

## Kingdom Living Today Addenda



Kingdom Living Today Addenda are the saga of two ordinary people who have loved, obeyed and served our Lord Jesus as children of our heavenly Father. Foremost, each Addendum reveals our Lord's divine involvement in our lives - revealing His life lessons for us and our character transformations as well as His Spirit's use of us to be His blessing to others. May our saga encourage your confidence to live Lordship-committed.



### Our Lord Closes One Door As He Opens Another



Indicates our recognition of a divine stitch.

*"Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word (rhema) that comes from the mouth of God"* (Matthew 4:4). One thing about

ministry is that it's just like maturing in any other occupation: **You can get too good at what you do.** But in serving our Lord Jesus, you must guard against losing your dependence on the Holy Spirit's guidance.



Mike had just finished preparing a men's retreat for the upcoming weekend and pridefully said to himself, "This is the best retreat I've ever put together!" No sooner had these words come from his mouth when a prophetic woman we knew called: "God doesn't want that retreat you just produced. You need to pray more." Mike immediately deleted it from the computer, repented, and began praying. He told Sue and the staff what had happened and asked them to pray with him.



The next morning we attended a seminar led by men who'd been defrocked by Dispensational denominations for having come under the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit. When we arrived Mike went to the men's room. There the Holy Spirit dictated to him the retreat he was to conduct that weekend. Mike responded, "But that's only half a retreat." The Holy Spirit said, **"I will take over the second half of the retreat."** During the seminar we were greatly blessed by the testimonies of these anointed men, followed by divine worship where Holy Spirit awe fell on everyone.



After the seminar ended, a pastor in attendance whom Mike had counseled over the years approached him. "I'm supposed to be conducting a retreat for the men in my congregation this coming weekend and I haven't had time to prepare. During worship this morning the Holy Spirit told me to ask you what I should share with them." When Mike told him what he'd been given by the Spirit and how He would then take over the retreat, the pastor responded, "I don't have enough trust to do that!" and he walked off.



At the men's retreat that weekend Mike obeyed the Holy Spirit. The first half of the retreat ended with what the Holy Spirit had directed, and Mike asked one of the elders, "Bill", to lead the men in communion in the downstairs lounge. The directive Mike gave Bill was straight from the Holy Spirit: "When you sense that everyone is 'squeaky clean' and free of unconfessed sin, then we can share communion together." Bill waited 45 minutes as the men intermittently confessed their sins. (A quarter of them confessed active adultery.) The last man, single and younger than the rest, acknowledged with tears that he was fornicating with a woman who was engaged to another man.

Mike: I knew from the Holy Spirit that this guy was only acknowledging his sin; he had every intention of fornicating with her again. I waited for awhile to see what the other men would do. One wrapped his arms around the man and told him it was okay, "God forgives you." I heard the Spirit say to me, "That man is not forgiven." Then after a few minutes of silence someone else said to the young man, "You're at the end of your rope. You've played games with the righteousness of God and even now you have no intention of stopping your fornication." The young man nodded with a smirk.

I looked at Bill and saw that he was lost in the dynamics which were unfolding in front of him. It was then that the Holy Spirit told me, "The same demon that was in Judas is in that young man. Go drive it out of here!" As I walked toward the young man, there was a demonic power of a magnitude I'd never experienced before in delivering other people from demons. I could only get within three feet of him as I proclaimed, "In the Name of the Lord Jesus I order you out of this place!" With a shriek the demon flew upward out of him and through the ceiling. *(Sue happened to be sitting in the upstairs lounge as the invisible demon flew screaming directly past her. She immediately jumped in surprise!)* The young man fled the room, grabbed his stuff from the dorm and drove off. I found out a few days later that he was admitted to a mental institution where he remained for several weeks.

Awe and fear fell on all the men. Mike turned to Bill and asked, "Do you think we're all squeaky clean here now?" Bill nodded yes and then began to lead the men in the most precious sharing of the body and blood of Jesus they had ever experienced. **Your take away: When unconfessed sin and demons are absent from your midst, the Holy Spirit shows up in ways that only the divine can do.**

After this experience, neither of us prepared any instruction for a retreat unless the Holy Spirit revealed something to us. When the Spirit gave us what HE wanted shared or done at a retreat, He also showed up Himself for His people. In the years to follow, Mike would advise pastors, "If the Holy Spirit doesn't give you something to share at your Sunday service, don't say anything." One pastor followed that counsel and told his congregation he had nothing to teach them that morning. But then the entire congregation began to interact with him and with one another, asking questions, having discussions and praying together. Later the elders commended him for letting go of control of the service and allowing the Holy Spirit to do His thing! (See 1Corinthians 14:26; Colossians 3:16.)



Several months later this same group of men came on retreat again. Repentant hearts were the hallmark of their mutual commitment to our Lord and to each other. During a time of prayer one of them asked to know what his spiritual gift was. As the men prayed for him, one spoke out this word of knowledge, "Your gift is healing. When you lay hands on someone and sing praises to our Lord Jesus, He will heal that person."

Another man there had injured his knee earlier that day during one of the activities. His knee was the size of a basketball. He asked the man with the gift of healing to pray for him. The man with the gift of healing approached him and said, "I've never laid hands on anyone, and I don't know how to sing!" But in obedient trust he did both. As he sang we all watched the knee swelling disappear and the man was completely healed. Other miraculous events happened that day. When we closed our prayer time with communion, many confessed they'd had the sin of doubt until they saw what the Holy Spirit had done.

Observing demons flee people in the Name of Jesus was something Mike had experienced while in the navy. A large satanist group was on his last ship, and between the followers of Jesus and the demon worshippers it was a pitched spiritual battle for the souls of the sailors. While we were at the retreat center a series of "deliverance ministries" came into Connecticut supposedly delivering the entire state from principalities and powers by going to high places to bind them. In ***Avoid The Paralyzing Analysis Of The Scribes (Part 5)***, we wrote that satanists had moved into the State to take it for Satan. But these deliverance ministries accomplished nothing in stopping or minimizing what the demons were doing. Major businesses went bankrupt, the working environment became hostile in many areas, and the State went into a recession which caused many people to leave.

In meeting the people involved in these deliverance ministries, we noticed that they gave themselves all the credit, not our Lord Jesus. They duped many who needed spiritual freedom into believing that unless this specific

deliverance person prayed for them, they couldn't be freed. And the process of their "delivering" involved lengthy prayers in which they made bold proclamations while minimizing the Name of Jesus.



Our hearts were saddened not only by the many people who had trusted these "deliverers" and remained demonic captives, but also that the Name of our Lord Jesus was brought down by their presumptuous attitudes. Having experienced spiritual warfare ourselves, we began to pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal what we could do to help our region. We were given a series of notes on recognizing demonic bondage and symptoms the demons produce when they have constructed strongholds in a person's mind, will, or emotions. We prayerfully put the notes into an 8-page handout we used on retreats, a short resource people could take home to use with their family and faith family.

**A point of clarification:** The goal of the handout was for individuals to personally experience the power of Jesus's Name in freeing themselves from demonic captivity. When someone freed themselves from demonic captivity in the Name of Jesus and then followed up with becoming more Christ-like in their thoughts and actions through His Spirit, they were far less likely to be taken captive again. By contrast, the recidivism of those freed by someone else praying for them was over 90% in them returning to the same demonic bondage as before.

Our Lord's warning is sadly true for those who've had other people deliver them when they could have freed themselves by His power. The same is true for the "freed" who don't pursue Christ-likeness:

*"When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first" (Luke 11:24-26).*

The vast majority of people held in demonic captivity need no one else but our Lord Jesus to free them. However, there are some cases where past Satan worship, voodoo, occult, curses and similar participation require outside help. An example of this is the father who pleaded with Jesus when He returned from the Mount of Transfiguration: *"Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is epileptic, and suffers grievously; for he often falls into the fire, and often into the water"* (Matthew 17:15). Our Lord told His disciples why they were unable to deliver the man's son: *"This kind doesn't go out except by prayer and fasting"* (Matthew 17:21).



During the next few years over 3,000 people came to the center and used the 8-page handout. None left without having freed themselves from demonic presence. But not all the freed stayed diligent to *"bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ"* (2Corinthians 10:5). Many, including a number of our relatives who were freed, allowed the same familiar demonic spirits back in.

One of the more joyous experiences for us was when several generations of the same family would come together on a retreat to deliver themselves from demons. It was precious to facilitate spiritual freedom in these families. It wasn't always easy, especially when **begrudging bitterness** was present in the family. (Begrudging bitterness is seething hatred toward a person who is unaware of how you feel. It may involve speaking badly about someone behind their back or withholding affection and warmth that's due another person.) It took special handling and compassion for all the members of a family to experience forgiveness with each other. Some were concerned that they'd be blamed for past hurt in the family.

(After we left the retreat center we published a workbook, *Demolishing Strongholds*, free on our website.)

***"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you"* (Matthew 5:11,12).**

Over time those with prophetic gifting find it very difficult to remain in an area. It was no different for Mike. A number of clergy to whom our Lord sent him with a message didn't repent of their sin. They'd then smear Mike's name to others. Our Lord wouldn't let Mike defend himself, nor was he able to make public the sins of those who refused to repent. Some of his closest friends began to believe the lies and turn against him. Psalmists who'd also suffered strengthened him (Psalm 31:11; 41:9; 55:12-14; 88:8).

If you're interested in more insight into this period and its painful effect on our marriage, read our December 2003 Newsletter: *[Develop Christ-likeness — Destroy the Curse of Eve](#)*.

On September 22, 1993 the board of directors acted on the false accusations of some unrepentant clergy and asked us to leave the center by the end of the year. 9/22/1993 was one year to the day when one of the unrepentant clergy told Mike, "I'll destroy your ministry!" Several days later our friend Bert visited, and we left the center to live in Israel with him and his family. It was while we were living in Israel that our heavenly Father revealed to us the foundational practices of our Lord's first followers and told us to call this "**The Hebraic Foundations**."

(We'd like you to gain a full understanding of the fabric the Holy Spirit was weaving around us at this time. Please read Lifebyte 31, *[God's Warning For Today: Jeremiah's Call to Repentance](#)*).



In closing down the center, the Spirit of our Lord arranged our departure down to the most minute detail. All we needed to do was pray. A young couple who'd just purchased a sheep farm in the next town needed sheep. Our flock went to them. (When we returned from Israel they asked if we could care for the sheep for a week. The sheep hadn't forgotten us!)



We wrote in Saga 12 that our dog, Ollie, was special. Our son Sean was in the Air Force and couldn't take him, nor could we keep him. A woman came to the center one day to pick up shoes she'd left on retreat. Asking us what she could pray for on our behalf, we mentioned Ollie. She went home and asked her husband, who'd never had a dog. He agreed to give Ollie a try. Not only did he work from home so that Ollie had someone with him during the day, he also had a large field for Ollie to run in. (Ten days after giving the family Ollie, Sue went to visit them. Ollie greeted her affectionately, and then walked off with the man. We were delighted he'd bonded with his new family!)

As we conclude these Sagas, please verify with the Holy Spirit that our way of life is the norm for those who hunger to please our Lord Jesus. There's nothing complicated in living this way of life in Him. Cry out to our Lord Jesus for His *[grace with purpose](#)* so that:

- Your heart's motive is the humble, loving appreciation of the forgiven woman who washed the feet of Jesus.
- Your way of life is fully and lovingly submitted to the Lordship of Jesus.
- Your way of life is obedience-based no less than that of our father Abraham and our brother Paul.

If you're prayerfully determined to live by these three characteristics, then avoid four pitfalls:

- 👉 blindly adhering to scribal theology.
- 👉 holding on to unconfessed sins.
- 👉 clinging to undemolished strongholds.
- 👉 listening to your sin nature falsely accuse you about sins you've already been forgiven by our Father.

These four pitfalls will keep you from experiencing the Holy Spirit *in* and *through* and *around* you. If you want joyful and peaceful assurance that you're journeying toward your salvation, then make sure you can testify to others about your experiences with our Lord Jesus!