

Cyber Truths By E-mail

24. Don't You Talk? (June 26, 2006)



Restoration Ministries International

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Dear Friends,

We've noticed that certain areas of our ministry are special targets for Satan to do all he can to stop us. Whenever we do anything relative to these areas, our website pages go bonkers, our computers go hay-wire, our writing or editing just disappears.... Other believers listen almost with disbelief when we tell them what goes on!

Three specific arenas stand out in which it seems the devil is super-sensitive. When our work calls for us to delve into these areas, all hell breaks loose: The first is whenever we do anything relative to **Demolishing Strongholds**.

The second is when we teach anything about **biblical authority**. And third, when we share about **applying God's Word**, that is, establishing personal halakhahs.

These three domains in particular stimulate tremendous demonic opposition. And it's supernatural what the enemy is able to do! Sometimes the assaults will last for hours, bringing us to tears. The reason we know it's the devil is that, as we fervently and persistently pray in the **Name of Jesus**, the attacks stop! They just cease without any human solution.

If this is happening to us, then the devil is probably doing similar things to you too! This is why we wanted to share this message with you. If you aren't recognizing the nature of the opposition, then you may be giving way to the "sweaty body" scenario we've written about before.

For thirty years Mike played a lot of pickup basketball. He normally perspires a lot during activity. During the past few years he noticed an interesting trend regarding attitudes toward the normal bodily function of perspiration: Many young men hate to get sweat on themselves. They avoid body contact as much as possible.

Realizing this, Mike would purposely come up and slide against them. Sure enough, they'd back off and fail to guard him. He was free to make any shots he wanted!

When you're walking lovingly and responsibly toward God and others close to you in the faith, Satan uses the "sweaty body scenario". He agitates an aversion in one person toward another or toward obeying God's way of doing things. Sometimes he incites some behavioral or personality habit in a brother or sister that keeps you from drawing near that individual. That one irritating flaw then colors all other thoughts or actions you

have toward that person, creating a pattern in you in which you avoid him or her.

Or, the devil downplays God's commands or the life choices of obedient trust He calls for that will bless you. We've seen this especially when it comes to people applying halakhahs (personal, prayerful, biblical applications to life situations) to their life. The enemy hinders followers of Jesus from interactive discussion with each other so that a situation is either never addressed or unilateral decisions are made.

"Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in His presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored His name" (Malachi 3:16)

"I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by My Father in heaven. For wheretwo or three come together in My name, there am I with them?" (Matthew 18:18-20)

We could write more about any of the three prime areas of opposition we mentioned above. But, in light of how **lawless** much of Christendom has become, especially by adapting the ways of the world to "do church", we want to encourage you about your responsibility through love for our Lord to apply God's Word to all areas of your life.

Based on the correspondence and telephone calls we receive, our book **Christian Halakhahs: Loving Jesus Through the Way You Apply His Word** isn't bearing nearly the fruit we'd hoped for in people's lives! The contact we receive usually goes something like this: "I read *Christian Halakhahs*, but I have a question." The nature of the question reveals that they're still controlled by the Hellenistic thought patterns of Nicolaitanism. They want to **know to understand** without **applying to live by**.

Just as when you begin a diet, it takes a lot of courage and love for God for you to want to apply the Bible to your life. As we noted in **Christian Halakhahs**, each biblical application is like a stone in the walls of Jerusalem. As you build your life and your family's life on **applying** God's Word, you're increasingly protecting yourselves from demonic seduction. And,

isn't spiritual protection something you want for your family?

Satan uses the Nicolaitan teaching pattern of lecture as a "sweaty body" to keep those who leave the system from discussing *for application*. If you've spent considerable time in the Nicolaitan religious system, you're addicted to having **content conveyed at youth** through the lecture format of someone who's not involved in your life. Remember, this methodology comes from the Greek philosophers who converted to Christianity in the second and third centuries.

They altered the *approach and purpose* for biblical instruction. The Hebraic pattern of **interactive discussion** that led to *life change* was set aside for the Greek concept of teaching—conveyance of content to argue about or "ponder", then file away and forget.

The Hebraic approach to problems drew out biblical responses from the learners. In contrast, the Greek instructor was responsible to lecture his students and entertain philosophical arguments regarding the material he presented. The emphasis shifted from the Hebraic **life application** to Greek **knowledge accumulation**.

And today, many of you haven't freed yourself from this fruitless pattern.

Listen, this isn't a minor point for you! The two different approaches are as far apart as heaven and hell. Remember, at conception you received from your parents your **sin nature** along with your soul which includes your mind, will, and emotions. The Greek method relies solely on your mind's rationale. And, the Hellenist method that controls much of Christendom today uses reasoning and rationale to derive conclusions. This method ignores any guidance or confirmation by the Holy Spirit.

The Hebraic method of **interactive discussion** incorporates Spirit-to-spirit guidance. Jesus understood this clearly. That is why He affirms the solid truth of His followers *collectively* applying His Word: "**For where two or three come together in My name, there am I with them.**" Jesus' presence makes all the difference when you want to help each other grow in Christlikeness! Wouldn't you rather rely on His presence to convey truth to your spirit than on your sin nature-controlled soul—your mind, will and emotions?

If you don't punch through there-

sistance of your soul with its sin nature to apply God's Word, you lock Jesus out. It's that simple. And, why would you claim to be His, but not follow the pattern He commends to bring His presence into your conversation?

And, only *His presence* through your discussion transforms you. First your heart attitude changes, then your behavior. You become more like Jesus in that transformation process. In essence, you become like Who you hang around. Having Jesus in your midst through collective discussion is His choice way to change you. By cooperating with His Spirit, you're transformed in that area of your life to reflect Him.

Whether you realize it or not, you may be relying on some form of 'self help'. You may read the Bible or Christian material, then think about what you read and expect to be changed through the reading. It'll NEVER happen!!! You're deceived into thinking that the-*knowing* will change you. You end up more frustrated and deeper in sin.

Discussion together >>> interactive discussion together >>> interactive discussion together leading to applying God's way. This is His way. Make it your way!

It's the way your life will bring Him glory as you become more like Jesus, reflecting Him to others.

Mike & Sue Dowgiewicz