16).

When unbelievers encounter you as *genuinely* born again, your life of love-grounded obedient trust testifies of a profound purpose: that just as our Lord Jesus lived to do His Father’s will, you too are about our Father’s ‘business’ to His glory. In each generation the *genuine* are our Lord’s living proof that His Spirit dwells in them, enabling them to live this way (Acts 2:38,39). How you live as genuine is no different than the **obedience-based** life which our Lord walked in love for His Father and for all of humanity. As you follow in His steps, He anchors for you His purpose for becoming man: *“For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will but the will of Him Who sent Me”* (John 6:38; see also John 5:30). In **complete loving deference** to His Father, Jesus fulfilled His will.



The way our Lord lived His life in complete deference to His Father’s will is commanded to all who belong to Him in every generation! Nothing less is acceptable to our Father: *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of My Father Who is in heaven”* (Matthew 7:21). Our Lord informs you if you’re *genuine* as to Father’s goal in choosing you: *“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you should go and should bear fruit—and your fruit should remain”* (John 15:16a). The lasting fruit which remains is you fulfilling your Father’s will. It’s what identifies the *genuine* as our Lord’s family: *“For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother”* (Matthew 12:50). If you are *genuine*, you are our Lord’s family who continue in the family ministry of producing lasting fruit, guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit within you.

To be about Father’s ‘business’ requires the Holy Spirit’s specific guidance

If you’re *genuinely* born again, you love our Lord and make serving our Father’s will to His glory the center of your life purpose, both individually and collectively. By His grace at work in you, this ongoing way of life necessitates that you live individually and collectively **rhema-dependent**. This means you’re guided by the Holy Spirit the way our Lord’s first followers experienced. In light of your need for the Spirit’s guidance as well as His empowerment, reflect on this repeated declaration, *“He who has an ear [the will to obey], let him hear what the Spirit says to the called-out ones”* (see Revelation 2:29; 3:6,13,22). The indwelling Spirit provides guidance so that you can individually and collectively fulfill Father’s specific will.



To reiterate: Your Father intends for you to know *specifically* what He wants you to do for His Name’s sake. It’s a vital reason that He and our Lord Jesus give the Holy Spirit to the *genuine*. Not only is a Spirit-led life required of you as Christ’s beloved blood-bought own (Romans 8:14). It also must be a core value of your home fellowship. The gathering of a Hebraic home fellowship is a **holy cluster** of the *genuinely* born again who help each other mutually fulfill Father’s purposes. As we’ve often noted, bearing fruit doesn’t earn you heaven. But it does confirm that you’re indwelt by the Spirit of our Lord, which verifies that you belong to Him (Romans 8:9). You must choose to live either as *“those who live according to the Spirit [who] set their minds on the things of the Spirit”* or as *“those who live according to their flesh and set their minds on things of the flesh”* (Romans 8:5b). In Father’s sight there’s no middle ground.

With complete and loving deference to our Father's will and the Lordship of Jesus, the *genuine* mutually rely on the various spiritual gifts which the Holy Spirit apportions (1Corinthians 12:7-11). These gifts are given so that the *genuine* are able to live guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit in mutually fulfilling Father's purposes. The Newer Testament highlights the divine distribution of the Spirit's empowerments to the *genuine*. But take note. If you are reluctant or refuse to know your gifting from Him, then you are rebelling against Him and sinning. Father's purposes which He has called you to fulfill collectively can't be done without the cooperation of the gifting the Spirit imparts to each person. So don't hinder or resist Him!

✦ Besides the "body parts" of your gifting working together as Paul so strikingly illustrates in 1Corinthians 12, it's important for you to recognize that the extended spiritual family of a home fellowship also mutually helps •in developing our Lord's character in each person, •in confronting unconfessed sin that's hindering prayers from being answered, •in providing an environment for testifying to divine guidance and interventions, •in bearing each other's burdens and demonstrating His love through the 54 one-anothers cited in the Newer Testament.

Dying To Yourself Is Indispensable In Being About Father's Business

"For always we who are living are being handed over to death on account of Jesus, in order that the life of Jesus might be manifested in our mortal bodies" (2Corinthians 4:11).

THE GENUINE TOGETHER

(1Corinthians 14:26;
see also Romans 12:2)



The life of the *genuine* is so unlike nominal Christians whose academic model of Bible instruction enables them to just add to their knowledge without needing to put it into practice in their own lives. In order to live under the Lordship of Jesus and experience the authentic fellowship that He desires for His followers, if you're *genuine* you're called to die to who you were before you were born again. This is a **Spirit-transforming** process of •leaving behind who you once were when you were ruled by your sin nature, and •becoming increasingly

like our Lord in both character and full commitment to Father's purposes for your life.

THE NOMINAL TOGETHER

(John 5:39,40)

"Let's study a book of the Bible."
"How about studying the prophets?"
"Let's study, study, study..."



Empowered by the indwelling Spirit, this ongoing transformation is both an individual and collective responsibility for you as brothers and sisters in Christ. One of the primary means of transformation is identifying any sin you may be tolerating and **repenting of it**. The Greek word for repentance means not only that you turn away from that sin, but also that you're pained over what you did. That inner grief is the "*godly sorrow [that] brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret*" (2Corinthians 7:10; see also Acts 2:37-39). That hurt in your heart motivates you to seek the forgiveness of your loving Father and be cleansed of that unrighteousness. Authentic repentance compels you to want Him to replace your wrongful way with His righteous response through the change that only the Spirit of our Lord can make in you.

Repentance frees the Holy Spirit to develop in you the character of our Lord Jesus in that area of your life. In other words, through your repentance He intends to replace your sinful thought/action/attitude with the righteous character qualities that are found in God's commands and are exemplified in Jesus. Living with a heartfelt desire to repent whenever you realize you've sinned quickens within you a revulsion so that you don't want to go on sinning. And a repentant attitude gives you a resolve



to resist the power of your SELF-will, which is your sin nature's desire to rule you. Being free of unconfessed sin reinforces your willingness to live as our Lord would live. This freedom also enables His Spirit to produce the loving intimacy that's required for a fellowship family to collectively fulfill Father's purposes.



(To help you understand how vital repentance is to your transformation, read and discuss our series, [Repentance Leads To Christ-like Character](#) It will strengthen and encourage you to stay repentant.)

Keep in mind that resisting sinning has never been an easy matter for anyone! And confronting ongoing sin within a fellowship family has become even more complicated and difficult. Much of our culture has erased any difference between right and wrong so that almost anything is accepted. And in recent decades the centuries-long theological deception that birthed nominal Christianity has worsened through the insidious influence of **Humanism** in society, the media and Christianity. In particular the devious infusion of Humanism into much of Bible teaching potentially appeals to the **sin nature**. Remember, your sin nature remains in you even after you're *genuinely* born again. Paul warns of the battle going on within you: *"For the sin nature lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the sin nature, for these oppose each other"* (Galatians 5:17). Don't make yourself vulnerable by straddling the two!



Humanism that's supported by your failure to resist your sin nature will entice you: •to defy applying the commands of Scripture to your life, •to defy our Lord's rule of your life, •to defy you fulfilling Father's will to His glory. Humanism makes your priorities the center of your life instead of the purposes of our heavenly Father. Humanism also minimizes and even eliminates the moral boundaries of God's Word in favor of you being happy and pursuing your goals and values. We realize that the realities we're presenting here make living as a scriptural home fellowship that much more difficult. But this isn't impossible **if** you love your Lord and purpose to obey by grace God's Word for our Father's glory!

A number of years ago we were living in Colorado Springs where the Spirit had sent us to share the Hebraic foundations. One day while we were fishing along one of the mountain streams, two fish and game wardens approached us on horseback. They'd ridden by our van and saw the magnetic signs on our doors, ***"The Family of Jesus Do Their Father's Will. Are You His Family?"*** We talked back and forth about our mutual trust in Jesus. Then they told us with sorrow how their pastor, who loves our Lord Jesus and insists on repentance among the fellowship family, was losing congregants to the liberal, Humanism-disguised-as-grace congregation in their small mountain community.

Several weeks later Mike was walking out of the local Home Depot to our van. A man he'd never met was standing next to the vehicle and staring at the sign on the door. The Holy Spirit told Mike, "That man is the pastor those men told you about at the stream a few weeks ago. He is downhearted by the loss of people from his flock and is feeling like he's failed. Go tell him how proud Jesus is of him, and encourage him not to water down his messages." Mike repeated to him what the Holy Spirit had said and he wept. Putting his arms around Mike, he told me how much that message meant to him. Just a brief encounter, but so reflective of the cost of being true to our Lord and God's Word!