

**JAN-MAR 2011**

*The  
Remnant's  
Walk*



***Rev 3:14a, 16-*** *And to the messenger of the congregation of Laodicea, write: So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to vomit you out of My mouth.*

**Congregation of Yahweh, Jerusalem  
Po Box 832, Carteret NJ 07008**

[www.coyhwh.com](http://www.coyhwh.com) or  
[www.congregationofyahwehjerusalem.com](http://www.congregationofyahwehjerusalem.com)

# Personal.....

Greetings Brethren,

And Shalom in the wonderful names of Yahweh and Yahshua; the name above all names.

With this installment of the Remnant's Walk, we will be focusing on the Laodicean congregation of Revelation the third chapter, and what we can do in our spiritual lives not to become one of them, or if we are already exhibiting Laodicean tendencies, then how to change. The seven congregations of Revelation two and three are both historical in nature and also seven end time attitudes in the congregation. Since they are progressive historical attitudes of the congregations, then that would mean that most in the end time we are living in are indeed Laodiceans. This is especially true in the west today.

**Rev 3: 14** *And to the messenger of the congregation of Laodicea, write: These things says the Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Head of the creation of YAHWEH:*

**15** *I know your works, that **you are neither cold nor hot.** I would that you were cold, or hot.*

**16** *So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to vomit you out of My mouth.*

**17** ***Because you say, I am rich, and I am made rich, and I have need of nothing, and do not know that you are miserable and a wanderer and poor and blind and naked.***

**18** *I advise you to buy from Me gold having been fired by fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, and your shame and nakedness may not be revealed. And anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.*

**19** *"I, as many as I love, I rebuke and I chasten." **Be zealous, then, and repent.***

**20** *Behold, I stand at the door "and knock:" If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will enter to him, and I will dine with him, and he with Me.*

**21** *The one overcoming, I will give to him to sit with Me in My throne, as I also overcame and sat with My Father in His throne.*

**22** *The one who has an ear, hear what the Spirit says to the congregations.*

The first thing we see about the Laodicean is that he is neither hot nor cold. He is lukewarm. This means that he is wishy-washy. He has no zeal for Yahweh or His word or work.

He is bogged down more with petty arguments, trying to justify himself before others and worldly mammon, than with the work of Yahweh. Due to this condition Yahweh is ready to vomit them out of His mouth, which means that they will not have His divine protection in the coming tribulation days just ahead.

In ancient Laodicea, it was one of the richest areas in the world at that time. So rich were they, that when they had a massive earthquake that destroyed almost everything they were able to rebuild themselves without outside help due to their wealth of mammon.

There was one thing though that Laodicea lacked; water! There were areas to the north of them that had cold water wells and areas south of them that had hot springs, but they had to have their water pumped in and it was neither cold and refreshing in the hot sunny days, nor hot and medicinal for healing. As a matter of fact, since it was lukewarm, it was only good for inducing vomiting.

The next thing we see from Revelation 3:17, is that the laodicean does not see his wretched spiritual condition. He believes that since he has many physical things and material wealth that he is independent and does not need anyone but himself. This attitude also leads the laodicean to reject the leadership that Yahshua has ordained in His congregation and even to go so far as to reject the very idea of ordination and set apart leaders.

The laodicean usually has acquired many false beliefs due to his lack of spiritual guidance from Yahweh's elders, and simply thinks that he has been separated by Yahweh, because of his perceived superiority over others (Pr 18:1), not knowing that he is actually blind and even in the very danger of losing his/her eternal life.

The greatest danger with a Laodicean is that due to their pride in thinking that they are spiritually perfect, he/she usually will not repent of their sin and their blindness will get worse with time.

Yahweh states that these people are not spiritually superior, but actually miserable wanderers, who are blind and naked. He uses the term naked because they have no covering from a congregation and ordained leadership set apart by Yahshua, but are out there on their own as a rebel goat would be, looking to devour whomever will listen.

Peter also tells us about these false Laodicean people who come in our mist.

**2 Pe 2: 1** *But false prophets were also among the people, as also false teachers will be among you, **who will secretly bring in destructive heresies**, and denying the Master who has bought them, bringing swift destruction on themselves.*

*2 And many will follow their destructive ways, by whom the way of truth will be evil spoken of.*

*3 And by covetousness, with well-turned words, they will use you for gain, for whom judgment from the very beginning has not ceased, and their destruction is always active.*

*9 But YAHWEH knows to deliver the righteous out of temptation, and to keep the unjust to be punished at the judgment day,*

*10 and especially will He punish those who follow after the filthy lusts of the flesh, **and have no respect for authority. Selfwilled and arrogant they are and they do not tremble when they blaspheme;***

*11 where cherubs being greater in strength and power do not bring against them the condemnation of blaspheming.*

*12 But these men, like the dumb beasts, which by nature are for slaughter and destruction, speak evil of the things that they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption;*

*13 being about to receive the wages of unrighteousness, as they consider it a delightful thing to revel in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes among you, and sport themselves with their own pleasures feasting along with you in idleness,*

*14 having eyes full of adultery, and never ceasing from sin; seducing unsettled souls; having a heart being filled with covetousness; they are cursed children;*

*17 These are springs without water, clouds being driven by a storm, for whom the blackness of darkness has been kept forever.*

*18 For, while they speak astonishing words of vanity, they seduce, with obscene lusts of the flesh, them who have almost abandoned these, that walk in error,*

*19 while promising to them freedom, though themselves being slaves of corruption; for a man is overcome, by whatever it is that enslaves him.*

As with the scripture in Revelation, you can see that these false brethren have no respect for Yahweh or His authority in Yahshua's congregation, but they are like roaring wolves looking to destroy the flock. They are half-hearted and without zeal for the work of Yahweh. You can tell a lot about if you have Laodicean tendencies by how much you are involved in the work of Yahweh.

Do you pray for Yahweh's work daily? Do you tithe? Are you actively participating in the wonderful end time work of Yahweh of calling the Sons of Israel back into covenant relationship and back to the land of Israel? Please read the articles in this issue very carefully and even read them two and three times as they are vital to your spiritual life and may you be ready and approved for the great day of Yahshua's return that is getting closer by the day.

B'Shem Yahshua,  
Don

# SPIRITUAL PITFALLS

## How *YOU* Can *AVOID* Them (Reprint)



Each year, Yahweh's Congregation loses fewer members than any other congregation of similar size. Yet, even one potential eternal life gone astray is **FAR TOO MANY!**

Over the years, Yahweh's ministers have come to see that there are five distinct pitfalls that have trapped some of the brethren. But they are all easily avoided, *if you know how*.

Let's examine these pitfalls one by one, and see how Yahweh shows you can avoid them and remain a steadfast, faithful, growing member of the body of Messiah.

### **FALSE CONVERSION**

Pitfall number one is a mortal danger! We have come to see that some who leave Yahweh's Congregation have never truly been converted. Yet, they didn't know it. Approximately one fourth of

those who left over the years have gone out in this miserable state. They had simply never really surrendered their minds and their whole lives to Yahweh, never received Yahweh's Holy Spirit, and therefore had never produced spiritual fruit.

Some of you reading this article could be caught in this snare right now and not be fully aware of it!

Never has it been more important to **EXAMINE YOURSELF** to see whether you are really in the faith. If you aren't positive about the validity of your conversion, you may be on very dangerous ground! You can know one way or the other by simply spending some time in real introspection, if you understand what real conversion is.

To be converted means to be changed. It means you no longer follow the way that seems right to a man, but now you follow the way that is right according to Yahweh's Word.

But it means more than that.

Conversion involves the total, complete, unconditional surrender of the self to Yahweh. If you are truly converted, you have experienced a time when you really came to yourself, a time when you really could see yourself as you really were. You came to the place where you just couldn't stand yourself, where you literally hated everything you stood for. You came to the place where you could look into a mirror and say to yourself with vociferous conviction and genuine sincerity, **"I HATE WHAT YOU ARE!"**

A truly converted person has experienced, with some degree of emotion, a feeling of real sorrow for having killed Messiah Yahshua because of his own sins. It is a personal experience, a time of deep remorse where the feeling of absolute worthlessness is almost overpowering. Such a person feels as though he is a "burned-out hunk of junk." He feels as though he is the dirtiest, foulest, rottenest, most depraved, most miserable, most

despicable skunk who ever existed, one who isn't worthy of continuing to exist, but worthy only of death!

Have you ever genuinely felt this way?

Everyone who has had such an experience found only one course of action he could take. That was to go to his Creator, Yahweh, privately in prayer and pour out his heart in genuine unmitigated repentance. One who has never gone through this experience is "kidding" himself about his conversion.

Have you ever prostrated yourself before the Great Creator, Yahweh, in heartfelt repentance? Have you surrendered your life in complete UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER and totally committed yourself to Yahweh? Do you say, "Thy will be done, not mine," and really mean it, even when severe trials strike your life? Do you now present your body, your entire life, in living sacrifice to Yahweh? (Rom. 12:1-2.) Are you really crucified with Messiah? (Gal. 2:20.)

If you answer "YES" to these questions and are being honest with yourself, then that is a strong indication you have truly repented and are converted.

If you've never sincerely felt this way, then you need to read Lesson two "**What is Real Repentance?**" Then go to Yahweh in sincere, heart-felt prayer and ask Him to grant you repentance. It would also be a good idea to talk to your local minister if you have any doubts about your conversion.

Yahweh, who cannot lie, will grant you repentance and will lead you to real conversion. Then you won't have to worry about falling away because you aren't converted. You will be converted and you will know it! Yahweh will give you His Spirit, which will produce the positive fruits of repentance and conversion in your life! (Gal. 5:22-23.)

### LETHARGY

Another dangerous pitfall is lethargy. It is that ho-hum, what's the use, I quit, I don't care, lazy, lackadaisical, tired, weary with well doing, I give up attitude. It is a "disease" more deadly than any putrefying, cancerous sore! More than one fifth of those who have fallen away went out of Yahweh's Congregation because of lethargy!

You could be afflicted by this "disease" right now. You may have that hapless, empty feeling that you

"can't make it, so why try?" You may be weary, tired, ready to quit.

### DON'T DO IT!

There's a way to overcome, a special foolproof formula revealed by Yahshua the Messiah in your Bible. Dozens and scores have used that key to consistently produce zeal, enthusiasm and outstanding spiritual growth over the years. That key is: PUT YOUR WHOLE HEART into Yahweh's work!

Right now Yahweh is blessing His end time work from Israel in ways that we would have never thought possible. Amazing doors are opening for bringing back many Israelites to our very promised land.

Yahweh is also opening amazing doors for Brother Don to bring the good news of Yahshua to many countries worldwide. Our website is now in Spanish and several other languages are being worked on. We get people from about 75 to 80 different nations a month coming to the website.

We know most of you are concerned about Yahweh's work. We know your hearts are truly in it because you have put your treasure there! Yahshua said, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matt. 6:21).

This work of Yahweh is the most important activity on the face of the earth today. It pales into insignificance any other work that could be mentioned.

The success of Yahweh's work is the only hope of humanity. Without it, there is no hope, as Malachi 4:5-6 clearly shows. Yahweh is going to intervene in world affairs and save mankind from itself because of this very work of Yahweh!

You are a part of the work that offers the solutions to all this world's ills, and shows the way to escape the coming time of world trouble. You have a part in the most important activity on the face of the earth today. There is a real living purpose involved in everything we in Yahweh's work do.

How can you be filled with a sense of that purpose and still be lethargic? How can you have your mind on fulfilling the commission Messiah has given each of us and be complacent about it? Obviously you can't! Get involved with local outreach. Put your whole heart into it.

Can you look at the world, see the hundreds of millions and even billions of suffering humanity and remain non-committed when you know the only hope for all mankind and the future of the world is the work of Yahweh? Can you have your heart in Yahweh's work and yet become weary with well doing? You cannot and will not!

You will grow spiritually in exact proportion to the degree you put your heart in Yahweh's work, no more no less. Do you want to avoid the pitfall of lethargy? Do you want to become zealous, hold fast, endure to the end, and grow spiritually? Then put your **WHOLE HEART** in Yahweh's work!

### **SEX PROBLEMS**

Pitfall number three can also be avoided, though many have been led to think otherwise.

The desire for sex is no strange thing. It is no stronger than the desire for food, water, or sleep, in fact not as strong. We all know that the desire for right and wholesome sexual relationships in marriage has Yahweh's blessing. But this rotten world has simply blown the desire for sex completely out of proportion, and in so doing, has deceived many into believing wrong sex drives are unconquerable.

Nothing could be further from the truth!

Any desire to indulge in inordinate or illicit sex can be overcome, **TOTALLY CONQUERED!** No one with such a problem is doomed to failure, if he knows how to combat it.

One of the most basic scriptures on the subject of sex problems is found in 1 Corinthians 6:18. It simply states: "*Flee Fornication.*" This is the basic principle for all to follow in every type of sexual temptation. You wouldn't try to quit smoking by remaining in a room full of cigarettes and matches. Neither can you overcome the temptations of illicit sex by looking at the photographs of naked women in "girlie" magazines and hard core pornographic literature, going to sex-oriented movies, attending burlesque shows or associating with harlots. It just doesn't work. Follow Yahweh's advice: "**FLEE!**"

No normal man could be in a bedroom alone with a voluptuous, scantily clad "Hollywood sex symbol" and not be tempted! Every man knows that is true, and any believer should automatically, as if by nature, flee any such temptation or situation!

In many cases the problem is that the man is too interested in investigating the situation, instead of fleeing it as Yahweh commands. Somehow the lusts of the flesh can trick our minds into thinking we won't be hurt, that it really isn't harmful, and perhaps even "good" for us, that ogling naked women is a "masculine" thing to do. Or perhaps we secretly want to "slip" thinking we can always repent later.

Listen! Yahweh commands: "***Flee fornication. Every sin which a man may do is outside the body, but he doing fornication sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a sanctuary of the Holy Spirit in you, which you have from YAHWEH, and you are not of yourselves? You were bought with a price; then glorify YAHWEH in your body, and in your spirit, which belong to YAHWEH***" (1 Cor. 6:18-20).

When you understand the damage to mind and body, which sex sins cause, you can more fully understand why Yahweh abhors such sins, and actually **DESTROYED** whole segments of society for sex perversion (Gen. 19).

Over the years, some in Yahweh's Congregation have turned their backs on Yahweh because of a desire for inordinate or illicit sex. They've allowed the pressures and temptations of the world to get the better of them.

Don't allow yourself to become another victim!

If you are being tempted, seek to understand how monstrous sex sins really are. Study those parts of Yahweh's Word, which deal with such sins and their enormity in Yahweh's sight. Then resolve to "flee fornication," and seek Yahweh's spiritual help with your whole being, draw close to Him and you will overcome every temptation of this type!

### **REBELLION**

The whole world is in turmoil today. The whole creation is groaning in travail and great agony because of rebellion. Every nation, people or society has its rebels. Our society is literally filled with rebellion on every side, and **YOU HAVE BEEN AFFECTED!**

It is very easy for the carnal mind to fall into pitfall number four, rebellion. A large percentage of those who have left Yahweh's Congregation rebelled against Yahweh and His Torah and His ministers whom He has ordained to teach His Word. Many of these departed in anger after accusing any and

everyone, except themselves, for their wretched condition.

The first one ever to rebel was Lucifer, who thereby became Satan the devil. Lucifer tried to take prerogatives that weren't his. Why? Because of vanity. He thought he was capable of more. He became dissatisfied, and decided to take what he thought he deserved. He tried to usurp Yahweh's authority. He tried to ascend above the angels of Yahweh and become like Elohim. Lucifer refused to be satisfied with his Elohim given position, so HE REBELLED.

So it is with those who rebel today!

Children seem to learn to resist authority at an early age. I have seen small children, when their desires were thwarted, bristle up, contort their faces and turn deep crimson just before they performed some rebellious act, such as kicking their parents in the shins.

Rebellious children are often referred to as "little devils." You have heard people say: "he has a little of the devil in him," or: "He sure is a little devil, isn't he?" What they're really referring to is the attitude of Satan in the child.

Adults are merely children grown up. They often act the same way, but disguise their rebellion.

Rebellion comes in many forms, but it is basically resentment of, and refusal to submit to authority. By nature we want what we want when we want it, and we don't want to be told we can't have it. Because of this fact, it is easy to resent authority.

Those who resent authority and correction begin to criticize those in authority. In the Congregation it becomes easy for them to criticize Yahweh's ministers.

Every believer should recognize Yahshua the Messiah as the living and active Head of His Congregation. Yahshua is able to handle any problem that might come up. It is Yahshua's responsibility to direct and correct His ministers. Every one of Yahweh's ministers is under the authority of Yahshua Messiah and they all know it!

Do you? How, then can you prevent rebellion against Yahweh and those in authority over you?

First, realize what a horrible sin rebellion really is. "Behold! Obeying is better than sacrifice; to give attention is better than the fat of rams. For rebellion (*bitterness*) is as the sin of divination (*sorcery*); and

stubbornness is both iniquity and idolatry" (1 Sam. 15:22-23).

One of the worst sins a man can commit is to rebel against Yahweh and His authority. Realize that whenever you resist the ministers Yahweh has placed over you, you are resisting Yahweh the Father and Yahshua the Messiah who put them in their jobs. When you criticize policy established by Yahweh's Congregation, you criticize Yahshua the Messiah, the real Head of Yahweh's congregation.

Second, consider the result of rebellion. Study the lives of Saul and Korah and other examples of rebellion recorded in the Bible. Think about the rebellion of Satan the devil, and CONSIDER THE END! This is a tremendous deterrent to rebellion.

Third, concentrate on magnifying the fruits of Yahweh's Spirit in your life. There is no room for rebellion in the heart of a man filled with the love of Yahweh.

It is impossible to be rebellious and joyful at the same time. It is impossible to be in the turmoil of rebellion and have peace of mind. If you are putting on love, joy, peace, gentleness, goodness, kindness, temperance, faith and all the fruits of Yahweh's Holy Spirit constantly and continuously, you will never rebel.

Those who rebelled against Yahweh and His ministers and left His Congregation in a fit of anger were not filled with the fruits of Yahweh's Spirit. So exhibit the fruits of Yahweh's Spirit and you'll avoid the pitfall of rebellion!

## **BITTERNESS**

"Who does he think he is, anyway? What gives him the right to correct me? I may have made a mistake, but...? Have you ever had such thoughts enter your mind? Have you felt hurt, resentful, and angry? Of course you have! Everyone has.

But wait! WE are called to conquer such thoughts. We are commanded to control our thoughts and bring them into captivity to Yahshua the Messiah (2 Cor. 10:3-5). Why?

Because Yahweh knows what automatically follows feelings of resentment, hurt and anger. He knows bitterness will set in if we don't stamp out these feelings. We must constantly be on guard against becoming bitter. All too many who have left Yahweh's Congregation over the years went out

simply because they fell into pitfall number five, they became bitter!

Bitterness usually begins with hurt feelings, resentment against someone in authority, or anger caused by another human being. Everyone has experienced these emotions many times in life. It is only normal. But if we allow these emotions to foment and fester, then what follows is automatic, a deadly putrefying sore called bitterness.

Yahweh inspired the Apostle Paul to write: "And all discipline for the present indeed does not seem to be joyous, but grievous; but afterward it gives back peaceable fruit of righteousness to the ones having been exercised by it. Because of this, "straighten the hands" hanging alongside, "and the enfeebled knees."

Fight that hurt feeling which automatically comes. Fight resentment that follows and then the anger that can lead to bitterness. *"and make straight tracks for your feet, that the member which is lame may not suffer, but rather be healed. Eagerly pursue peace... that "no root of bitterness growing up" may crowd "in on you", and through this many are defiled"* (Heb. 12:11-15).

Paul warned all believers: "Let all bitterness, and anger, and wrath, and tumult, and evil speaking be put away from you, along with all malice" (Eph. 4:31).

Every time you begin to criticize, judge, and fret because your feelings have been hurt, stop! When you feel resentment or anger welling up in you, stop! When you feel the festering, putrefying emotions that lead to bitterness come over you, stop! Stop and ask: "Who is in charge? Why am I hurt? Why am I angry? Take hold of yourself. Control your feelings! Don't set yourself on a course that will lead you out of Yahweh's Congregation!

### **YOU CAN OVERCOME!**

All human beings are precious to Yahweh. He says in His Word that He desires all men to be saved! (1 Tim. 2:4, 2 Pet. 3:9.) Since Yahweh is so concerned with all humanity, how much more concerned is He about those of us who have already come to the knowledge of the truth, those who are in the process of becoming members of His family?

Brethren, we are partakers of a fantastic heavenly calling, a calling so stupendous it's almost unbelievable! We are called of Yahweh to become His born-again sons, to become members of the very Yahweh family! He doesn't want even one of us to become a miscarriage!!

Just how much is Yahweh willing to help each of us to make it into His Family? The answer should be obvious. Yahweh is aware of the pitfalls mentioned in this article. He is aware that Satan the devil is roaming about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour (1 Pet. 5:8). That is the reason Yahweh has provided us with all the help necessary to overcome.

The Apostle Paul understood and had the help Yahweh makes available. That's why he said: "I can do all things through Messiah; the One giving me strength" (Phil. 4:13).

### **So can YOU!**

So be positive. Know you can avoid and overcome each of these pitfalls because Yahweh will strengthen you through the power of His Spirit (Zech. 4:6).

By exercising Yahweh's Spirit, you can master the flesh (Rom. 8:12-13). Through His Spirit in you, you can conquer and escape every trial and temptation (1 Cor. 10:13; Eph. 6:10-18).

### **Yes, I mean Y-O-U!**

There is no reason or excuse in the entire world for you to become a spiritual fatality, a spiritual "shipwreck." Think of that, and let that conviction sink deeply into your consciousness!

And always remember and take to heart the words of the Apostle Paul: "If YAHWEH be for us, who can be against us?...we are more than conquerors through Him loving us." (Rom. 8:31- 37).

Brethren, Yahweh IS with us, as long as we are with Him! So take heart. Don't be discouraged. Remember, Yahweh is on our side, helping us, leading us, giving us strength through His Spirit! And no power in Heaven or earth can withstand Yahweh!

# How CONVERTED Are You?

Many kid themselves that they are converted and safe in Messiah Yahshua when they are not. They go along complacently, hurtling toward the lake of fire. This could be your case! (Reprint article)

Have you ASSUMED that you are SAFE in Yahshua Messiah? You need to check up and see!

To be converted means to be CHANGED from the normal way you have always thought and acted to a NEW, spiritually led, way of life (Rom. 8:1-7). To continue in this new way is life; to depart, death.

Some, who once sought to be exalted in their community, now seek to be exalted among the Congregation brethren. This is not a REAL CHANGE of attitude. They have merely changed their environment. The same old vanity still rules their lives.

To be guided by the Holy Spirit means to be guided by the sound wisdom and love of Yahweh.

A man does not have this mind naturally. To come to have it requires a change, which is truly a MIRACLE. You cannot accomplish it by yourself. Nevertheless the accomplishment of such a change is what TRUE CONVERSION means.

A holy and spiritual mind must come from Yahweh alone because only Yahweh has it to give.

As Paul said, in Romans 7:14, 18, and 24-25, "For we know that the Torah is spiritual, but I am fleshly... For I know that it does not fully dominate me, (that is in my flesh) but as far as good is concerned, the choice is easy for me to make, but to do it is difficult for me... O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from this mortal body? I thank YAHWEH through Yahshua Messiah our Master!"

We all need to realize, as the Apostle Paul did, that in us dwells no good thing. We can often will to do good, but we cannot perform it of ourselves. There is a law, which governs the human fleshly action in man, a law which wars against the converted spiritual mind (Verses 21-23).

Job was a perfect example of a man who was proud of being upright, fearing Yahweh and shunning evil. Job tried to obey Yahweh according

to the ways of human righteousness (see Job. 1:1; 29:1-25). This righteousness of a man is as filthy rags before Yahweh (Is. 64:6). Job had to repent of it bitterly (Job 42:5-6).

If you have tried to serve Yahweh in your own righteousness, and exalted yourself in Yahweh's sight, then it is your time to abhor yourself and "repent in dust and ashes."

***"For when we were in the flesh, (Romans 7:5) the passions of sin were working in our members through the Law for the bearing of fruit unto death."***

And as verse 14 states: "For we know that the Torah is spiritual, but I am fleshly, having been sold under sin... There is therefore (continuing in chapter 8) now no condemnation to those in Yahshua Messiah, who do not walk according to flesh, but according to Spirit. For the Law of the Spirit of life which is in Yahshua Messiah set me free from the law of sin and of death. For the Torah being powerless, in that it was weak through the flesh, YAHWEH sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and concerning sin, condemned sin in the flesh, so that the righteous demand of the Torah might be fulfilled in us, those not walking according to flesh, but according to Spirit."

Yet Yahweh gives His Spirit only to those who repent and are baptized.

## **Baptism a Vow**

When you were baptized you entered, in a sense, into a vow with Yahweh. You should have been baptized only after you had repented of your ways and were willing to turn from them. The act of baptism constituted a solemn vow to bury the old self (the desires of the flesh, carnal pleasure seeking) in a watery grave. You were then raised, you did not raise yourself up, but were figuratively raised from that death to a new life dictated by the Spirit and will of Yahweh. This is all clearly explained in Romans 6, 7, and 8.

Yet some of you are trying to raise yourselves up out of the watery grave of death. You should be depending upon Yahweh to raise up the new person who no longer head strongly follows the old desire, but is led by the Holy Spirit. (See Col. 3:1-6.)

The old self was only symbolically buried. Your part is to keep that old self buried. Yahweh's part is to impart the new life. You must continue to resist your natural pulls or you break your vow of baptism. Remember, human nature is still very much alive within you. You must keep up your guard.

But how? "praying at all times," Eph. 6:18 tells you, "in the Spirit, and watching to this same thing with all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints."

Satan would love to see your thoughts turn again to yourself, and our carnal desires begin secretly to rule your life again. Then, your part of the baptismal vow would be neglected, maybe even forgotten, so that Yahweh's Spirit would no longer fill you. Satan hates you and is jealous of you because you are an heir to the Kingdom of Yahweh.

Yahweh's part in the agreement with you was to supply the Comforter (Acts 2:38) upon your repentance and baptism. Yahweh did not promise to take away your fleshly desires and nature. Yahweh promised only that when you resist Satan's temptation to live by your sensual urges, He will draw near unto you (James 4:7-8) and in so doing, give you His spiritual desires and nature. This is love in action. It is a righteous father-son relationship.

This active love between you and your Creator must exist forever, but you must continue to resist evil throughout your natural life. "but he that shall endure to the end, the same shall be saved" (Matt. 24:13).

### **The Pitfall**

Some have allowed themselves to fall into a spiritually weak condition. They have again allowed pride to swell up in themselves. Maybe you are doing the same thing without knowing it. Do you feel hurt if you are not exalted among the brethren or in the community in which you live?

Perhaps your spiritual weakness takes another common form. You may have allowed yourself to be constantly seeking the desires of the flesh. You may find yourself constantly struggling to get ahead. Do your problems weigh you down and, when you ask Yahweh's help, fail to receive the answer? If so, you have been overlooking James 4:1-10.

*"From where come conflicts and fighting's from*

*among you? Is it not from your lusts warring in your members?" Yes, here is the answer to your problem! "You covet and yet you do not have. You murder, and are jealous, and are not able to possess. You fight and you strive, and you have nothing, because you do not ask. You ask, and do not receive, because you do not ask sincerely, you ask in order that you may satisfy your lusts. Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that the friendship of the world is enmity with YAHWEH? Whoever, then, purposes to be a friend of the world is an enemy to YAHWEH.*

*"Then submit to YAHWEH. Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to YAHWEH, and He will draw near to you.*

*"Cleanse your hands, sinners! And purify your hearts, double minded ones! Be distressed, and mourn, and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy into shame. Be humbled before YAHWEH, and He will exalt you."*

This means real repentance, a keeping buried of the old self.

### **How To Become Humble**

True humility will always be accompanied with thankfulness to Yahweh. In the first place, you should be thankful for what Yahweh has already done for you. Your eyes are open to Yahweh's truth. You have been called to be among the first fruits to enter the Kingdom of Yahweh. You should be rejoicing greatly because many have earnestly sought but not found what Yahweh has chosen to reveal to you.

Rejoice whether you are called in high estate or low. Rejoice whether given a chief seat or a minor one (study Romans 12:4-9 and Luke 14:8-9). Rejoice that you have been bidden to the marriage of the Lamb (Matthew 22:1-14 and Revelation 19:7-9 and 21:9-27). Rejoice also in the strength and love of your perfect, all-powerful, merciful Creator who delivers you from our weakness.

Take pride in His strength and exalt the name of your wonderful champion, if Yahweh is your strength who can overthrow you?

Beware that you do not try to take credit for the good, which Yahweh has accomplished through you, however. Do not sit down among Yahweh's elect in garments of self-righteousness. Before Yahweh such self-righteous claims are filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6). Repent of past mistakes you have made and seek Yahweh's forgiveness through Yahshua Messiah.

“YAHWEH sets Himself Against proud ones, but He gives grace to the humble. Then be humbled under the mighty hand of YAHWEH, that He may exalt you in due time; Casting all your anxiety onto Him, because it matters to Him concerning you” (1 Pet. 5:5-7).

### **Yahweh Must Soften Our Hearts**

When you draw near to Yahweh and He to you, He will put a new spirit and attitude within you. He will replace your stony heart with a heart of “flesh” (Ezekiel 11:19).

You need to quit resisting Yahweh and the way He has opened to you, to help you become as clay in Yahweh hands through the Holy Spirit, otherwise you will have to suffer the same horrible tribulations that are poured out upon the disobedient, described in Ezekiel 11. Lay down YOUR STIFF WILL and do the will of Yahweh!

Why? Yahweh tells why, “so that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments, and do them. And they shall be to Me for a people, and I will be to them for Elohim” (Verse 20). Yahweh’s will is reflected in this law.

The Spirit of Yahweh softens the heart, and as we come to have the mind of Yahweh we come to be in complete harmony with Him. There is no more clashing of wills. We won’t argue; we won’t want to do something else. We will be of one mind saying, “Thy will be done, O Yahweh, not mine.” We should then set out to seek and obey Yahweh with all the zeal we can muster.

### **Live By Faith**

Faith is one of the most important assets we can receive through the Holy Spirit. WE read in Ephesians 2:8-10: “For by grace you are saved, through faith, and this is not of yourselves; it is the gift of YAHWEH.” “But without faith it is impossible to please YAHWEH. For it is right that the one drawing near to YAHWEH should believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those that diligently seek him.” (Heb. 11:6).

Yahweh has also caused circumstances in this world to try you, even strike out at you and fill you with fear and trembling, unless your faith in Him remains firm.

Your family and friends may turn against you and say evil things against you because of your obedience to Yahweh. Only through faith in Yahweh can you find the courage to endure their wrath and scorn. The trying of this faith works “steadfastness,”

as the translation of James 1:3 should be.

Exercising faith doesn’t end here. Even brethren may sometimes seem to view you with suspicion and treat you coldly. It can try your faith in Yahweh. In the face of this you must not allow faults of His servants to cause you to doubt Him, you must still diligently seek to draw near unto Him. We are all human, all striving to overcome, but not all perfect, for only Messiah is perfect. What will it take to separate you from the love of Yahweh? Paul asked this question in Romans 8:35: “Who shall separate us from the love of Messiah? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? Even as it has been written, “For Your sake we are killed all the day; we are counted as lambs for the slaughter.” But in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him loving us.”

Paul’s faith persuaded him, “For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor cherubs, nor rulers, nor armies, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other thing created will be able to separate us from the love of YAHWEH in Messiah, Yahshua, our Master.”

Is your faith this strong? If not, you must take steps to strengthen it. There are two things you can do. The first is to ask Yahweh in prayer for more faith, as the apostles did in Luke 17:5. The second thing you can do is to read and study the words of Yahweh and listen to them being proclaimed by His true servants. “Then faith comes by hearing, and hearing through the Word of YAHWEH” (Romans 10:17).

Yahweh has never told believers that this life would be easy. Rather, in Matthew 7:13-14, “Go in through the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many are the ones entering in through it. For narrow is the gate, and constricted is the way that leads away into life, and few are the ones finding it.”

Are you spiritually wise enough to choose the way to life?

### **Wisdom a Gift from Yahweh**

You cannot begin to have Yahweh’s spirit of WISDOM until you FEAR Yahweh and keep His commandments (Prov. 1:7). This keeping of the commandments is also love (see 1 John 5:3).

This simply means that Yahweh gives you His Divine Love and Wisdom through His gift of the Holy Spirit.

In Proverbs 4:7 Yahweh shows us this wisdom (of Yahweh) is the principle thing. *“get wisdom, and with all your getting, get understanding.”*

How do you get wisdom? James 1:5 tells us: *“But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask from Elohim, who gives to all freely and with grace, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, doubting nothing...”*

Again in James 4:8, *“Draw near to YAHWEH, and He will draw near to you.”*

If, then, we seek the wisdom of the Holy Spirit by asking Yahweh, how shall we do it? Timidly? Passively? Just when we happen to think it?

Hebrews 4:15-16 gives us part of the answer. *“For we have not a high priest, who cannot share our infirmities; but we have one who was tempted in everything as we are, yet without sin. Therefore, let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy, and we may find grace in time of need.”*

Notice further the conditions under which Yahweh will give wisdom: “My son, if you will receive my words, and shall protect my commandments with you, so that you attend to wisdom, you shall extend your heart to understanding. For if you cry for discernment, lifting up your voice for understanding; if you seek her as silver, and search for her as hidden treasures, (men don’t seek treasure of silver and gold passively, the California gold rush is a good example of how frantically and untiringly men seek after such treasures). Then (if you seek the wisdom of Yahweh as frantically as men seek gold and silver) you shall understand righteousness and judgment and honesty, and every good path” (Prov. 2:1-4, 9).

Is this how you are seeking Yahweh’s Holy Spirit, His wisdom, His faith, His laws of love? Do you pray often and, on your knees, cry out to Yahweh in desperate earnestness? Do you search energetically through the Scriptures for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness (2 Tim. 3:16)? Do you trust Yahweh, in complete faith and confidence, to lead you through the tests and trials and temptations of this life?

Perhaps the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm is personally applicable to you. Is Messiah your Shepherd? And as you walk through this life with the threat of dishonor, ridicule,

and death ever before you, do you refuse to fear them because you know that Yahweh is with YOU? Is His rod and His staff by which He chastises and corrects you, a comfort to you? Do you thank Yahweh that, even in the presence of your enemies, He sustains and keeps you? And do you realize that you are greatly blessed in this truth?

If you have not grown in these things as much as you should (and who among us has), there is something you can do about it.

Dedicate your heart to overcoming and growing in the Spirit and character of Yahweh. Put your heart in the work He has commissioned His congregation to do. Yahweh will not neglect you, and the fruits of His Holy Spirit will show in your life (see Gal. 5:22-26).

You need not be worried about position, honor, or material necessities. Yahweh has promised to take care of those things in His time if you put your heart on the important things, which He has already given you to do.

The most important thing He has given you to do is to seek His Holy Spirit, His wisdom, His faith, and His love with a zeal, which proves YOU REALLY WANT IT. This is more precious than anything physical you can receive. If you do not value it more highly than the vain things in this life, you insult your Creator, you are still carnally motivated, and you are hurtling toward the lake of fire!

Here then is the easy to understand formula for salvation. Repent of your past transgressions and accept Messiah’s sacrifice which He made in your stead. Begin to obey Yahweh. BE BAPTIZED and SEEK TO BELONG TO YAHWEH lock, stock and barrel.

Lay down your life of self-centered competitive striving and seek to live a life filled with and led by the Spirit of Yahweh. RESIST the desires of your human nature and draw near to Yahweh so that He will draw near to you. He will give you a mind, which will enable you to live by the perfect, holy laws of Yahweh. Messiah will live His life within you, bringing you into the grace and knowledge of spiritual things, and guiding you in action characterized by love toward Yahweh and love toward your neighbor.

Be zealous that you do not neglect the things that Yahweh has given you to do. Serve Yahweh, not with high mindedness, but with meekness so that you are pliable in the hands of your Creator.

# Are You Developing Character of Gold?

Gold, a precious mineral, pictures well the precious character Yahweh desires to see created in you. **(Reprint article)**



No quest has excited human passions more than the prospect of discovering gold in some far off place.

The cry “Gold!” has driven men across deserts, mountain ranges, continents, and oceans, a few to riches and fame, many more to disappointment or death. Explorers have searched the world for it.

History books tell of dramatic and irreversible changes brought to entire civilizations by the discovery of gold. For example, Spanish adventurers plundered the vast Aztec and Inca empires of Mexico and Peru, for example, seeking their golden treasures. From Genesis to Revelation the Bible speaks about gold.

Believers are told to build with it, the Laodiceans to buy it. The New Jerusalem will be made of it. Gold is the first metal mentioned in Scripture, and is described as being desirable to men from the earliest times (Gen. 2:11-12). Abraham’s great wealth was measured in part by his holdings of gold. Abraham’s servant rewarded Rebecca with gold jewelry when sent by his master to find a suitable wife for Isaac (Gen. 13:2, 24:22).

Yahweh also enjoys the beauty of gold. The New Jerusalem will be made of pure gold and have streets of gold (Rev. 21:18, 21). Yahweh told Moses to make many of the sacred objects of Tabernacle service of pure gold, and to overlay others with it. The candlestick of the Menorah, according to tradition, weighed at least 66 pounds of pure gold (Ex. 25:31-40).

David amassed an amazing 100,000 talents (6.6 million pounds) of gold to be used in the Temple built by Solomon. The value of this stockpile, more than \$200 billion in today’s money, challenges our imaginations (1 Chron. 22:11-14).

## **What you can learn from gold**

“All well and good,” you might say, “but how do scriptures speaking about gold apply to me?”

Here is the connection: Yahweh pictures the believer’s character we are to build as spiritual gold. Paul speaks about building our faith in 1 Corinthians 3. Yahshua the Messiah is our foundation.

Just as there are different building materials of widely varying quality and value available to a homebuilder, a believer is represented as having different materials available to use in building character. Three of these are valuable and will last; three are ordinary and readily destroyed by burning.

“And if anyone builds on this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, grass, straw, the work of each will be revealed; for the Day will make it known, because it is revealed in fire; and the fire will prove the work of each, what sort it is” (1 Cor. 3:12-13).

The trials and tribulations of our physical lives are likened to fire that will test the character each of us is building.

If we are building with the enduring materials: gold, silver and precious stones, we shall receive a reward (verse 14). Any believer who is lax and builds character that is easily shaken or destroyed by even small trials and tests is compared to one who builds a house with perishable materials destroyed in fire.

A believer of high character and faith is more valuable to Yahweh than the best gold purified by the refiner (1 Pet. 1:7). We must not lose sight that Yahweh is building within His congregation today, His family, to share eternity with. To believers who were self-satisfied and complacent with their own spiritual works, Yahweh instructed, “I advise you to buy from Me gold having been fired by fire, that you may be rich” (Rev. 3:18).

Let’s consider the properties and qualities that make gold so desirable, to learn what they represent for a believer striving to gain character of spiritual gold.

### **Gold is beautiful**

Gold’s soft, yellow luster and glow make gold objects attractive. Gold bracelets, necklaces, rings and earrings capture our visual attention with an appeal far above that of other metals. There is nothing quite so beautiful and desirable, it seems, as jewelry and art fashioned from high quality gold by a skilled craftsman.

Likewise, a believer with the character of spiritual gold stands out from others. A deeply converted, growing believer has a special quality of spirit nothing else can match, the inner glow of Yahweh’s Spirit radiating Yahweh’s character and works always.

Galatians 5:22-23 details nine special attributes of such a person: “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness, self control” The more these fruits of Yahweh’s Spirit abound in our lives, the more golden our character becomes in Yahweh’s sight. And make no mistake: this beauty of character will make it obvious to others, too, that something special sets such a believer apart.

We should not be like the builder who is content to use perishable materials just to get by, thinking that our goal is only to “make it” into Yahweh’s Kingdom. Each believer must labor hard and long to develop the very nature and character of Yahweh, character of pure gold.

### **It does not come easy**

A lot of hard work and expense goes into extracting gold from the ground, and there is not a lot of gold in the world today. One estimate says that if all the gold ever mined could be brought into one place, it would fill a cube only 18 yards on each side. Very likely more gold has already been mined from the earth than remains in ever more remote and difficult places to reach.

During the California gold rush of the 10<sup>th</sup> century, miners toiled to collect an average of one half an ounce of gold per day of work. It was hardly a get rich quick venture for the typical 49er! As supplies of gold left in the ground dwindle, the effort and cost to acquire the gold increases. In some of the world’s mining operations today, 20 tons of ore must be processed to yield one ounce of pure gold. In some South African mines, such ore is only found more than two miles below the earth’s surface.

Both gold mining and building character take a lot of work to succeed. We are instructed: "So then, my beloved, even as you always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much rather in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling" (Phil. 2:12).

Yahweh builds His character in believers just as He created the gold to be mined from the earth. It requires effort to acquire both. It is not enough to want righteous character. You must be willing to work for it with all your being.

Paul writes of the effort required: "Brothers, I do not count myself to have reached the goal, but one thing I do, forgetting the things behind, and stretching forward to those things before, I press toward the goal to receive the prize of victory of the highest calling of YAHWEH in Messiah Yahshua" (Phil. 3:13-14).

### **Gold is stable**

Golden art objects buried thousands of years ago still have their original luster and beauty when unearthed by the modern archeologist or treasure hunter. Only a few strong acids can spoil the lasting beauty of pure gold. Under normal conditions it will not tarnish or rust.

Gold's incorruptible nature pictures believer character at its best. We are not to be led into sin by the trials and cares of life, or by any of the character destroying temptations everywhere present in Satan's evil world. Yahweh called us to remain believers He can count on to be faithful and obedient to Him always, no matter what corrosive influences are at work to eat away the purity of Yahweh's character in us.

Paul emphasized this aspect of golden character when he wrote, "So that, my beloved brothers, you be firm, immovable, abounding in the work of YAHWEH always, knowing that your labor is not without fruit in the Master YAHWEH" (1 Cor. 15:58).

### **Reflects light**

Gold makes surfaces highly reflective; this is another of its valuable assets.

Thin gold leaf has been placed on the outer surfaces of many American spacecraft to reflect the intense heat radiation encountered in outer space. Without this protection, the interior temperature of a craft would rise dramatically and endanger its contents.

Gold is added to some window glass to reflect the sun's heat producing infrared energy. In this way gold lowers air conditioning requirements without significantly reducing the transmission of light through the window.

As believers we should give back to Yahweh and our fellowman the same love, concern, and care Yahweh has given us. Our goal is to become like Yahshua the Messiah, who in all ways and at all times mirrored to the world Yahweh's very nature and ways. He said, "The one seeing Me has seen the Father" (John 14:9).

We are to shine as lights by the power of the Holy Spirit, setting a clear example to this darkened world of Yahweh's way of life.

### **A craftsman's delight**

Pure gold is extremely soft, malleable and ductile. A pound of pure gold can be drawn into wire so thin it would stretch 900 miles, or it can be beaten into sheets only three millionths of an inch thick. It would require 3,000 such sheets to equal the thickness of a single 3" x 5" card. They are so thin the slightest breeze blows them away, and light shines through the gold.

Gold easily alloys with other metals used to impart greater hardness or other specific properties. It is a joy for the skilled goldsmith to use. It is not brittle like pottery or glass, or hard and unmanageable like iron. Gold can be fashioned as the craftsman desires.

Yahweh is our master craftsman. We are to become spiritual gold, yielded, humble, and receptive to His correction and instruction without resisting or breaking. We are to be molded in Yahweh's character for His purpose to be fulfilled in our lives (Ro. 6:13). Yahshua Messiah set such an example for us to follow: "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me" (John 6:38).

### **Gold is a conductor**

Gold is often used in sophisticated industrial applications where a corrosion-resistant and highly reliable electrical conductor is required. Where no chances of failure can be taken, the choice is gold.

Believers, too, are to be failsafe conductors of Yahweh's Holy Spirit. Yahweh's Spirit is to flow from Yahweh through us to do the work He has in mind. We are told, "for it is YAHWEH who is working in you both to will and to work for the sake of His good pleasure" (Phil. 2:13).

### **Heat purifies gold**

Here is a fascinating characteristic of gold: Heat causes gold compounds to break down, yielding the bright yellow metal we are familiar with. Not only does heat remove impurities from the metal by forming slag that can be skimmed off the top, but it also changes the chemical composition of gold compounds and returns gold to its pure, metallic state.

Yahweh also intends the heat of our trials and tests to bring out the best in our character. Gold tried in the fire is pure and refined. When we experience personal trials, we should remember that Yahweh is refining us to bring out the best, the gold of His character in us.

### **Where can you find gold?**

There is a counterfeit gold, you know. It's called fool's gold, but in reality it's iron pyrite. To the unknowing it looks like genuine gold, but it is only crystals of a common iron ore.

If you don't know the real thing, iron pyrite can fool you. I remember when I was shown fool's gold by a neighbor boy. We were 6 or 7 years old, and my eyes grew big and I became excited to see a big crystal of pure gold. But I was only being fooled. The lesson here is to be careful. Be sure the character you are developing is really Yahweh's gold and not your own counterfeit. Put it to the test.

Old miners would put the ore they discovered to a simple test. They would bite it! If it were really gold, the soft, precious metal would yield to their teeth and dent. This was gold. If the ore were really pyrite instead, a hearty bite might break a tooth!

It is not too likely that any of us have a real gold mine under our house or in the backyard. No alchemist ever succeeded in converting base metals to gold, and it's highly improbable that any of us will strike it rich by discovering a treasure of the bright yellow metal anywhere.

But don't despair of riches. Our lives and experiences are a potential gold mine to yield rich treasure. Yahweh gives us all an opportunity to become spiritual billionaires if we are only willing to yield to Him, overcome, and put forth some plain, hard work, using the tools of prayer, Bible study, fasting and meditation to extract spiritual gold from the experiences of life.

This gold is even more valuable than the metal, which can be lost stolen or destroyed. The time is coming when men will realize there is no lasting benefit from seeing security and protection from money and precious metals. Yahweh alone is our sure provider (Ez. 7:19).

Remember the lesson of the Laodiceans. They were self-satisfied and did not look to Yahweh for their needs and security. They were content with their own character and righteousness. They did not know the danger of spiritual fool's gold (Rev. 3:14-17).

Yahweh told them to come to Him to buy from Me gold refined in the fire," so they could come to possess the true gold of Yahweh's righteous character that alone will endure eternally (verse 18).

The opportunity to gain the spiritual wealth Yahweh offers to those He has called is there for all who are willing to put forth the effort to develop Yahweh's character. The reward Yahweh promises is to become part of Yahweh's special treasures, part of His spiritual Temple (Mal. 3:16-17).

**The gold is there, waiting. Go and get it!**

## ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS .....

**Question:** If the dead are asleep in the ground and not in heaven, then why does Samuel come and speak to Saul in 1 Samuel 28 after he was already dead?

**Answer:** The bible clearly states that no man has gone to Heaven except Yahshua (Joh 3:13). It also clearly states that the dead are in the grave in a state of sleep until the resurrection (1Cor 15:51-52). So what is happening with the story of Saul going to a medium in 1 Sam 28?

First of all let's go to the biblical text and see exactly what is happening.

**1 Sam 28: 6** *And Saul asked of YAHWEH, **but YAHWEH did not answer him**, either by dreams, or by Urim, or by prophets.*

**7** *And Saul said to his servants, Seek out for me a woman, with the ability to call up the dead, and I will go to her and inquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, a woman, **a medium**, is in Endor.*

The first thing we see with this story is that Saul is losing a battle and Yahweh is not with him, nor is He answering Saul. So Saul erratically goes to a witch, a fortuneteller, someone who communicates with evil, mystical, demonic spirits.

Do you believe that Yahweh would answer the request of such a person? Absolutely not! If Yahweh had left Saul, the king, and would not answer him, then it is inconceivable that Yahweh would be answering through a witch and a fortune teller. So what is really going on?

**1 Sam 28: 13** *And the king said to her, Do not be afraid. For what have you seen? And the woman said to Saul, **I have seen an Elohim coming up out of the earth.***

**14** *And he said to her, What is his appearance? And she said, An old man is coming up, and he is covered with a robe. **And Saul perceived that he was Samuel.** And he bowed his face to the earth, and prostrated himself.*

Saul wanted to see an image that was like Samuel, and this is exactly what the witch conjured up for him. She called up a spirit (which was a demon) and the demon manifested itself to look like an old man like Samuel. The witch did not say she saw Samuel but an elohim (angels and demons can also be referred to as elohim) coming up out of the earth.

Also, and of most importance, look where this being is coming from; he was not coming down from heaven, but he was coming up from the earth. So regardless whether one would believe this being was a demon manifesting itself as Samuel, or Samuel himself, it is clear that the being portraying to be Samuel is sleeping (dead) in the earth and is being called up from the ground, not called down from heaven.

Hebrew's the eleventh chapter also clearly states that all the prophets died without yet receiving the promise of eternal life, but are waiting in the grave for Messiah to return and then we will all receive our reward of eternal life together (Heb 11:13, 39-40)

# DO YOU HAVE YAHWEH'S HOLY SPIRIT? (Reprint)



Are you really converted? How do you know? How can you be sure?  
How can you determine if you HAVE YAHWEH'S SPIRIT. You need to know.  
**Why? Because YOUR ETERNAL LIFE DEPENDS ON IT.**

When Yahshua returns, we will become literal members of Yahweh's Family!

Of course, this only applies to those of us privileged to really be in Yahweh's congregation at that time. Which makes the question of having or not having Yahweh's Holy Spirit extraordinarily important. Because Yahweh's Spirit is the sole factor determining whether or not we are in Yahweh's congregation at any time.

Do you have Yahweh's Holy Spirit?  
How can you know?  
How can you know for sure:  
That's the purpose of this article.

## A RELIGIOUS MYSTERY

Some people think that Yahweh's Holy Spirit is an "essence" that has been with you since birth. Others spend frantic hours trying to "pray it down". These people look for a "feel", a "voice" – some physical sensation "activated" by "the Spirit", usually accompanied by "speaking in unknown tongues".

Now we in Yahweh's congregation don't look to "speaking in tongues" as proof of Yahweh's Spirit dwelling in us. Nonetheless, many do think that the real evidence of Yahweh's Spirit is some supernatural act or occurrence. Others in Yahweh's congregation, having been educated in our twentieth century's "sophisticated society", still don't fully understand how Yahweh's Spirit is manifested.

What about you? Do you really know what to expect from Yahweh's Spirit?

You should. No, you must.

Yahweh's Spirit IS your eternal life – forever and ever. With it, you'll become a Member of Yahweh's Eternally Ruling Family. Without it, you'll be permanently extinguished, forever unconscious, eternally dead. You need to understand – and have in your life – the REAL evidence of Yahweh's Spirit!

## BY YOUR FRUITS

Yahshua said, "...**Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them**" (Matt. 7:20). He continues, "**I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that bears NOT fruit he takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, he purges it, that it may bring forth more fruit**" (John 15:1-2).

This is the reason Yahshua calls and chooses His disciples – to bear fruit! "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain..." (John 15:16). It is not a momentary sensual thrill or experience – coupled with a "testimony" – that proves you are one of Yahshua's. You must be LED by Yahweh's Spirit to be His (Rom. 8:14). You must allow Yahweh's Spirit to guide you into all truth (John 16:13).

But what should Yahweh's Spirit lead and guide you to DO?

### WHAT ARE THE FRUITS?

Fruit is classified as the edible, usable portion of a plant or vine. Yahshua is the Vine, we are the branches. Our fruit is what we produce as believers that is USABLE to Yahshua. It is the GOOD we produce coming from the Vine – coming from Messiah! A vine produces fruits, not thorns. An apple tree produces apples, not thistles. The vine determines what fruit should be borne.

Yahshua determines what fruit we should bear as believers. We don't decide it for Him. All we decide is whether we are or whether we are not going to obey.

The Apostle Paul, directly inspired by Yahshua, outlines those fruits for us; "But the FRUIT of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law" (Gal 5:22-23). Notice there are NINE very specific fruits of Yahweh's Spirit mentioned – nine ways you can tell whether or not you have Yahweh's Spirit!

This is the crucial point: You can be ABSOLUTELY sure that you possess Yahweh's Spirit by the presence in your day-to-day life of these NINE "fruits of the Spirit". And there is no other way.

You need to examine them carefully – and then utilize Yahweh's Spirit to make them work in your

life. Study and apply them in the order which Paul gives.

### LOVE

The original Greek word, agape, means devotedness or kindly concern – an intense desire to serve Yahweh and man. This cannot be feigned or hypocritically put on (Rom 12:9), but must be genuine and real! People think of many kinds of love – father-love, mother-love, illicit love, "puppy" love – but Yahweh's love transcends all. It is a devotedness and a concern to SERVE, first Yahweh and secondly, man.

By this we know that we love the children of Yahweh, when we love Yahweh, and keep His commandments. For THIS is the love of Yahweh, that we keep His commandments..." (1 John 5:2-3). Notice the two necessary elements: (1) love Yahweh, and (2) love the children of Yahweh – man. The Ten Commandments are based on these two principles – exactly – the first four directed toward service and love to Yahweh and the last six directed toward man. "**Love works no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the Torah**" (Rom. 13:10).

Did you notice that? Love works no ill. Rather, love is the opposite – a deep concern and an intense desire to SERVE, help and encourage others.

If you have Yahweh's Spirit, this is the very first fruit you must begin to show! You must think or work no ill toward anyone, but learn, develop, think on and act on a profound concern and a fervent desire to serve Yahweh and man!

And the best way to do this? The surest way to build Yahweh-love?

Get fully immersed in Yahweh's work!

### JOY

To some people, "Joy" is nothing more than a dishwashing detergent that claims to be extra powerful! Others think of "joy" as the end result of self-gratification – a new toy, new car, new girl, new home, new baby, etc. Physically speaking, when things go "your way", the emotion you feel is "joy".

Joy is defined from the original Greek word as: delight, gladness, rejoicing, exultation. These words can certainly be used to describe the emotions caused by self-gratification – but the Bible gives a much richer, deeper, and more meaningful sense to

it. Notice Luke 15:7, "I say unto you, that likewise JOY shall be in heaven over one sinner that repents..."

What causes the angels to JOY? Is it something personal they receive? Is it adding to or gratifying the self in some way? No, it is none of these! Their JOY is in seeing OTHERS receive something good for them – in this case, repentance, which leads to entering into the Kingdom of Yahweh! They delight in seeing human beings begin to learn the way that will give them the good, lasting, permanent things of Yahweh's Kingdom. Nothing of the SELF here!

Yahshua is the prime example, as Paul states, "...Looking unto Yahshua the author and finisher of our faith, who for the JOY that was set before Him endured the cross..." (Heb 12:2). How could Yahshua get JOY out of suffering? Most get joy only from that which satisfies SELF and gratifies their own selfish urges. Yahshua was willing to suffer for real joy – the joy of seeing fellow Sons in Yahweh's Kingdom made possible through His sacrifice. What is the difference?

"Joy" received from personal gratification is temporary. The car wears out, the ball game is over, the baby grows up, the stomach empties. None of these physical things are, or can be, a real and LASTING JOY. It only satisfies for a short time. Yahshua and the angels receive the real joy from the outgoing, giving of themselves for OTHERS. This kind of joy lasts for all eternity and does not require constant bolstering and rejuvenating with more and more objects and things.

The key to real JOY is in serving and thinking of OTHERS, rather than the self. Use this as your guide. If you feel "blue", sad, or just "down" for some reason, realize that this will usually be because you have been and are still thinking primarily of yourself – your OWN trials and troubles! The cure for those "blues" is to replace it by real JOY. Put your mind and energies to work serving someone else.

How can you best do this? Sacrifice more of your time, energies and earnings for Yahweh's WORK. Try it – and see how successfully it works every time!

## PEACE

Peace is what everyone talks about, but so few really have! To many, it never comes, and to others, it comes only in the form of a tranquilizing pill. It has been demonstrated that worry, anxiety

and frustration can bring on ulcers, high blood pressure and heart trouble. The key to peace has been virtually lost today!

To have peace means to be tranquil, serene, calm, quiet and orderly of mind. Yahweh says, "Great PEACE have they which love thy law: and NOTHING shall offend them" (Psalm 119:165). How does this apply?

Take a thief for example. When a policeman turns to look at him, or if he sights a police car driving by, does he have peace? Is he calm and serene? He may look it on the outside, but inside he is a seething cauldron, hotly activated by adrenal glands! He has to always be prepared to RUN and escape! This man can never find real peace because he has broken one of Yahweh's laws!

The liar is no better off. He must keep on lying to cover up lies already told! It may seem good to him at the time, but it will always catch up with him! Solomon wrote, "Bread of deceit is sweet to a man; but afterwards his mouth shall be filled with gravel" (Prov 20:17). He must always be on the alert to keep from having to "eat his words" – and they will taste like gravel! A liar cannot have peace with this pressure on him all the time!

No one who breaks Yahweh's Law can have real peace of mind. If he does not have fears and frustrations, he will surely have a guilty conscience!

On the other hand, you cannot offend one who keeps Yahweh's Laws, because this person knows he is doing what is RIGHT. His goals and purposes are stabilized. He meets no uncontrollable frustrations in his daily living. He has no guilty conscience. He is at peace with Yahweh, with himself and with his neighbor! This is an automatic fruit of diligently keeping Yahweh's Law!

## LONGSUFFERING

Longsuffering is another way of saying patience. It is also forbearance and clemency – which is the ability to have mercy. One who is short-tempered and easily upset with the faults and inabilities of others is inviting real trouble on himself – physically as well as spiritually. This self centered approach will almost inevitably, if let run rampant, generate ulcers, high blood pressure, colitis, and even a possible stroke.

If you have no capacity for mercy or patience, your frustrations will soon take their toll on your body and mind! Yahshua gave us the example in Matthew

18:21-22, "Then came Peter to him, and said, Adonai, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him, till seven times? Yahshua said unto him, I say not unto thee, until seven times: but, until seventy times seventy seven!"

Do you realize how many times that is? Seventy times seventy seven is a whole lot of forgiving! It's hard enough to imagine someone making the same mistake that many times, much less having to forgive him the same number of times! Hard as it is for humans, this is one of Yahweh's greatest attributes. (See Eph 2:3-5)

Yahweh forgives the most heinous sins to enable all of us to enter His Kingdom. But there is a "string" attached: you must likewise forgive your fellowman. "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy" (Matt 5:7)

Although it is humanly so difficult to have a merciful, patient, longsuffering attitude, it is a giant prod to realize that you won't get mercy from Yahweh unless you learn to show mercy yourself. Every time you get short-tempered and impatient with someone else's shortcomings (which will always be the ones different from you own), just ask yourself how you would like Yahweh to react to all your weaknesses. You will be surprised at how it will help you to be more longsuffering toward others - and how much sweeter and nicer your whole life will become!

### **GENTLENESS**

Gentleness is almost always associated with femininity. For example, a good nurse is considered to be a gentle person – one capable of caring for children or sick people in a gentle, reassuring way. But gentleness is not just a feminine trait – it is perhaps more important for a man!

Some misunderstand and think to be gentle is to be a "sissy", or a "panty-waist" of some sort.

Nothing could be further from the truth: Yahweh gentleness is powerful.

Gentleness means first of all usefulness – then willingness, graciousness, affability, one who obliges. A gentleman is one who is gracious, affable and useful! He has taken the time to learn social graces and how to be attendant to other people's needs. He knows how to escort a lady and be concerned about her as the weaker vessel.

And it is more. Notice Paul's statement to the Thessalonians, "*But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherishes her children*" (I Thes 2:7). He used this analogy to describe how he, as Yahweh's minister, dealt with the people in Yahweh's congregation – as a nurse with children. A nurse must be firm and loving, kind and sure, able and compassionate – all at once! She must clothe, feed, train – and clean up the messes of – her charges. It takes a qualified person to be a good nurse!

In the same way, Paul shows that Yahweh's ministers – and all of Yahweh's people – must be specially trained and willing to be gentle: useful and gracious, as well as firm. A gentle person can never be harsh. "*The servant of Adonai must not strive, but be gentle unto all*" (II Tim 2:24). The gentle person is willing to take extra steps to look out for other people's needs. He goes out of his way to be helpful. He would dirty his hands to clean up a mess; the same way a nurse is willing to change a baby's diaper.

This is Yahweh's attitude toward us! He is concerned about our needs, and is always there to gently help us out of our troubles whenever we call on Him. Can you describe yourself this way? Think it over.

### **GOODNESS**

Yahshua said, "There is none good but one, that is, Yahweh" (Matt 19:17). Goodness is an English word which means to possess Yahweh-like qualities of virtue, uprightness and true character. This fruit of Yahweh's Spirit could probably be described as a summary fruit – describing a person who is applying all the other eight fruits in his life and, as a result, becoming daily more Yahweh-like in his character!

But there is only ONE who is really good. We don't yet qualify. We can have "good" characteristics – but we can never be really good in this fleshly existence. Rather, this is our goal: "Be [become] ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matt 5:48).

### **FAITH**

Mountains of material have been written and spoken about faith. Millions have sought it, but few have really attained it. For many, faith is just an "elusive spiritual essence".

The original Greek word is *pistis* – which means firm conviction, assurance, and fidelity. Fidelity is

another way of describing one who is “careful to preserve that which has been committed to his trust.” You cannot have faith unless you are faithful.

We use the term “faithful” (meaning full of faith), more often than we realize in our daily lives. For example, what is a faithful employee? He is one who arrives at work on time. He does not cheat. He does not steal. He can be counted on to do his job well. He is loyal to his employer. In other words, he is careful to preserve that which has been committed to his trust – his job!

A faithful husband respects his marriage vows. He does not chase other women. He provides for his family, and fulfills his obligations to the home. He works hard at being a father and husband. He is careful to preserve that which has been committed to his trust.

Likewise, the faithful wife respects her obligations to her husband, home and family. She remembers her vows and responsibilities. The unfaithful wife runs around, leaves her house dirty, and neglects her husband and children. The faithful wife is careful to preserve what has been committed to her trust – a husband, home and family!

How does the faithful believer differ from the faithful employee, husband or wife? He DOESN'T. A believer must be “careful to preserve that which has been committed to his trust” BY YAHWEH!

Now, faith is not some vague idea or thought – but something you must DO”

Notice the examples in the “Faith chapter” of the Bible (Heb 11) of what the great men of old did to become faithful men. “By faith, Abel offered unto Yahweh a more excellent sacrifice... By faith, Noah...prepared an ark... By faith, Abraham... went out... By faith Moses... refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter... forsook Egypt... kept the Passover... passed through the Red Sea... [and others] through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought [worked] righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions.” And the accounts continue on!

Faith to these men was not just a mere word! Faith was active and alive. They had a charge – a responsibility before Yahweh to keep. Each one had been given a commission to fulfill, and they were faithful to that commission. Each man had a particular work to do – and he did it!

Look at these examples and then understand why the scriptures say so much about the Work that

must be done today. We have been given a special commission and trust by Yahweh.

Years of experience have shown that the only ones who grow and remain faithful are those who have their whole hearts in this Work – those who yearn and strive to be an active part of Yahweh’s Work! We must constantly strive to remain careful to preserve that which has been committed to our trust – the Work of Yahweh!

If your faith has been doubtful, examine yourself and begin to actively keep what Yahweh has entrusted to you: active participation in Yahweh’s great end-time Work. And watch your faith automatically grow!

## MEEKNESS

Meekness has often been confused with weakness! Many think that the terms are synonymous. The typical idea of a meek person is one who is “cowed”, reserved and restrained – “Henry Milktoast” in person – someone to be pushed around and continually taken advantage of.

Let’s take the example of one of the meekest men who ever lived on earth – Moses! “Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth” (Num 12:3). He was meek, all right, but this is the same man who could single-handedly overwhelm an entire nation.

When Moses found out that the Israelites had turned from Yahweh and molded a golden calf, he charged down the mountainside, broke the two tables of stone, melted down the calf, ground it to powder, scattered the gold dust on the water and made over three million rebellious “hard-heads” drink it!! (Ex 32:19-20) How could he do such a thing and still be called the meekest man alive? It’s simply because a meek man is not a “Henry Milktoast”.

The primary meaning of meekness is “no feeling of revenge”. When Yahweh was about to disinherit and destroy all Israel because of their rebellion, Moses – in spite of Israel’s personal accusations against him – entreated Yahweh to save them (Num 14). He had no revenge in his heart.

Moses naturally had what Paul had to instruct all leaders and ministers to have. They should be “...apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves...” (II Tim 2:24-25). If your attitude is to “get back” at the world, you cannot be a successful leader and teacher.

No matter what another person does or says to you, if you are meek, you will not seek revenge! Yahweh further clarifies, "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says Adonai" (Rom 12:19).

If you want to really "get back" at someone who has hurt you, Yahweh has a ready-made formula available – and it works every time! "Therefore, if your enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink; for in so doing you shall heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good" (verses 20-21). The evildoers look for a reprisal. They expect you to seek revenge to repay their evils. And they know what to do when you do what they expect – because they are well prepared! But when you start doing good for every one of their evil acts, their guilty consciences will tear them to shreds! They will writhe and twist in mental torment, because they will not know how to handle the situation – almost as if you had literally poured hot coals down their back!

Think about this principle and apply it. Keep your "coals" handy at all times! There may even be some times when you will want to pour a whole bucketful over some particularly obnoxious person's head! You can be amused at their reactions and at the same time be doing what is right. Put this into practice and grow in Yahweh strength. Become a truly meek person.

### **TEMPERANCE**

"Temperance" means total abstinence from alcohol in all forms? No, it doesn't! The world has completely misunderstood the meaning of the word. Temperance means temperance, not abstinence. Temperance means self-control, continence, self-government, moderation – particularly in reference to sensual appetites. No person without self-control and self-government can be in Yahweh's Kingdom! The Bible is jammed with the condemnation of those who do not control their appetites.

Paul admonishes, "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth" (Col 3:2). Those who mind earthly things – those who have their minds and energies devoted entirely to the physical satisfying of the flesh – will not make Yahweh's Kingdom, nor will they achieve real happiness in this life!

The athlete who succeeds must have self-control. A businessman who reaches the top must learn to govern himself. No matter what the job or goal, the only real successes are those who have learned to control their own natural desires and appetites – forcing themselves to give up certain things that might restrict their advancement.

Yahweh asks no more! Become success-minded for Yahweh's Kingdom! Learn and use temperance in your life.

### **FRUIT GROWS**

Remember, fruit does not appear overnight on a tree! It takes time to grow. This is true of the fruits of Yahweh's Spirit. You must grow in them! You must work at it, regularly and daily – practice them – just as an athlete works out daily to become a real star. Peter admonishes, "But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Master and Savior Yahshua" (II Peter 3:18).

Have confidence.

Yahweh desperately wants you to succeed beyond even your wildest imaginations. Your Heavenly Father is not a sadist – He knows you're not perfect. All He wants is for you to try to be perfect – to try to implement these nine fruits of His Spirit in your life. Just try with your whole heart – and then He has promised to do the rest.

Have confidence in your Yahweh. "If ye know these things, happy are you if you do them!" (John 13:17)

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