

156 – Are we dead yet?

I lost a huge portion of what I had to share with you tonight. I can tell you that it was really good, and when I sought the Lord about what now, He reminded me about what I've been writing about since finishing Go GOD!, the 1st copies of which are in production as we speak.

“Everything boils down to identifying with Yeshua the Messiah.” That's the word of the Lord, so let me say it again: ***“Everything boils down to identifying with Yeshua the Messiah.”***

Our success and failure in the carrying out of our own salvation, as Paul wrote to the Philippians, depends on how closely and how completely we identify with the Lord, both as a Man and as the Son of the Most High Elohim.

There is no greater example of faith, obedience, selflessness, graciousness, patience, purposefulness, and sacrifice for others than the One Whom came to show us all those qualities and, to the extent that we are willing to receive it, impart all those to us.

The new edition of YTYHIT is a very different book. I have shared with Barbara that it has been exhausting to write, because I re-lived Yeshua's journey from Bethany before the Passover, to His entrance into Jerusalem, to His last Supper with His disciples, to His passion in Gethsemane, to His trial and abuse at the hands of the Jews AND the Romans, His crucifixion, and His burial. I'm getting through the 3 days and nights of waiting for the resurrection now. Parts of what I saw made me sick, literally; sometimes, I just wanted to stop everything and run away, because what I saw was so horrible! As short as the chapters are, I could only complete two a day at most, because the experience was so upsetting and exhausting.

I'm convinced that we can't read Yeshua's story enough. For us to get beyond our little universes where all the things are that we think are so monumentally important, we have to not just read **about** Him; we have to walk **beside** Him. For us to *KNOW* Him, as Paul says, we have to be with Him and watch Him through His journey as a Man. When we recognize the magnitude of His sacrifice for us, even to be on the Earth as a Man, we realize the smallness of our own challenges in comparison.

In **Galatians 2:20**, Paul says:

Together with Christ have I been crucified...

Paul identified Himself – and invited us to identify ourselves – on the cross with the Messiah. Who in the world can know what that means unless you walk *WITH* Yeshua *THROUGH* the experience!

Don't stop there, though, Paul would say; identify yourself with the inescapable frustration that Yeshua must have felt during His life among people who barely had a clue, if any, of Who He was! Go on to identify yourself with the unspeakable injustice of His betrayal and rejection by those closest to Him.

If we have been crucified with the Messiah, then we suffer **with** Him. We identify ourselves with the horror of His treatment prior to His execution by a method specifically designed to inflict as much suffering as possible while leaving the victim alive to experience suffering fully. The preparation for crucifixion alone often caused death!

Now consider that Yeshua uttered **not one word** of protest, defense, or even complaint. Now, how identified with Him are we in our lives today? How close are we to His standard?

Do we think it isn't achievable? Paul knew it was:

Galatians 2:20

... yet I am living; no longer I, but living in me is Christ.

If the Messiah is living in us truly, we ought never to complain about anything in our lives EVER! We ought never to utter a word of complaint, protest or defense, because to do so would be to deny that Yeshua DOES live in us!

Look at the magnitude of His faith, which you and I can adopt today:

Galatians 2:20

Now that which I am now living in flesh, I am living in faith that is of the Son of God, Who loves me, and gives Himself up for me.

The faith that you and I have today is **OF** the Son of YaHoVeH. It was His before it could be ours. Yeshua's faith fuels ours. He had it before we **ever** could, and He had it in the midst of the **most** horrible circumstances imaginable. Yeshua **alone** suffered **for** all mankind. So, His circumstances actually **defy** our imaginations.

Yeshua's faith ought to become ours, if we intend to meet Him standing on our feet, like Paul, knowing that we, "**contended the ideal contest... finished [our] career[s], [and]... kept the faith**" (2 Timothy 4:7).

We think we know about faith, but do we KNOW faith within ourselves like Yeshua and Paul did? Let's look at what Faith is, one more time:

He 11:1

1 Now faith is an **assumption** of what is being **expected**, a **conviction** concerning matters which are **not being observed**;

3 By faith we are apprehending **the eons** to **adjust to a declaration of God**, so that **what is being observed has not come out of what is appearing**.

"You won't recognize it."

6 Now **apart from faith it is impossible to be well pleasing**, for he who is coming to God must believe that He is, and is becoming a Rewarder of those who are seeking Him out.

What's not said: *No seeking = no rewarding.*

8 By faith Abraham, being called, **obeys**,

9 By faith he **sojourns** in the land of promise as in an alien land

10 For he **waited**

1-2-3, obey, sojourn, wait

1 Thess. 4:

Be ambitious to be quiet, mind your business, work with your hands.

Hebrews 11:

15 And, **if**, indeed, **they remembered** that from which they came out, they might have had occasion to **go back**.

What did Peter do within days of Yeshua's resurrection? Yeshua showed Himself to them all, save Thomas; then 8 days later to Thomas and the rest; then it was some more days, and the guys went to Galilee, when Peter decided He was going fishing. John 21:3. Basically, Peter decided, "I'm done waiting around, I've had it; I'm going BACK TO WHAT I REMEMBER!"

Yeshua shows up –for the third time – after the guys catch nothing all night, and they don't even recognize Him at first! If we think we can go back to what we remember, we're right, but we won't catch anything either; nor will we recognize the Lord when we see Him standing in front of our eyes! It's during this encounter, after Yeshua feeds them that He gets in Peter's face over whether Peter loves Him and telling Peter to feed His sheep. Yeshua is as much as saying to Peter, "*Don't go back again to what you remember; do what I'm asking you to do for Me.*"

Hebrews 11:

16 Yet now they are **craving** a better, that is, a celestial; **wherefore** God is **not ashamed** of them, to be invoked as their God, for He makes ready for them a city.

What are we craving today? The celestial or the terrestrial? The Earthly or the Heavenly?

He 12: What does faith lead into?

1 Surely, in consequence, then, we also, having so vast a cloud of witnesses encompassing us, **putting off every impediment and the popular sin**, may be racing with endurance the contest lying before us, We will never *run* the race Paul said He ran, let alone *endure* that race, unless and until we put off *everything* in our way – relationships, preferences and desires of all kinds that have to do with everything in this eon; everything attached to “*the systematizing of the deception*” (Ephesians 4:14); “*friendship of this world,*” which is “*enmity with God*” (James 4:4); “*the old humanity which is corrupted in accord with its seductive desires*” (Ephesians 4:22); “*everything that is in the world, the desire of the flesh, and the desire of the eyes, and the ostentation of living*” (1 John 2:16);

He 12:

2 looking off to the Inaugurator and Perfecter of **[THE]** faith, Yeshua, Who, **for the joy lying before Him, endures** a cross, despising the shame, besides is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For take into account the One Who has endured such **contradiction** by sinners while among them, lest you should be faltering, fainting in your souls.

4 Not as yet unto blood did you repulse, when contending against sin.

5 And **you have been oblivious** of the entreaty which is arguing with you as with sons and daughters: My son – My daughter – do not disdain the **discipline** of the Lord, Nor yet faint when being **exposed** by Him.

6 For whom the Lord is **loving** He is **disciplining**, Yet He is **scourging** every **son [or daughter]** to whom He is assenting.

7 For discipline are you enduring. As to sons [and daughters]is God bringing it to you, for what son [or daughter] is there whom the father is not disciplining?

8 Now if you are **without** discipline, of which all have become partakers, consequently you are bastards and not sons **[or daughters]**.

By faith and by faith alone we may expect to win the race. It is paradoxical that winning requires *doing* but *not working* in a common, worldly sense.

When we are fully identified with the Messiah, as Paul certainly was, His direction to the Ephesians becomes not a job description of what we must strive toward, but rather a Description of what we do BECAUSE we have been crucified with Him and it is not we, but HE Who lives in us:

Ephesians 4:17-5:21

17 This, then, I am saying and attesting in the Lord: By no means are you still to be walking according as those of the nations also are walking, in the vanity of their mind,

18 their comprehension being darkened, being estranged from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the callousness of their hearts,

19 who, being past feeling, in greed give themselves up with wantonness to all uncleanness as a vocation.

20 Now you did not thus learn Christ,

21 since, surely, Him you hear, and by Him were taught (according as the truth is in Yeshua),

22 to put off from you, as regards your former behavior, the old humanity which is corrupted in accord with its seductive desires,

23 yet to be rejuvenated in the spirit of your mind,

24 and to put on the new humanity which, in accord with God, is being created in righteousness and benignity of the truth.

25 Wherefore, putting off the false, let each be speaking the truth with his associate, for we are members of one another.

26 Are you indignant, and not sinning? Do not let the sun be sinking on your vexation,

27 nor yet be giving place to the Adversary.

28 Let him who steals by no means still be stealing: yet rather let him be toiling, working with his hands at what is good, that he may have to share with one who has need.

29 Let no tainted word at all be issuing out of your mouth, but if any is good toward needful edification, that it may be giving grace to those hearing.

30 And do not be causing sorrow to the holy spirit of God by which you are sealed for the day of deliverance.

31 Let all bitterness and fury and anger and clamor and calumny be taken

away from you with all malice,
32 yet become kind to one another, tenderly compassionate, dealing graciously among yourselves, according as God also, in Christ, deals graciously with you.

Chapter 5

1 Become, then, imitators of God, as beloved children,
2 and be walking in love, according as Christ also loves you, and gives Himself up for us, an approach present and a sacrifice to God, for a fragrant odor.
3 Now, all prostitution and uncleanness or greed -- let it not even be named among you, according as is becoming in saints --
4 and vileness and stupid speaking or insinuating, which are not proper, but rather thanksgiving.
5 For this you perceive, knowing that no paramour at all or unclean or greedy person, who is an idolater, has any enjoyment of the allotment in the kingdom of Christ and of God.
6 Let no one be seducing you with empty words, for because of these things the indignation of God is coming on the sons of stubbornness.
7 Do not, then, become joint partakers with them,
8 for you were once darkness, yet now you are light in the Lord.
9 As children of light be walking (for the fruit of the light is in all goodness and righteousness and truth),
10 testing what is well pleasing to the Lord.
11 And be not joint participants in the unfruitful acts of darkness, yet rather be exposing them also,
12 for it is a shame even to speak of the hidden things occurring, done by them.
13 Now all that which is being exposed, by the light is made manifest, for everything which is making manifest is light.
14 Wherefore He is saying, 'Rouse! O drowsy one, and rise from among the dead, and Christ shall dawn upon you!'
15 Be observing accurately, then, brethren, how you are walking, not as unwise, but as wise,
16 reclaiming the era, for the days are wicked.
17 Therefore do not become imprudent, but understand what the will of the Lord is.
18 And be not drunk with wine, in which is profligacy, but be filled full with

spirit,
19 speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing
and playing music in your hearts to the Lord,
20 giving thanks always for all things, in the name of our Lord, Yeshua
Christ,
21 to our God and Father, being subject to one another in the fear of
Christ.

Why did Paul feel it necessary to write all that to an ecclesia that He had entrusted some of His most advanced revelations? My suspicion – and it is only that; it is not, “*Thus saith the Lord*” – is that Paul recognized His **unique** identity in the Messiah and He took great pains to impart that to the ecclesias as His apostolic commission required. Paul, I believe, knew that “his ecclesias,” like Yeshua’s disciples, simply did not have **His** revelation and therefore His identity; they had their own, and the revelation he delivered had to filter through their identity until they were able – or IF they were able – to give up their identity for the Messiah’s. Oswald Chambers, who, to my mind, came as close to being identified entirely with the Lord as any relatively modern figure I’ve heard of, wrote multiple times about giving up our rights to ourselves and allowing the Lord to live in and through us.

Until we are fully identified with the sufferings of the Messiah – climaxing with His crucifixion – until we give up the rights to ourselves, we will have to remind ourselves of Paul’s lists of things to put off and put on; His lists of things NOT to do as well as things TO do. My sense is that to the degree that we succeed in surrendering our lives, just like Yeshua surrendered His to His Father’s will and not to His own, we will know Him, not only, as Paul says, **“in the fellowship of His sufferings,”** but also **“in the power of His resurrection”** (Philippians 3:10).

There is no resurrection without dying first; not for Yeshua, not for Paul, and not for us either. If we are conformed to His death, we will be confirmed also to His life, which is no longer *subject* to death.

Romans 6:2-13

We, who died to sin, how shall we still be living in it?

3 Or are you ignorant that whoever are baptized into Christ Yeshua, are baptized into His death?

4 We, then, were entombed together with Him through baptism into death, that, even as Christ was roused from among the dead through the glory of the Father, thus we also should be walking in newness of life.

5 For if we have become planted together in the likeness of His death, nevertheless we shall be of the resurrection also,

6 knowing this, that our old humanity was crucified together with Him, that the body of Sin may be nullified, for us by no means to be still slaving for Sin,

7 for one who dies has been justified from Sin.

8 Now if we died together with Christ, we believe that we shall be living together with Him also,

9 having perceived that Christ, being roused from among the dead, is no longer dying. Death is lording it over Him no longer,

10 for in that He died, He died to Sin once for all time, yet in that He is living, He is living to God.

11 Thus you also, **be reckoning yourselves to be dead, indeed, to [the] Sin,** yet living to God in the Messiah Yeshua, our Lord.

12 Let not Sin, then, be reigning in your mortal body, for you to be obeying its lusts.

13 Nor yet be presenting your members, as implements of injustice, to Sin, but present yourselves to God as if alive from among the dead, and your members as implements of righteousness to God.

We're right back to where we began, in **Galatians 2:20**:

Together with Christ have I been crucified, yet I am living; no longer I, but living in me is Christ.

I seem to remember someone else saying something much the same:

Matthew 16:24-25

If anyone is wanting to come after Me, let him renounce himself and pick up his cross and follow Me.

25 For whosoever may be wanting to save his soul shall be destroying it. Yet whoever should be destroying his soul on My account shall be finding it.

1 Corinthians 1:18

For the word of the cross is stupidity, indeed, to those who are perishing, yet to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Believing requires faith; Faith comes by hearing; hearing comes by the word of YaHoVeH:

1 Corinthians 1:21

God delights, **through the stupidity of the heralding**, to save those who are believing,

Romans 10:13-17

13 For everyone, whoever should be invoking the name of the Lord, shall be saved.

14 How, then, should they be invoking One in Whom they do not believe? Yet how should they be believing One of Whom they do not hear? Yet how should they be hearing apart from one heralding?

15 Yet how should they be heralding if ever they should not be commissioned? According as it is written: How beautiful are the feet of those bringing an evangel of good!

16 But not all obey the evangel, for Isaiah is saying, "Lord, who believes our tidings?"

17 Consequently, faith is out of tidings, yet the tidings through a declaration of Christ.

As difficult as it was for Yeshua's disciples to grasp these principles, even after they walked by His side for 3½ years, I can understand that it may be relatively difficult for us who have never laid eyes on Him in the flesh. And yet, this is no excuse, clearly, for Yeshua Himself said, "**Happy are those who are not perceiving and believe**" (Matthew 20:29). Add to that, the fact that the consoler has been poured out on us; the Spirit of Holiness, which the Father

sent in Yeshua's name, which Paul calls the earnest of our allotment, and which Yeshua said "will be guiding you into all the truth."

Today, there are only excuses, but no reasons, for living to ourselves as if we owned our own lives and had not been bought with the price of the Messiah's blood. We CAN refuse to be identified with Him fully, deciding instead to live to ourselves, while giving only lip service to Him, if any at all. To me, that is the epitome of what Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 6:1:

1 Now, working together, we are also entreating you not to receive the grace of God for naught.

2 For He is saying, "In a season acceptable I reply to you, And in a day of salvation I help you." Lo! Now is a most acceptable era! Lo! Now is a day of salvation!

The Messiah did not die for Himself but for us. The Father raised Him and exalted Him for Him AND for us, that we would, if by any means count ourselves to have died with Him so that He might live in and through us, and we would be counted among his brethren.

At the Dais of the Messiah there is not a judge as in a courtroom, where punishments are meted out; but a judge as at a reviewing stand in athletic contest where the scores are ranked and awards are presented. The criteria have nothing to do with the number of souls reached or good works done, but the degree to which the Scriptures are fulfilled in a person's life who is identified with the Lord in His death. That person will have expressed the Lord in and through his or her life, because their nature became His:

John 14:20

In that day you shall know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

Matthew 7:13-14

Enter through the cramped gate, for broad is the gate and spacious is the way which is leading away into destruction, and many are those entering through it.

14 Yet what a cramped gate and narrowed way is the one leading away into life, and few are those who are finding it.

Believing, Faith, even dying...these are decisions we make, perhaps even counter to our own will. Nevertheless, we know one who decided to believe God, even though He knew the horror that awaited Him.

Matthew 26:39

My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass by from Me. However, not as I will, but as Thou!

“Not as I will, but Thou!” That is the essence of faith, of trusting the Father, and doing nothing of ourselves or for ourselves.

“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

“Peter do you love me?” Now, ask the same question with your name in it. And then ask, “How much do I love Him? Enough to deny myself, pick up my cross and follow Him, no matter where that leads or what it costs? Do I love Him enough to know the fellowship of His sufferings before I will know the power of His resurrection?”

Do I love The Father and His Son enough for it to be said of me in the Day of the Lord, Yeshua:

Galatians 2:20:

Together with Christ have I been crucified, yet I am living; no longer I, but living in me is Christ.