

## **Correspondence Course Lesson 5: The Life of a True Believer**

### **Roots in the Old Testament**

Royalty, heads of state and other government officials in the Apostle Paul's day recognized Christianity as a distinct life-style. Paul, under house arrest, defended his way of life- the Christian way-before Felix, the procurator of Judea. Notice Felix's reaction to Paul's words: "***And hearing these things, Felix put them off, knowing more accurately about the Way*** [put off any immediate action]" (Acts 24:22).

Earlier, Paul had explained to Felix: "But I confess this to you that according to the Way, which they say is a sect, I do serve the Elohim of my fathers, believing all the things written in the Torah and in the prophets [which are part of what is now called the Old Testament]" (verse 14).

A vital point to understand is this: The way of life of a true believer has its roots in the Old Testament. It is established on the Ten Commandments, as well as the other laws of Yahweh, which are based on principles of the "basic ten."

### **Yahweh's Great Law the Standard**

Yahweh's perfect, spiritual character can be summed up in the one word love. Since Yahweh is love (I John 4:8, 16), True Believers should be growing in his love.

The Bible defines godly love for us. John, often referred to as the "apostle of love," wrote:

***1 John 5:3 "For this is the love of Yahweh, that we keep his commandments; And his commandments are not a burden to us."***

The apostle James referred to the Ten Commandments as the royal law of liberty (Jas. 2:8-12). That is because they free those who keep them from the bondage of the hurtful ways of this world. The Ten Commandments reveal the great love Yahweh has for his children.

Before his crucifixion, Yahshua the Messiah told his disciples: "If you keep My commandments you will continue in My love, as I have kept My Father's commandments and continue in His love." (John 15:10). Yahweh's love and his law are in perfect agreement. They do not oppose each other, as some erroneously believe. As Yahshua plainly stated,

***"If you love Me, keep My commandments." (John 14:15)***

### **What Is a Real Believer?**

Yahshua described the very basis of what a real believers life should be like in what is commonly called the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew, chapters 5- 7) . This sermon actually started out as a private lesson for his disciples (students or learners). Yahshua pointed out those characteristics that would clearly identify his true followers. Before we focus on several of these characteristics of a true believer, you should first read all of Matthew 5, 6 and 7.

1) What did Yahshua say about the "poor in spirit"?

***Mat 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit! For theirs is the kingdom of the Heavens.***

Did he mean they would be lacking the Spirit of Elohim?

***Rom 8:9 But you are not in flesh, but in Spirit, since the Spirit of YAHWEH dwells in you. But if anyone has not the Spirit of Messiah, this one does not belong to Him.*** Also read Luke 11:13.

**COMMENT:** No, Yahshua was not suggesting that they would lack Elohim's Spirit. Rather, he went on to show that those who are truly humble will be blessed because they will be a part of Yahweh's kingdom.

2) What will the meek inherit?

***Mat 5:5 Blessed are the meek! For they shall inherit the earth***

Was Yahshua meek? Matt. 11:29. Will a true believer exhibit the characteristic of meekness in the way he conducts his daily life?

***Eph 4:1-2 Then I, the prisoner of our Master, exhort you to walk worthily of the calling in which you were called, with all humility and meekness, with long-suffering, bearing with one another in love,***

**COMMENT:** There is a difference between being meek and being weak. Yahshua was meek, but not weak. He endured abuse and injury with patience and without resentment. A meek person will not try to justify himself when he is wrong. Neither does he feel superior to others. He will not try to get even with others, nor try to get revenge.

3) What will a follower of Messiah - a true believer - be "thirsting" for?

***Mat 5:6 Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness! For they shall be satisfied.***

4) What is the Bible definition of righteousness?

***Ps 119:172 My tongue shall answer Your Word, for all Your Commandments are righteousness.***

**COMMENT:** To "hunger and thirst" for righteousness is to be deeply motivated to obey Yahweh-to keep his laws, which he gave to us in loving concern for our own good.

Those who are truly hungering and thirsting for righteousness will be studying Yahweh's Word for true understanding. They will be willing to change when they see they've been wrong, admitting their wrong beliefs, their mistakes and their sins. "Study to show thyself approved unto Elohim" (II Tim. 2:15), wrote Paul to Timothy. "Prove all things" (I Thess. 5:21), Paul said to the Thessalonians.

5) Who did Yahshua say will enter the kingdom of Yahweh?

***Mat 7:21 It will not be that just everyone who says to Me, Master, Master, will enter into the kingdom of Heaven, but the ones who do the will of My Father in Heaven.***

**COMMENT:** Notice that in order to enter Yahweh's kingdom, there is *doing* required-not just the confession of Yahshua as our Saviour. Yahweh makes it plain that we cannot enter the kingdom of Yahweh just by thinking Messiah has done it all for us. The remaining passages in the Sermon on the Mount expand and amplify the life of a true believer.

6) Is a real believer one who strives to "walk" as Messiah walked?

***1Pe 2:21 For you were called to this, for even Messiah suffered on our behalf, leaving behind an example for us, that you should follow His steps;***

***1Jo 2:6 The one claiming to rest in Him, ought to walk, himself, even as He walked.***

7) What was Yahweh's command to Abraham?

***Gen 17:1 And when Abram was ninety nine years old, YAHWEH appeared to Abram and said to him, I am El Shaddai! Walk before me and be perfect;***

Why could it be said that he did indeed walk with Yahweh?

***Gen 26:5 because Abraham listened to My voice and heeded My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My Torah.***

***Heb 11:8 Having been called out by faith, Abraham obeyed to go forth to a place which he was going to receive for an inheritance; and he went out not understanding where he went.***

***Heb 11:9 By faith he resided as a foreigner in a land of promise, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the joint-heirs of the same promise;***

***Heb 11:10 for he looked forward to a city having the foundations of which the builder and maker is Yahweh.***

Abraham walked with Yahweh because he stayed close to Yahweh through obedience to his word. Many think when we sin that our Heavenly Father rejects us; this is not the case. What sin does is separate us from Yahweh so we no longer can hear that small still voice and in turn start to decide for our self again what is right and what is wrong.

Yahweh's Torah is a blessing to mankind from his creator to show us right from wrong. We need to make 100's of decisions a day on everything to what time to wake up to what we should wear and eat. Yahweh's Torah shows us what decisions to make so that we will be happier and healthier and so will those around us. A true believer wants this close daily connection of being close to our Heavenly Father through his word.

8) Was Yahweh also Abraham's friend and companion?

***Jam 2:23 And the Scripture was fulfilled, saying, "And Abraham believed Yahweh, and it was counted for righteousness to him;" and he was called, Friend of Yahweh.***

Through obedience to every word out of the mouth of Yahweh we are showing him that we have 100% faith in his word and trust him 100% for his will in our life.

9) How can we, too, become friends of Yahshua?

***Joh 15:14 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.***

10) What will a real believer's attitude be toward the sinning society around him?

***1Jo 2:15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him,***

***1Jo 2:16 because all that which is in the world: The lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.***

***1Jo 2:17 And the world is passing away, and its lust. But the one doing the will of Yahweh abides forever.***

***1Pe 4:1 Therefore, Messiah having suffered for us in the flesh, also you arm yourselves with the same thought, because he having suffered in the flesh has been made to rest from sin,***

***1Pe 4:2 for him no longer to live in the lusts of men, but to live the remaining time in the flesh in the will of Elohim.***

***1Pe 4:3 For the time of life having passed is sufficient for us to have worked out the will of the pagans, having gone on in wantonness, lusts, drunkenness, parties, indecent singing, and lawless idolatries;***

***1Pe 4:4 in which they are surprised that you do not indulge with them into past excesses and they blaspheme against you;***

11) What will he be striving to live by?

***Mat 4:4 And as he sowed, it happened that one indeed fell by the side of the road; and the birds of the heaven came and devoured it.***

Is this any different than what Yahweh said in the Old Covenant?

***Deu 8:1 You shall be watchful to do every commandment which I am commanding you today, so that you may live and may multiply and may go in and possess the land which YAHWEH has sworn to your fathers.***

***Deu 8:2 And you shall remember all the way which Yahweh your Elohim has caused you to go these forty years in the wilderness, in order to humble you, to try you, to know that which is in your heart, whether you will keep His commandments or not.***

***Deu 8:3 And He has humbled you, and caused you to hunger, and caused you to eat the manna, which you had not known, and your fathers had not known, in order to cause you to know that man shall not live by bread alone, but man shall live by every Word that proceeds from the mouth of Yahweh.***

**COMMENT:** Yahweh does not change (Mal 3:6) and his law is his very character. So be it whether it was the Old Covenant or the New Covenant his eternal law based on his character of love would stay the same except for the animal sacrifices that were added because of transgression (Gal 3:19). A real believer will want to follow Yahweh word in all things now strengthened through the Holy Spirit in him and will no longer be able to conscientiously follow all the customs and practices of the society around him. Where he formerly "went along with the crowd," thoughtlessly participating in various social activities and business practices, he will now begin to question his life-style. He will begin asking; "What is Elohim's will? How does Yahweh say I should live?" He will begin saying as his Messiah did: "Nevertheless not my will, but your will, be done." And he will begin to diligently search the Word of Yahweh to learn the will of Yahweh, and follow it.

Of course, Yahweh's people must live in this world (John 17:15-16). And while striving to fully obey Yahweh-not being conformed to this world's ways (Rom. 12; 1- 2) - they should strive to "live peaceably with all men" (verse 18). If a believer has to disagree because of a biblical teaching, he does so without being disagreeable or self-righteous about it.

12) What further responsibility do believers have toward the world?

***Mat 5:14 You are the light of the world. It is not possible to hide a city that is built on a mountain.***

***Mat 5:15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under the bushel, but on the lamp stand; and it shines for all those in the house.***

***Mat 5:16 So let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works, and may glorify your Father in Heaven.***

**COMMENT:** While not "of the world" in the sense that Yahshua meant in John 17:16, those men and women of Yahweh who have the Holy Spirit and a knowledge of Yahweh's truth have a responsibility to be bright "lights" in the world. Yahweh's people should be exhibiting the "fruit," or characteristics, of Yahweh's Holy Spirit in their daily lives. They should be reaching out with friendliness and with a helping hand toward their neighbours and those they come in contact with every day. People not yet

called of Elohim will be encouraged as they see a little of the mind and character of Yahweh in action through the example set by individual believers.

- 13) What does Elohim call the person who claims to "know" Yahshua Messiah, but refuses to walk in His ways-refuses to keep his commandments?

**1Jo 2:4 The one saying, I have known Him, and not keeping His commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that one.**

**Isa 8:20 To the Torah and to the Testimony! If they do not speak according to this Word, it is because there is no light in them!**

What will a real believer actually be doing?

**1Jo 2:3 And by this we know that we have known Him, if we keep His commands.**

**1Jo 2:5 But whoever keeps His Word, truly in this one the love of Yahweh has been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him.**

**1Jo 2:6 The one claiming to rest in Him ought so to walk, himself, even as He walked.**

**COMMENT:** A True Believer has sincerely repented of his sins and is striving, with the help of Yahweh's Holy Spirit, to live by his Saviour's teachings. He is seeking to do Elohim's will in every aspect of his life as it is revealed in the Bible and is trying in any way to share his salvation with others and help spread the good news of Yahweh redeeming the Sons of Israel.

Yahshua Messiah preached the gospel of the kingdom of Yahweh. He proclaimed: "Repent ye, and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:15). Over and over again the Bible teaches repentance from sin, which is the breaking of Yahweh's great spiritual law (I John 3:4), summed up in 10 great universal principles-the Ten Commandments.

As we have already learned in our study of the Bible, repentance is the first step toward salvation.

Before Yahweh will forgive us of our sins, we must repent of (turn from) breaking his law. "Fear Yahweh, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Eccl. 12:13). Now let's review several vital facts about the Ten Commandments, and see how they apply to the believer's way of life. You can find all of the Ten Commandments listed in Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21.

- 14) Did the patriarch Abraham-the "father" of the faithful (Rom. 4:16)-think it was important to keep Yahweh's commandments?

**Gen 26:5 because Abraham listened to My voice and heeded My charge, My commands, My statutes, and My Torah.**

What was David's attitude toward keeping Yahweh's law? Read all of Psalm 119.

**Psa 19:7 The Torah of Yahweh is perfect, converting the soul. The Testimony of Yahweh is sure, making the simple wise.**

**Psa 19:8 The precepts of Yahweh are right, rejoicing the heart. The commandments of Yahweh are clear, giving light to the eyes.**

**Psa 19:9 The fear of Yahweh is clean, enduring forever. The judgments of Yahweh are true, they are righteous altogether.**

**Psa 19:10 They are more precious than gold, even much fine gold, and sweeter than honey and drops from the honeycomb.**

**Psa 19:11 Also Your servant is warned by them; in keeping of them is great reward.**

**COMMENT:** Both Abraham and David were Torah keepers. They had great respect for Yahweh's law. David wrote: "O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day" (Ps. 119:97). David's daily habit was to ponder and study Yahweh's law. It was a lamp to his feet and a light to his path (verse 105). His

keeping of Elohim's commandments made him wiser than his enemies (verse 98). Throughout this Psalm, David declared how he loved Elohim's law and used it as a guide in his life.

15) Did Yahshua Messiah keep the Torah?

***Joh 15:10 If you keep My commandments you will continue in My love, as I have kept My Father's commandments and continue in His love.***

Did he teach others to keep them?

***Mat 5:17 Do not think that I came to annul the Torah or the Prophets; I did not come to annul, but to fulfill.***

***Mat 5:18 Truly I say to you, Until the heaven and the earth pass away, in no way shall one yod or one stroke pass away from the Torah until all comes to pass.***

***Mat 5:19 Therefore, whoever loosens one of these commandments, the least, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the worst in the kingdom of Heaven.***

***Mat 19:16 And, behold, coming near, one said to Him, Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?***

***Mat 19:17 And He said to him, Why do you call Me good? No one is good except One, Yahweh! But if you desire to enter into life, keep the commandments.***

**COMMENT:** These verses in Matthew 19 clearly show that Yahshua specifically meant the Ten Commandments. No where in either the Old or New Testaments does it say that a true follower of Yahweh is allowed to wilfully break the commandments of Yahweh; just the opposite.

***Heb 10:26 For if we are wilfully sinning after receiving the full knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice concerning sins,***

***Heb 10:27 but he is ready for the fearful judgment and "zealous fire being about to consume the adversaries."***

***Heb 10:28 For if he, who transgressed the law of Moses, died without mercies, at the mouth of two or three witnesses;***

***Heb 10:29 how much worse punishment do you think will be thought worthy to receive, the one trampling the Son of YAHWEH, and having counted the blood of the covenant as common in which he was sanctified, and having insulted the Spirit of grace?***

16) Does the Bible show that the Congregation Yahshua built would teach obedience to the Torah and other instructions of Yahshua?

***Mat 28:19-20 Then having gone, disciple all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit teaching them to observe all things, whatever I commanded you. And, behold, I am with you all the days until the completion of the age. Amen. .***

***1Jo 5:3 For this is the love of Yahweh, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not a burden to us.***

17) How did Yahshua expand the keeping of the Ten Commandments?

***Mat 5:21 You have heard that it was said to the ancients: "Do not commit murder!" And, whoever commits murder shall be condemned to the Judgment.***

***Mat 5:22 But I say to you that anyone who provokes to anger his brother without cause, is condemned to judgment and anyone who should say to his brother, I spit on you is condemned to the assembly, and anyone who should say, you are a coward, is condemned to the Gehenna of fire.***

***Mat 5:27-28 You have heard that it was said to the ancients: "Do not commit adultery." But I say to you, Everyone looking at a woman to lust after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.***

Did John and Paul understand this spiritual principle of the Torah?

**1Jo 3:15 Everyone hating his brother is a murderer, and you know that every murderer does not have everlasting life abiding in him.**

**Rom 7:14 For we know that the Torah is spiritual, but I am fleshly, having been sold under sin.**

**COMMENT:** Yahshua came not to do away with the Torah (Matt. 5:17). Rather, he came to teach and show by example how to live by the spiritual intent of Elohim's law.

Yahweh has made his Holy Spirit available to those whom he calls. He desires that believers follow him in keeping the spiritual intent-the fullness-of his law.

To be sure his disciples throughout the ages understood this new, "magnified" (Isa. 42:21) way of law keeping, Yahshua singled out the commandments forbidding murder and adultery as vivid examples. He taught that now we are not only to abstain from the physical acts of murder and adultery, but we are also to avoid hatred and sexual lust in our thoughts as well.

Hatred against another human being is the spirit of murder. Sexual lust is the spirit of adultery. Yahshua showed how Yahweh's commandments apply to our innermost thoughts and attitudes.

Let's notice how we can keep the spiritual intent of Yahweh's law.

18) How did Messiah summarize the greatest commandments of the Torah of Yahweh?

**Mat 22:36 Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Torah?**

**Mat 22:37 And Yahshua said to him, "You shall love the Yahweh your Elohim with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." Deut. 6:5**

**Mat 22:38 This is the first and great commandment.**

**Mat 22:39 And the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself."**

**Mat 22:40 On these two commandments all the Torah and the Prophets hang.**

What is the basic characteristic of Yahweh's nature and character?

**1Jo 4:8 The one who does not love has not known Yahweh, because Yahweh is love.**

**1Jo 4:16 And we have known and have believed the love which Elohim has in us.**

***Yahweh is love, and the one abiding in love abides in Yahweh, and Yahweh in him.***

**COMMENT:** You cannot "earn" your salvation by keeping either the Commandments or any other law of Elohim. Eternal life is clearly a gift from Yahweh. No one could earn immortality in 10,000 lifetimes of keeping the Commandments.

But neither can you enter into eternal life as a lawbreaker (Rom. 6:23). Yahshua plainly and emphatically stated that true believers are to follow the will of Yahweh (Matt. 7:21) and trust in Yahweh to mercifully apply Yahshua's sacrifice on their behalf when and where they fall short, and as they repent (I John 1:7-9).

Since Yahweh is love, Yahshua showed that the whole spiritual intent and purpose of Yahweh's law is love.

The first four of the Ten Commandments show us how to love Yahweh, while the last six show us how to love our neighbour-all fellow human beings.

19) What does scripture say how a true believer will exhibit this love?

**Jac 1:27 Pure and holy service before Yahweh and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their afflictions, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.**

**Mat 25:34 Then the King will say to those on His right, Come, the blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.**

**Mat 25:35 For I hungered, and you gave Me food to eat; I thirsted, and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and you took Me in;**

**Mat 25:36 naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.**

**Mat 25:37 Then the righteous will answer, saying, Master, when did we see You hungry, and fed You; or thirsting, and gave You drink?**

**Mat 25:38 And when did we see You a stranger, and took You in; or naked, and clothed You?**

**Mat 25:39 And when did we see You sick, or in prison, and came to You?**

**Mat 25:40 And answering, the King will say to them, Truly I say to you, In so far as you did it to one of these, the least of My brothers, you did it to Me.**

Is there more to the commitment to Yahweh than obeying his commandments to be a True Believer?

**Mat 19:17 And He said to him, Why do you call Me good? No one is good except One, Yahweh! But if you desire to enter into life, keep the commandments.**

**Mat 19:18 He said to Him, Which? And Yahshua said, "You shall not commit murder, nor commit adultery, nor steal, nor bear false witness,**

**Mat 19:19 honor your father and your mother," and, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself.**

**Mat 19:20 The young man said to Him, All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?**

**Mat 19:21 Yahshua said to him, If you desire to be perfect, go sell your property and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in Heaven; and come, follow Me.**

**Mat 10:37 The one loving father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And the one loving son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.**

**Mat 10:38 And who does not take up his torture stake and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.**

**Mat 10:39 The one finding his life shall lose it. And the one losing his life on account of Me shall find it**

**Luk 12:33 Sell your possessions and give alms. Make for yourselves purses that do not grow old, an unfailing treasure in Heaven, where a thief cannot come near, nor moth can corrupt.**

**Luk 12:34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also**

**Mat 16:24 Then Yahshua said to His disciples, If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and let him bear his torture stake, and let him follow Me.**

**Mat 16:25 For whoever may desire to save his life will lose it. But whoever may lose his life for My sake will find it.**

A true believer has a great responsibility to live his whole life to Yahweh and Yahshua, for by accepting the blood sacrifice of Yahshua and entering covenant relationship, we now belong to him. We can no longer seek the earthly desires of carnal human beings, although there is nothing wrong with blessings, if indeed Yahweh is blessing us with them. The key is Math 6:33 seek you first the Kingdom and our Heavenly Father will give the rest. Our first and foremost commitment must be to serving him and his children. We have a responsibility not only to obey his commandments to seek out and provide for those brothers and sisters in need, especially the sick and the widow and the orphan.

### **Points to remember:**

- 1) Yahweh and his Torah (law) do not change and as true believers we should seek to obey him in all things to stay close to Yahweh and to have a happy fulfilled life.
- 2) A true believer will put on holiness and not partake in worldly activity.
- 3) A true believer will help the poor and destitute and live a life of love

**Congregation of YHWH Jerusalem PO Box 832 Carteret NJ 07008**

**[www.coyhwh.com](http://www.coyhwh.com)**