

**Now Concerning Things Spiritual**  
an historical account of one man's walk with God

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**CIVIL AUTHORITY  
THE HOLY SPIRIT AND YOU**

**An Early Awakening**

I was awakened shortly after 2:00 A.M. the morning of April 19, 1997. Under such circumstances, I can usually turn over and go back to sleep, but sleep wouldn't come, to borrow the lyrics of a C. & W. song. I lay there wide awake for several minutes before I got up, slipped into my robe and house shoes, picked up a bible, legal pad and pen, went into our living room and sat down on the couch near a reading lamp. It didn't take me long to realize why I was there. For the next two and one-half hours I was immersed in the school of the Holy Spirit in preparation for yet another instructional lesson on prayer – personal prayer that He instructed me to do. To repeat what I have previously written, when the Lord speaks to you<sup>1</sup> and directs you to pray, as you are obedient, you prophesy into existence that which you speak. There is no other reason for the Lord to instruct you to pray or for whom or for what to pray. Prayer<sup>2</sup> is the vehicle God's servants use to change lives, circumstances and to reclaim that which was stolen by the enemy.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>We hear the voice of the Lord through the Holy Spirit. There are times when my "hearing" is from the Holy Spirit or from the Lord Jesus or from our Father God, depending on the context of the message. For example, if I get a message that includes the words "My son," I conclude it's from the Father. If the message includes the words "My soon return" I conclude it's the Lord Jesus Who is speaking. If the message is otherwise instructional, directional or revelational, I assume that these words are from the Holy Spirit Himself.

<sup>2</sup>The kind of prayer I'm writing about is Word-based prayer spoken from the heart by a born-again believer as instructed by the Holy Spirit. An effectual, fervent prayer proceeds from an intimate, warm and personal relationship with the Lord Jesus. Prayer is a blessing available to believers to draw others to our Lord.

<sup>3</sup>Everything that happens on this earth contrary to man is very carefully orchestrated by Satan, man's archenemy. It was never intended to be that way. It began with Adam's failure in the garden of Eden and continues to this very day. The good news is that the second Adam succeeded where the first Adam failed. The second Adam [Christ Jesus] is now in the process of reclaiming that which was stolen by the enemy and will ultimately be successful when Satan and his angels, Death, Hades and everyone not found in the Book of Life will be cast into the lake of fire. See 1 John 5:19; John 10:10; 1 John 3:8; Revelation 20:10-15.

Back to my early morning awakening. The Holy Spirit immediately began to lead me to scriptures concerning civil authority. I do not remember the order in which the scriptures were given to me (I made no record of the order that morning) but I noted the scripture verses and remember some other things which occurred as I was literally drawn to the Word and taught by the Holy Spirit.

**Paul's Teaching**

My attention was called to Paul's letter to the Church in Rome believed to have been written from the city of Corinth in the Spring of A.D. 56. He writes, "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities . . . [who are] appointed by God. Therefore *whoever* resists the authority resists the ordinance of God . . . *and will bring judgment on themselves.*"<sup>4</sup>

**Peter's Instruction**

During a time of persecution<sup>5</sup> of dispersed Jews by civil authorities, the apostle Peter admonished them to "Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men – as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king."<sup>6</sup> Peter's message is clear. Believers are admonished in the face of persecutions to remain true to the faith which means to fear God and *honor the king, governors and other civil magistrates.*

Peter's second letter is more emphatic concerning civil authorities. He places angels who sinned (in Satan's

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<sup>4</sup>Excerpted from Romans 13:1-7, italics added.

<sup>5</sup>Most likely in the mid A.D. 60's, but the worst was yet to come. The first world-wide persecution of Christians did not come until A.D. 249 under the emperor Decius. For more details see the **Hebrew-Greek Study Bible**, Spiros Zohiates, Editor, p. 1535, published by AMG International, Inc., Chattanooga, TN, USA.

<sup>6</sup>1 Peter 2:13-17.

rebellion), the unrighteousness of those destroyed in Noah's flood and the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah in the same category: rebellion against God and reserved under punishment for the day of judgment.<sup>7</sup> The Apostle then affirms that those just enumerated *despise authority*, are presumptuous, self willed and not afraid to *speak evil of dignitaries*.<sup>8</sup> Although the word "dignitaries" [dignities in KJV] presents some difficulty in translation from the Greek, it appears that the Apostle is *warning against criticizing civil servants*. Adam Clarke confirms this position in his commentary on this verse.<sup>9</sup>

#### **Jude's Unique Admonition**

Jude, the [half] brother of Jesus continues this firm support for obedience to [God's] civil authorities and also cautions against criticizing them. He, along with Peter, cites the fallen angels and the sexually immoral of Sodom and Gomorrah as examples, who, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire as dreamers, defile the flesh, *reject authority and speak evil of dignitaries*.<sup>10</sup> Then Jude cites something that is amazing to me. He writes, "Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, 'The Lord rebuke you.'"<sup>11</sup> Here is demonstration of the most profound respect for authority once delegated by God. Some bible commentators decline comment on the reason for the archangel's reluctance. I believe Michael's refusal to rebuke the devil was because Satan was once an anointed Cherub, the most beautiful of God's creation *with authority delegated to him by God*. Although that anointing and authority was violated by Satan, I believe it was still honored by Michael *in reverence to God*. If my assumption is correct, in a similar way, when King Saul became as a mad man and tried repeatedly to kill David, David refused to retaliate against King Saul, who was once God's anointed ruler of Israel. David even had the man executed, who, at Saul's request, killed the mortally wounded King on the battlefield in what one

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<sup>7</sup>See Revelation 20:10-15.

<sup>8</sup>Read 2 Peter 2:4-10, italicized underlining added.

<sup>9</sup>See **Clarke's Commentary**, Volume VI, p. 887.

<sup>10</sup>Read Jude 6-8, italicized underlining added.

<sup>11</sup>Jude 9.

would call a mercy killing.<sup>12</sup> The teaching I have gleaned from this as confirmed by the Holy Spirit is: It is a dangerous thing to rebel against or to criticize God's anointed and/or appointed servant, even though he may have turned his back on God. I believe that Michael, like David, may have honored the original authority that comes with God's anointing and/or appointment and therefore refused to revile the once anointed Cherub even after he fell in disobedience.

Through the decisive prompting of the Holy Spirit that morning, I concluded that it is a dangerous thing to revile or criticize a civil official whose position is ordained by God – dangerous only to the one who criticizes, not to the civil official. Dangerous because of two reasons: (1) because civil government is ordained by God and (2) criticism of civil servants may masquerade as unforgiveness about which Jesus issued stern warnings.

#### **An On-Course Correction**

The conclusion, as revealed to me by the Holy Spirit in the early morning of April 19, 1997, was this: You and I *must not be critical of civil authorities at any level!* As this was revealed to me, I realized that I had been guilty of criticizing civil authorities at the local, state and national levels for many years. When the impact of this hit me, I remembered that I had openly criticized President Clinton in contradiction to God's instruction concerning civil authorities. The Holy Spirit's conviction is powerful. I immediately got on my knees and repented, asked for forgiveness, then forgave him and began to pray God's blessings on the President and all specifically named civil government officials in the city of Dallas, Dallas County, the state of Texas, Washington, D.C. and in every other city, county, state and nation on every continent, and island all over the world. To this day I continue to pray for civil governments in a similar fashion in my daily prayers.

#### **The Spirit's Versatility**

An interesting thing happened about 4:30 A.M. that morning as I was praying for the first time for civil governments all over the world. In my prayers, I asked the Lord to bless Monarchs, elective and appointive officials (at every level) and employees of civil governments, financially and as they are able to receive it, physically and spiritually, to content them in their work and make them efficient in what they do that law and order, peace, justice and tranquility might prevail that the

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<sup>12</sup>See II Samuel Chapter 1.

Gospel might flow freely. I prayed first for the Dallas City Council and the Mayor's office and all other city of Dallas employees, services and entities and then for the Dallas county Commissioner's Court, the county Judge's office, and all other Dallas County employees, services and entities, and so on up the civil ladder to include all civil officials and employees at the state, national and worldwide levels. While I was praying for Dallas county officials, suddenly it was as though I could "see" the Holy Spirit as a college cheerleader dressed in white slacks, a pull over sweater with a letter on the front, a megaphone in one hand, turning flips and yelling at me, "Yeah! Yeah! That's it! That's what I want you to do! Right on!"<sup>13</sup> I don't think that I will ever forget seeing in my mind's eye the Holy Spirit dressed as a college cheerleader, turning flips in front of me in a wildly enthusiastic, energetic and encouraging way to confirm my praying for civil governments. I believe that vivid impression will always be with me. This was God's way of confirming to me my mistakes in criticizing *any government official and encouraging and emphasizing to me His appointment for me to continually pray for civil governments at all levels.*

As I have shared with others what the Lord has taught me about never criticizing civil officials, I have been asked, sometimes in a tone of anger, "Are you telling me that I am not to disagree with what that so and so [expletive deleted] has done?" Certainly not! Disagree with the act but do not criticize the individual. What the Lord has taught me is this: Civil governments and officials are ordered by God. Therefore, when we see something done by a civil official with which we disagree – that does not line up with the word of God,<sup>14</sup> our opportunity – our responsibility is first, *Do not criticize him or her* since criticism often masquerades as unforgiveness. Secondly, orally forgive that individual to establish communion with God. Then note what is right and pray (1) for God to bless him and (2) that he might be guided by God's word in his administration and (3) whatever else the Holy Spirit leads you to pray. This is safe to do. Such conduct toward our civil officials will bless God, our city, county, state and nation, those for whom you pray and yourself. That's the way Christians

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<sup>13</sup>Funny thing – I didn't even know the Holy Spirit went to college.

<sup>14</sup>I realize that there will be differing opinions on what is the will of the Lord on any number of issues, but the admonition I have been given still stands: Do not criticize our public officials.

become salt and light. Light to see the truth and salt (prayer) to change, heal and bless.

#### **A Blessing Of The Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit has instructed me never to criticize civil servants and exactly how I am to pray for them daily. It is interesting to note that as I was sitting at my computer keyboard drafting the "copy" for page two of this letter, I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit as confirmation of my sharing this teaching with you. There is no way to overestimate the blessing of the availability of the Holy Spirit in His fullness to everyone today who will invite Jesus into his heart as Lord. It is for this reason that I call the Church age (from the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Jesus to the Rapture) the Dispensation of the Holy Spirit. Nothing, absolutely nothing compares with the blessing of knowing the Lord Jesus personally. And His presence is made known through the precious Holy Spirit.

One such example is "When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, 'Who do men say that I, the Son of man, am?' So they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' Jesus answered and said to him, 'Blessed are you Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.'"<sup>15</sup> Notice that Jesus did not give credit to Peter for his confession that "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God." He gave credit to a *revelation* of the Father. This revelation came from the Father's Spirit, the Holy Spirit. All Peter did was confess *what the Spirit revealed* to him. When one hungers and thirsts for righteousness today and invites Jesus into his heart as Lord, *that confession*<sup>16</sup> allows the Holy Spirit to testify of Jesus and make Him known personally to the believer as he is born again (from above) into the kingdom.<sup>17</sup>

#### **Empathy, Not Criticism**

I liken some Christian groups today, that shut out the work of Holy Spirit, to a small number of Jews, the scribes and Pharisees, with whom Jesus dealt very

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<sup>15</sup>Matthew 16:13-17.

<sup>16</sup>See Romans 10:9, 10.

<sup>17</sup>See John 14:21 (b); 15:26.

harshly. Without the witness of the Holy Spirit, they became meticulous about physical laws but neglected more important things such as justice, mercy and faith. According to Jesus, they were blinded to their real inward selves by their zeal for meticulous, legalistic attention to outward physical matters, such as tithing of mint, anise and cumin.<sup>18</sup> This is not written to criticize but to *empathize* with them. The reason I can do so is because *I know who I used to be*. I once shut out the work of the Holy Spirit in my life through the doctrine of Cessation. And I literally became a lawyer [in the scripture] whose doctrine was made paramount to salvation because it was “more perfect” than that of others. I was a legalist who “crucified” those whose doctrine didn’t line up with mine. I became as the small group of Jewish radicals who crucified the Savior and plead *guilty to the charge*. Then I discovered a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus, saw my ugly self and repented in tears. God has forgiven me. I have wondered what I would have done had I been one of the Jewish chief priests, an elder, a pharisee or a member of the Sanhedrin. Without the witness of the Holy Spirit I believe it is likely that I would have participated in the bribery by their chief priests,<sup>19</sup> their schemes to release Barabbas, crucify Jesus and say with “all the people, ‘His blood be upon us and our children.’”<sup>20</sup>

How precious indeed is the work of the Holy Spirit today Who gives us the witness of Jesus to our inner man.

To the Jews, we Gentiles owe a debt of inestimable value: The birth of Jesus who became our Savior, Redeemer, Messiah and Lord. The Jews are God’s chosen people. And the nation of Israel will be exalted *above all other nations* during the Millennium. As Gentiles, we are blessed by being accepted as part of the Jewish Church that was established on the first Pentecost after the resurrection with a Jewish Apostle as the keynote speaker. As the apostle Paul wrote, “For if you [Gentiles] were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree [Israel], how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?”<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>18</sup>Read the 23<sup>rd</sup> chapter of Matthew.

<sup>19</sup>See Matthew 28:11-15.

<sup>20</sup>Read Matthew chapter 27.

<sup>21</sup>Romans 11:24.

We Gentiles should forgive<sup>22</sup> the small number of Jews who participated in the crucifixion. Then pray daily for the nation of Israel (every Jew worldwide) which will become as a sweet savor unto the Lord.<sup>23</sup> I can assure every one of you, from what the Lord has taught me, each one who will do so will participate in a trinity of blessings that will last throughout eternity: The Lord will be blessed, the nation of Israel will be blessed and you will be blessed. And it doesn’t get any better than that.

#### Fresh Manna<sup>24</sup>

*My son you are entering into a new era in your life. A new era of blessing and anointing for which you have asked. I lay My hand upon you to impart the anointing, blessings and power for which you have asked, but proceed carefully. Await My guidance, My leading. You will be able to accomplish all you have dreamed of doing and more. Go forth now with confidence, My confidence which I impart to you. My confidence to will and to work for My good pleasure to glorify My Name and My soon coming. Rejoice! Look up for your salvation draws nigh. Selah.*

*There will now be a boldness in and about your ministries you have not had before. But use the gifts (blessings) cautiously as I lead. I want you to accomplish much more than you have dreamed or imagined for We are now equipped to work as a team. No more solo work. Only team work that has no limit, no limitation to bless, heal, sanctify and deliver for the blessing of My kingdom.*

*Go forth into areas to be available. For as you do so, I am there. I AM will respond to each circumstance as I see the need. You keep your eyes on Me. I will lead, direct and bless you and others in your (Our) pathway. Do not fear to be bold as I speak, as I lead and guide for there is much to do.*

. . . more later, the Lord willing.

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<sup>22</sup>Forgiveness is a powerful *offensive spiritual weapon*. Jesus admonished us more than once that we must forgive or we will not be forgiven. But forgiveness must come from the heart to be effective. Not only must we forgive those who have harmed us personally, but we must also forgive those who have harmed others. When we forgive those who crucified our Lord, for example, there is an inward cleansing and blessing which frees us that comes no other way. Death does not close the door on unforgiveness. Participate in the blessing. See Matthew 6:9-15.

<sup>23</sup>See Ezekiel 20:41.

<sup>24</sup>Before, during and after my morning prayer time on Sunday, April 11, 1999, I felt physically better (lighter?) than I had felt for years. This was reminiscent of a similar incident that had occurred about April, 1997, after I had been led to pray a world-wide forgiveness prayer. The word “refreshing” seemed to describe my feelings as I got out of bed that morning. These words were given to me that morning during and after my morning prayer time.