



NEW LIFE

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL MINISTRY

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The Spirit Of The Law By Vince Dorazio

The Law Of The Land

Our government in America is based on the rule of law. We have laws that govern our land from our local towns, cities, and states to our federal government. We elect people to regulate and enforce the law of the land. They legislate what they believe is good for all people and instruct others to carry out the laws that are passed. If a law seems to be flawed in some respect, it can be amended or even removed. The U.S Constitution is the supreme law of America. Besides the civil laws that legislators put in place, there are other kinds of laws that influence how we live. For instance there are moral laws, spiritual laws and of course the unspoken laws.

The Law Of God

When Moses led the Israelites from bondage out of Egypt, he led them to Mount Sinai as God had instructed him. God then gave Moses the Ten Commandments, written on stone tablets. These Ten Commandments were the basis of how the Israelites were to begin their new life being freed from slavery. (See Exodus 20) Later, God would give Moses more detailed instructions that would govern the people; everything from eating habits to celebrations. (See Leviticus) So why would

God institute such strict rules and laws?

What we have to remember is that the Israelites were in captivity for over 400 years. During that time, the people had become accustomed to living in the land of Egypt. They had become accustomed to the land, the food, the Egyptian laws and Egyptian religions and false gods. It is probable that many of them even accepted the worship of other gods. ***"So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron, who accepted their offering, and fashioning this gold with a graving tool, made a molten calf. Then they cried out, "This is your God, O Israel, who brought you out of the land of Egypt."*** (Exodus 32:3-4)

After all, it had been 400 years of Egyptian rule. Now God had to change all that had taken place during that time and bring them to a new way of living. He had to change the way they had lived for so long a time. He had to remind them that there is NO other gods. It was not an easy task. It took 40 years, (two generations) of change for the people to accept.



Just think about our culture today of how we have become accustomed to changing lifestyles in just the past 40 years. Our language has certainly changed in books, movies and television. Abortion rights have become a way of life. Same sex marriages have become more acceptable. Now-a-days, we can hardly go to a movie or watch a TV program without checking the rating guide. In short, morality has taken a nose dive. Compare these changes to that of the Israelite's 400 years under pagan law. God had to change the traditions and habits of 400 years of Egyptian rule.

The Hebrews now had to live in strict accordance to the letter of the law, now referred to as the "Law of Moses".

Pharisees and Sadducees and The Law

Both the Pharisees and Sadducees believed in the Law of Moses, but, they had some differences between them.

The Sadducees were usually from upper class aristocrats and more like a political party. They leaned more toward the Roman government that ruled their land. They also did not believe in the resurrection or life after death, which was completely opposite of what the Pharisees believed. The Pharisees were more like the common people. However, they both held the people in strict belief to living according to the "letter of the law" set down by Moses. The one main thing they had in common was they were against Jesus' teachings and ministry. They joined together to put Him to death.

The Letter Of The Law

When someone obeys the letter of the law, they are obeying the literal interpretation of the words (the "letter") of the law, but not the intent of those who wrote the law. However, when one obeys the spirit of the law but not the letter, one is doing what the authors of the law intended, though not adhering to the literal wording. This was the case with the Sadducees and Pharisees who placed such interpretations of the law on the people that it became a burden for everyone. That is, until Jesus came.

"Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples, saying, "The scribes and the Pharisees have taken their seat on the chair of Moses. Therefore, do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you, but do not follow their example. For they preach but they do not practice. They tie up heavy burdens (hard to carry) and lay them on people's shoulders, but they will not

lift a finger to move them."
(Matt. 23:1-4)

There are times that we too live our lives according to the "letter of the law" rather than by the Spirit of the Law". Someone once asked me how another person that they knew prayed in tongues, but had never participated in a Life In The Spirit Seminar. It was obvious that this person was told or believed that the only way to receive the gift of tongues was by attending a seminar.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill." (Matthew 5:17)

During the last 40 years the Life In The Spirit Seminar is a vehicle to receiving the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Traditionally, the fifth week of the seminar is when those in attendance are prayed with for a renewal of their lives to accept Jesus as their personal Savior and the renewal of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. It is at this time that we ask for God's gifts of the Holy Spirit, and many receive the gift of praying in tongues. But it is not the only way to receive the Holy Spirit gifts. We have to give God more credit that that.

I have been to some prayer meetings over the years that function the same way every week. Each week is started exactly according to a written schedule that was prepared a day or so earlier. A time limit was set aside for a few songs; scripture reading; a short talk; a prayer of petition; some announcements and close with refreshments. The meetings

were more like a written script. While this is a well planned meeting, it leaves little room for the Holy Spirit to be active and be part of the gathering.

Jesus And The Law

The Pharisees and Scribes thought of Jesus to be breaking the observance of the law that that had been a tradition since the days of Moses. In many instances He seemed to be doing the opposite of what was the proper thing to do. In fact, Jesus was considered to be a radical; someone who would change from accepting the traditional ways of doing things. When Jesus and the Disciples were walking through the wheat fields they began to break off the heads of the grains of wheat and eat them. It was on a Sabbath and this was a day of rest. This offended the Pharisees because this act was considered to be doing "work" on the Sabbath and they complained to Jesus. But, Jesus rebuked them and said, ***"The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath."*** (Mark 2:27)

Jesus did not come to do away with the law but to fulfill the law. He says, ***"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill."*** (Matthew 5:17) The old law was fulfilled and finished with the death and resurrection of Jesus. On the cross Jesus says, ***"It is finished. And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit."*** (John 19:30)

Are you living according to the letter of the law or by the Spirit of the law?

PEOPLE OF JOY PRAYER MEETINGS

Each week we gather together to share a song of joy and praise & worship; share the Scriptures together; a time of testimony, and a time of prayer. We do this under the guidance of Jesus, our Lord and our God, and in the glory of the Holy Spirit. Recently, we feel we have heard the Lord telling us that there is (charismatic) power in numbers and that we should come together as one in the Lord!

In the early 1970's the Charismatic Renewal in Minneapolis began at St. Albert The Great Catholic Church (then called St. Paul The Apostle Prayer Group). The weekly attendance grew upward to over 300 people every week. They came from all over the Twin Cities area and beyond. Many (if not all) of the gifts of the Holy Spirit were very active at every prayer meeting. Enthusiastic praise & worship; witnessing & testimonies; teachings & healings were present every week. The Holy Spirit was doing a new thing and many people were renewing their lives in Jesus and receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

We feel that the Lord wants us to revive those days of the Holy Spirit and Charismatic gifts. So we are making every effort to bring together where it all began. We encourage all previous members involved in charismatic prayer meetings and also new people to join with us again to spread the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ to everyone. St Paul tells us, "***Working together, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says: "In an acceptable time I heard you, and on the day of salvation I helped you." Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.***"

(2 Cor. 5:1-2)

NOW IS THE ACCEPTABLE TIME!

**Let us come together
and praise the Lord!**

The time and location is as follows:

**St. Albert's Catholic Church
2833 – 32 Avenue South
(E. 29th Street & 32nd Avenue South)
Minneapolis, MN.**

Thursdays - - - Time: 7:30 PM

Note: If you play a guitar, or musical instrument, bring it with you.

COME ONE - - - COME ALL
LET US FILL THIS HOUSE WITH GLORY!

CONFERENCE PROPHECY

The following is a prophecy from the New Life Holy Spirit Conference "Jesus – The Key To Life".

I Will Give You The Key That Will Open The Door For Many.

**Hold Up The Key For All To See
(The Key As A Shining Light)**

**Hold Up The Key With Other Keys Held Together
(It Becomes A Brighter Shining Light)**

People Behind Closed Door Are Reaching For The Key (The Key Is Jesus)

**Don't Stray From The Basics;
Proclaim My Name To All People And I Will Do The Rest.**

**Go On The Path That I Have Made;
Do Not Look To The Right Or The Left;
Stay On The Road I Have Created For You.**

CONFERENCE CD'S

All the five (5) talks of the Holy Spirit Conference "**Jesus – The Key To Life**" are now available.

ORDER FORM **ALL CD'S ARE \$6 EACH**

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Fr Bill Halbing Saturday Morning	_____	_____
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PEOPLE OF JOY

**CHARISMATIC
PRAYER MEETINGS**

THURSDAYS 7:30 PM

**St Albert's Catholic Church
2832 - 32 Avenue South
29th Street & 32nd Ave. South
Minneapolis, MN.
(1 Block North of E. Lake St.)**

**Call ahead for Handicap
Accessibility
612-282-9896**