

July—Sept 2008

The Remnant's Walk



1Co 13:13 And now faith, hope, and love, these three things remain; but the greatest of these *is* love.

Congregation of YHWH Jerusalem
Po Box 832 Carteret NJ 07008

www.congregationofYHWHjerusalem.com
or www.coYHWH.com

Personal.....

Greetings and Shalom in the wonderful names of Yahweh and Yahshua. According to the biblical calendar we have just finished the 7th year of release, and have now started a new 7 year cycle, which could be the last 7 year cycle before the Jubilee.

I have been saying for a while to prepare for things to change in this system of Babylon, and to get out of debt, and to separate from the world, and make that sure commitment to Yahweh, “*while it is still called today*”. While it may still be today, it is surely reaching twilight, and truly the day is far spent, and the night is coming quickly, were no man will work.

The financial situation right now in the US and even worldwide is looking fairly grim. The real estate market is in an all time low and just seems to keep spiraling lower each month. Home prices are dropping, new construction is non-existent, and foreclosures hit new highs, it seems, on a monthly basis. The credit markets are not much better with banks not even loaning to each other as real money and real assets are disappearing quicker and quicker. World food markets continue to remain unstable, as wheat and commodity prices are soaring, and in many third world countries it is causing rioting in the streets.

Brethren, I am telling you that a tide has changed and we have entered into a new phase of the end time, and there is no time left for playing games, but each of us must decide from this moment on who we will serve for eternity, whether satan and his system of Babylon and world democracy, or Yahweh and His system of outgoing concern and love for others.

As things continue to tighten and the noose will get tighter in the days and years ahead, it should not be worrisome to Yahweh’s elect, His called out chosen ones. To His elect we should be sober but also filled with joy as we see the day of our Masters return ever so closer.

Praise Yahweh that His elect are not deceived like 99% of this world’s churches, who believe in a false rapture, which is not scriptural, but only another lie of the devil. Scripture is clear, not that we will be raptured away to heaven before the beast power is set up, but rather;

Mat 24:13 But he that endures to the end, the same shall be saved.

Yes, we have to prepare to dig ourselves into the trenches to have faith and “*endure*” not escape the hard times that are coming. We must get the focus off of us and the trouble that we will all go through and get our focus on helping others to salvation through these end times. During the reign of the beast power, Yahweh’s elect will be given power from on high and do many miracles and help many others to also receive salvation.

Dan 11:32 And he will defile by flatteries those who do evil against the covenant. But the people who know their Elohim will be strong and will work.

Dan 11:33 And those who understand among the people will instruct many, yet they will stumble by the sword and by flame, by exile and spoil for days.

It was a great honor for the early believers to be able to suffer persecution for the sake of the gospel.

Act 5:40 And they obeyed him. And calling the apostles, having flogged them, having charged them not to speak on the name of Yahshua, even they set them free.

Act 5:41 Then they indeed departed from the presence of the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they were deemed worthy to be suffer persecution on behalf of His name.

Act 5:42 And every day they did not cease teaching and preaching the gospel of Yahshua the Messiah in the sanctuary, and house to house.

These early believers did not believe in some phony rapture, but preached the good news of the Kingdom with all boldness and thought it a great honor to suffer for the name of Yahshua. There is a great maturity that is lacking in the body of Messiah today in order to have this mindset, and believe me, it is a mindset. The mind set of Babylon is total self focus and fear and is not motivated by the spirit of Yahweh, which brings me to the next point that we are seeing as we are marching toward the end time timeline.

Mat 24:12 *And because lawlessness shall have been multiplied, the love of the many will grow cold.*

We are seeing this multiplied all over the world, from young girls getting pregnant and murdering their own child, to people suing everyone and anyone they can, to just not even seeing the common courtesy of friendliness when we are out in public.

But it is most sad when we see this coldness in Yahweh's congregation. Are you letting the heaviness of life and the wickedness of society cause your spirit to lose the love of Yahweh in your life? How much time are you spending daily praying for the abominations that are going on all over the earth? Remember these are the ones who Yahweh will protect during these troublesome times.

Eze 9:4 *And Yahweh said to him, Pass through in the midst of the city, in the midst of Jerusalem, and mark a mark on the foreheads of the men who are groaning and are mourning over all the abominations that are done in her midst.*

When brethren are going through trials and maybe are having health issues are you praying for them daily, or judging them on why they are having trials. Remember one reason Yahweh allows sickness in our congregations is because it gives all members a common goal to pray for, and to serve and rally around. When we pray for our brethren in Africa & Asia it helps us to get our mind off ourselves.

In my most recent newsletter to our Elders I wrote about the wonderful blessing I see that Congregation of YHWH Elders are truly "Echad, (*united*)". We work together for a common goal of Yahweh's Kingdom, but in this Laodicean era, many people, as Timothy prophesied, are lovers of self, proud, self seekers. Sometimes it is hard to get brethren to agree on doctrine, never mind a program for working in unity toward the Kingdom, so when a brother or sister is suffering an illness or trial, it gives all of Yahweh's elect a reason to unite and come together in prayer, in unity, and in oneness.

I have been blessed by Yahweh to travel around the world and meet brethren from the 4 corners of the earth, and I am telling you that there is a problem with many brethren in the west, because many have separated themselves from congregations, from Elders, from headship, and even going to feast sites. They feel they don't need anyone but Yahweh. There is a time to be in a personal wilderness, when you come out of Christianity, but then there is a time to go back to the work of Yahweh. Remember Moses was 40 years in Egypt (the world) and then 40 years in the wilderness, but then went back to Egypt to pull others out of that system. If we only care for our own, we are no better than the pagans (Lk 6:32-33).

Pro 18:1 *He who separates himself seeks his own desire, he breaks out against all sound wisdom.*

I am not advocating going to apostate fellowships with false teachers selling the word of Yahweh, but I am advocating, while you still have the chance to start to think about moving closer to other brethren if you don't have any fellowship in your area, as it is very dangerous for your spiritual life, if you don't have fellowship or headship over a long period of time.

In most cases, you will not even realize that your love is waxing cold, or that you have become self-seeking. It happens so subtle and over a long period of time, but if we don't learn to live and serve together with brethren now in this life, how will we ever be ready to do so in Yahweh's Kingdom, which will be here soon. I pray that each of us, me included, takes the message of preparation serious in the days ahead, and I plan on doing a bible lesson on the subject and more sermons in the near future.

B'Shem Yahshua, Don

Make your prayers count!

Could you be overlooking some of the most basic principles regarding answered prayer? A major blunder. That's exactly what Henry had just made.

"I just simply don't understand why Yahweh didn't give me the wisdom to make the right decision," Henry sighted, shaking his head.

Actually, Henry had made a double mistake. Double, because if we were to inquire of him, "Did you specifically ask Yahweh for the wisdom you needed"? Henry's reply would be something like: "Er, well, no – not specifically. But," he would hastily add, "Yahweh knew I needed it. He knows all things. He is fully aware of our needs. As Yahshua stated, "Your Father knows the things you ask Him" (Math 6: 8).

But does that, therefore, render prayer unnecessary?

Not at all! The bible clearly points out that one of the reasons we sometimes do not receive the blessings we could enjoy is simply that we do not ask Yahweh for them (Jm 4: 2).

"Ask, and it will be given to you," Yahshua declared (Math 7:7). To illustrate, He gave the example of a child asking his father for some food. ***"If you then, being evil," Yahshua continued," know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things..."***

How? With no conditions? Always automatically? As a matter only of due course? Just because He knows we need them? Whether or not we ask? No! Read it: ... **to those who ask Him!"** (Verse 11).

Henry should have read James 1: 5 more closely. This verse doesn't say that if you need wisdom, Yahweh will automatically supply it because you are a believer and He knows you need it. Rather, ***"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of Yahweh, who gives to all***



liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."

Yahweh is filled with mercy and compassion. He knows what we need. He stands ready to give liberally. But He wants us to ask anyway! Why?

The fact that Yahweh tells us to is certainly good enough reason all by itself. But let's see if we can understand why Yahweh tells us too.

A vital factor

Prayer is not an isolated and optional religious exercise. It's a vital factor, significant in determining our eternal destiny!

The supreme purpose that Yahweh is working out here on earth is the expansion of His kingdom – His family. He wants to make out of human beings immortal members of His ruling family.

These must be individuals who, by their own free choice, come to fully support Yahweh's way of doing things, perceive as Yahweh perceives, and react as Yahweh reacts. They must want with all their hearts to be involved in whatever Yahweh is doing.

Such an attitude is essential in order to maintain, throughout eternity, harmony and peace in Yah's family.

Yahweh has made us temporarily human. This exercise is a testing ground so our Creator can try us and know what is in our hearts, whether or not He can trust us to live by His rules and laws (Deut 8: 2). He must be sure. He is looking at us, closely examining our actions and reactions. Yahweh takes note of what we say when we are talking to Him. Of course He knows our hearts and intents. And the Holy Spirit helps where we

cannot adequately express ourselves (Ro 8: 26-27). Still as Yahshua showed, the actual words we use are also important, and they ought to be meaningful, rather than vain repetitions (Math 6: 7).

One of the obstacles to effective prayer is not often identified: It is the fact that we live in the age of devalued language. Words have never been so cheap, so frequently meaningless. All around us language is misused in advertising, politics, entertainment and casual conversation. Because we have been disillusioned more than once by broken promises, exaggerations, shading of the truth, even outright lies, we have come to automatically doubt that words mean what their face value would indicate.

This is one reason some have difficulty believing Yahweh's promises. It also could be one of the reasons some prayers are not as effective as they should be.

Remember that Yahweh really didn't have to ask Adam and Eve the series of questions about what they had done (Gen 3: 9-13). He already knew the answer. He didn't have to ask Cain where Abel was (Gen 4:9). He didn't have to come down to earth to verify how evil Sodom was (Gen 18: 20-21). He didn't have to allow Jacob to contend with him all night (Gen 32: 22-21). He didn't, but he wanted to – and wants to – hear from humans themselves what they have to say, and see their reactions.

Prayer changes things

The great Creator Yahweh is working out His plan. He keeps it in course, intervening when necessary in human affairs to do so. But do you realize that he allows humans with whom He is dealing to determine many of the details of how His plan develops?

Twice, Moses directly influenced, by prayer, the course of history. Because of the rebellion of the children of Israel, Yahweh on two separate occasions proposed rejecting them all and bringing forth through Moses a new nation to inherit the promises made to Abraham (Ex 32: 9-14, Num 14: 11-20). Had Moses not fervently prayed to Yahweh to change His mind, the

implication is that Yahweh would have done exactly what He had proposed.

Either way would not have impeded the ultimate fulfillment of Yahweh's plan. But Moses' prayer did determine the course that fulfillment took.

Prayer does make a difference. It changes things. ***“The harvest is truly great, but the laborers are few: therefore pray the master of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest,*** “Yahshua urged (Lk 10:2). Whether or not or in what numbers laborers are sent out to do Yahweh's work, must therefore depend on, at least partly, on prayers or the lack of them.

Make no mistake about it: Yahweh will accomplish His work of preaching the message preparing the world for the second Coming of Yahshua – even if He has to cause the rocks of the earth to cry the message out loud (Lk 19:40). Let us not take for granted the privilege we have of taking part in what Yahweh is doing! He doesn't need us! But He gives us the opportunity to participate.

Are you participating?

Listen to the apostle Paul: ***“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayer, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all man, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all holiness and reverence”*** (1Tim 2: 1-2).

Whether or not or to what degree Yahweh's work peaceful conditions has in which to function, also depends therefore, at least in part, on how diligently we pray. If we don't ask, there is no promise we shall receive.

Do you pray every day for the work of Yahweh and for the human instruments carrying it out? You should! Do you pray every day for Yahweh's blessings on others as well as on your own endeavors? You should! Do you pray every day for protection and help as you function and move about this evil and dangerous world? You should!

“Be anxious for nothing,” Paul wrote, “but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known (even though Yahweh is already aware of it) to Yahweh” (Phil 4:6). This means bringing Yahweh into very – yes, every – facet of your daily existence.

Believe and obey

Yahshua said, “And all things, whatever you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive” (Math21: 22).

So in addition to simply asking, we must believe. There is a definite and close relationship between the degree of one’s sincerity and surrender to Yahweh and the degree to which one is able to believe and pray in faith and receive.

If you are, for example, lusting for something when you know better, if your mind is entertaining thoughts you know you should not have, you automatically cannot at the same time be asking Yahweh in unswerving faith to grant you a request. It just doesn’t work that way.

Here’s how the apostle John expressed it: ***“Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward Yahweh” (1Jn 3:21). And our hearts won’t condemn us if we are doing what is right. And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight” (verse22).***

What does it mean to be always in an attitude of prayer? It doesn’t mean you’re talking to Yahweh every second. Even Yahshua didn’t do that! But He was always in the right attitude – His conscience was undefiled before Yahweh – so He could talk directly to His heavenly Father on the spur of a moment. His thoughts were on those things that are above.

Being able to pray at any moment and total surrender to Yahweh go hand in hand. On one occasion when Yahshua suddenly began to pray, He said: ***“Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me” (Jn 11: 41-42).***

How did Yahshua know that? Why did Yahweh always hear Him? For the simple reason that Yahshua always did those things that pleased His Father (Jn 8: 29).

Wanting to pray or be in an attitude of prayer in “*all things*” is actually a valuable incentive to be obedient in all things.

Prayers of intercession

Our prayer life not only reveals to Yahweh how deeply we want Him to be involved in our life’s and how deeply we want to be involved in what He is doing, but prayer also shows how interested we are in other people.

In all members of Yahweh’s family, Yahweh wants to see a spontaneous and universal expression of outgoing concern for the welfare of others. That’s the only way to guarantee peace and harmony. It is the way of giving. Love for one’s neighbor is the very essence of Yahweh’s law (Lev 19: 18).

One of the greatest gifts you can give to others, when you are close to Yahweh, is to pray for them. Yahweh loves it when people pray for each other. Certainly Yahweh will hear the prayer of an individual praying for his own needs. But the bible leaves no doubt that Yahweh particularly enjoys hearing and answering the prayers of one person for the needs of another.

The apostle Paul wouldn’t have petitioned the saints to “*pray for us*” (Heb 13: 18). If it didn’t make any difference whether they did.

If you want a specific request from Yahweh, have you ever thought to pray that the identical request be granted to someone else who needs it? In so doing, you get your mind off yourself and on the welfare of others. This is well pleasing to Yahweh.

In Yahshua’s sample prayer outline (commonly, though mistakenly, called The Lord’s prayer”). ***The words I, me or my do not appear once*** (Matt 6: 9-13). All the way through the words used are we, us and our, demonstrating an unselfish concern.

Yahweh wants to hear prayers of intercession (IS 59: 15-16). It was through the prayers of

Abraham that Abimelech was forgiven (Gen 20: 17-18). Job's friends were forgiven through Job's prayers (Job 42: 7-10). John wrote about praying for one another to be forgiven (1Jn 5: 16). The bible records numerous instances of people praying for one another.

For whom have you interceded recently?

In Yahshua's early childhood, there was an elderly woman named Anna, "who did not depart from the temple, but served Yahweh with fastings and prayers night and day" (Lk 2:37).

You can be sure that most of that prayer and fasting was not to seek Anna's own needs and desires. There were probably many people in the area who, over the years, went to Anna when they had a problem, because Yahweh heard and answered her prayers and everyone knew it.

King Solomon recorded a vital principle in life that reflects on this subject: "***Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up. Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm: but how can one be warm alone? Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken (Ecc 4: 9-12).***

You who are sick or afflicted, is someone praying with you for healing? The instruction from James is to "***pray for one another***, that you may be healed" (Jm 5: 16). It makes a difference!

One of Yahshua's parables was given to show us we ought to be persistent in prayer, and that we "***always ought to pray and not lose heart***" (Lk 18: 1-8). Have you ever "lost heart" because you, along with others, have been asked to pray for someone, for example, who is terminally ill, and the person dies anyway? Have you immediately assumed something was wrong with your prayers, with your exercise of faith? Maybe there was. On the other hand, that may not always be so. Maybe your prayers were what they should be. Maybe you did not waver in faith. But maybe

not enough others did also pray effectively, did you ever think of that?

Did you also make sure that you were not praying for your own will but Yahweh's will to be done? When Yahshua was in the Garden of Gethsemane right before He was to be crucified, He prayed that if there was another way to do this, so He would not have had to be separated from Yahweh for the time He was on the Tree of crucifixion, for our sins, but He also said "***not my will be done but your will***".

If we are praying for things that are not in Yahweh's will than we are praying in vain.

Jas 4:2 You desire and do not have. You murder, and are jealous, and are not able to obtain. You fight and you war, and you do not have, because you do not ask.

Jas 4:3 You ask, and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order that you may spend on your lusts.

Jas 4:4 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 put down as enemy to Yahweh.

We have to make sure not only that we are asking Yahweh, but we are asking in His will. Sometimes a family member may be very sick with cancer and suffering, and it may be more merciful to ask Yahweh for that person to die and stop suffering, than to continue to ask for healing, if it is not in Yahweh's will.

Also you must think, is this person who has cancer a smoker? And if Yahweh healed them, will they continue to smoke and break Yahweh's law? If so, then how can you ask Him to heal the person and reward their disobedience?

Keep at it. Being able to pray effectively does not come overnight. It has to be worked at. But it is eternally worth the effort, for through prayer you get to know Yahweh. And just as important, He gets to know you. And remember even when we are unfaithful, He continues to be faithful and will answer our prayers.

WHY AREN'T YOU CLOSER TO YAHWEH?

What prevents you from enjoying a deep, full close relationship with your Father in heaven? You need to know how to draw closer to YAHWEH!

At 8: 13 Friday morning, members of Philadelphia's Friday the 13th club will walk under a ladder, eat a breakfast of 13 items, break mirrors, spill salt, open umbrellas, joke about black cats and light three cigarettes on one match. It's a pity, but some people believe life is based on luck. They feel that they've come to whatever station in life they have, or to whatever rung of the ladder they are on, because of forces that are totally outside their control.

Other people are superstitious about religion. They carry medals of saints, pray with relics clutched to their bosom or carry prayers in little boxes around their necks or strapped to their arms or foreheads. Even more people, though they may not believe in religious superstitions or in such charms as rabbits' feet, nonetheless, deep within themselves, feel trapped by the circumstances of this world. They feel that their lives are out of control. And, sadly, their lives probably are. But not because they have to be.

Trapped in circumstances?
Although this type of erroneous thinking affects every area of a person's life, it does the most damage to one's spiritual growth.

There are believers who believe that they could never be close to their creator YAHWEH, for a broad number of irrational reasons.

They feel, for example, that they are from the wrong type of background. Their parents were not religious, so how could they ever be? They feel they are from the wrong part of the country, have the wrong heredity, that the wrong teachers thought them in high school or that their bosses are standing in their way.

A great many people feel that they would be better believers if only their bosses, their wives, their children, their brethren or even their elder would be different!

Other people say that they are too young to be close to Yahweh, or too old. Some say they have too much of this world's education, while others feel they don't have enough. And, finally, some blame judicial

order. If only that was different, then their relationship with YAHWEH would be better.

Your mother, your father, boss, teacher, age, education p...do not determine how close your relationship is with YAHWEH. The only person who affects how close you are to YAHWEH is YOU!

Free moral agency

What about you? Do you feel your life is under your control? Or do you feel that you are the victim of outside forces that prohibit you from having a close, satisfying deeply personal and constantly growing relationship with your Elohim?

If you feel that way – if you feel that you could never be a Moses, an Aaron or a David because of something beyond your control – then you need to discover one of the most basic lessons of the bible.

That lesson is this: You are a free moral agent. Your spiritual life is under your control. You can be as close to YAHWEH as any person has or will ever be. But be careful! This is not to say that you will have the same job or role or calling on earth now as Moses or Aaron... These men all were called to specific jobs, to positions of authority in the past and now..

But you can be as close to YAHWEH as any man or woman has ever been, if you really want to be – if you do what these spiritually successful people have done in their lives.

Not a Spiritual winner?

So ask yourself this question: "Why do I feel that I cannot be a spiritual winner?"

Perhaps you feel you can't win spiritually because you are not a physical winner in this life. But notice 1Cor 1: 27-28. These verses describe the type of people YAHWEH calls they describe us:

"But YAHWEH hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and YAHWEH hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty And base things of the world and things which are despised, hath YAHWEH chosen."

We tend to look upon ourselves as physically inferior person not high that is – persons not highly successful in material ways in this world – and therefore conclude that we can amount to nothing spiritually. We "compare ourselves with some that

commend themselves” (2Cor 10: 12) and come up losers in our own minds. We then conclude we cannot be spiritual winners.

However, YAHWEH says the exact opposite. James tells us that YAHWEH has chosen “the poor of this world, rich in faith” to be “heirs of the kingdom” (Jam 2:5). YAHWEH condemns those who look upon the outward appearance and become respecters of persons because of their material possessions or status (verses 1- 4).

YAHWEH rather promises us that HE will look upon our hearts even as He did when He picked humble David to be king over Israel instead of his more physically appealing brothers (1Sam 16: 6-7). Another reason we may decide we can't be spiritual winners is because of hiding behind circumstances “Beyond our control” gives us an excuse for not living up to our potential. It takes the responsibility off of us.

But this excuse is not new. The first humans used the same technique in the Garden of Eden. When YAHWEH confronted Adam with his sin of eating the forbidden fruit, Adam instead of admitting that as a free moral agent he was responsible for his own act, immediately put the blame on Eve, who in turn put the blame on the serpent (Gen 3: 8-13).

The first human beings were telling Yahweh that they were “victims” – that other people or circumstances were standing in the way of their relationship with Him.

Yahweh explains in dramatic and powerful language His feelings about the excuse that you and I are victims of the unrighteousness of others. **“The word of Yahweh came unto me again, saying. What mean ye that ye use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying? The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge?”** (Ezek 18:1-2).

We say the same thing today. We say, in effect, that relatives, our bosses or somebody or something else is responsible for our not praying enough or serving enough in the body. But Yahweh condemns such an attitude.

“As I live, saith Yahweh, you shall not have occasion any more to use this proverb in Israel.

Behold all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sins, it shall die (verses 3-4).

In other words, Yahweh holds each person responsible for his own actions. Blaming your boss or your aunt Mary just doesn't impress Yahweh.

But there is a way to gain control of your spiritual life! There is a way to make sure that you reach your spiritual potential.

First, quit blaming others. Realize that Yahweh gave us free moral agency, and nothing can take it from you. Your age, your education or lack of it, your job, your wife, your husband, your children, your boss or your minister cannot stand in your way.

You alone determine how much you pray. You alone determine how much time you spend in bible study, how much you fast, how much you meditated and what good works you do.

Second, since Yahweh commands to obey Him, realize that He will give you the ability to do just that if you truly want away. Deut 30: 19 says: **“I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.”**

How could Yahweh command you to “choose life” if He knew that circumstances would make it impossible for you to do so? The decision is truly up to you.

Next, realize that Yahweh does not just command you to seek His way, but commands you to run in the direction of righteousness. Many people meander along the spiritual road, blaming each person they come in contact with or each unfortunate circumstance that arises in their lives, picturing these obstacles as insurmountable boulders blocking their way. But Yahweh tells us plainly that, once He has called us, His truth is right before us and can be acquired if we only seek it.

“For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that you should say, who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it?”

“Neither is it beyond the sea that you should say, who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? But the word is very near unto you in your mouth in your heart, so that you do it (verses 11-14).

Yes, in spite of the fact that men try to picture Yahweh’s way as impossible to follow, the apostle Paul says plainly that we *should seek Yahweh, if perhaps they might feel after Him and might find Him, though indeed He not being far from each one of us.* (Acts 17: 27).

And remember this: Once Yahweh has called you, the rest is in your hands. Yes, Yahweh must take the first step. We do not come to Yahweh because of some goodness or desire that we may have on our own. We must be called (Jn 6: 44).

But once we are called by Yahweh, it is up to us. Remember the story of the parable of the pounds. A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return. He delivered to his citizen’s money and hoped that they would trade with it to gain more for themselves and him. When he returned, he took account of his servants, ***“that he might know how much every man had gained by trading”*** (Lk 19: 12-15).

The first man gained 10 pounds the second five. But the third, who was fearful and made excuses, gained nothing for himself or his master. As a result the master was angry and took from him all he had. The lesson for us is clear, if we only hear it and heed. We are free moral agents. We can draw close to Yahweh if we truly want to. No excuse will justify our doing otherwise. Yahweh did not accept the excuse of the nobleman’s fearful servant, and he will not accept ours, either.

What’s your excuse?

So what’s your reason? What’s your excuse for not being closer to Yahweh? Are you too young? Then read the story of the child Samuel in 1Sam 2 especially verse 26: ***“And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favor both with Yahweh, and also with men.”*** No, being too young is not a good excuse. Are you too old? Then read of the prophetess Anna, who though she was ***“of a great age,”*** served Yahweh diligently (Lk 2: 36-38).

Are you from a rough and tumble background, having spent many years using bad or foul language? Then you are in good company, for Isaiah also declared himself ***“a man of unclean lips”*** (Is 6:5). Yahweh used him, and you can be just as close to Yahweh as he was.

Are you too uneducated? Then take a place beside the prophet Jeremiah, who felt himself so inexperienced and untrained that he called himself ***“a child”*** in learning (Jer 1: 6).

Are you a poor speaker, Then sit besides Yahweh’s most powerful servant, Moses, who declared, ***“O my Elohim, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue”*** (Ex 4: 10).

Instead of relying on these or other excuses, remember Paul’s admonition that nothing can separate us from Yahweh: ***“Who shall separate us from the love of Yahshua? Shall tribulation, or distress, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?”*** (Rom8: 35).

No, these cannot separate us from Yahweh; and neither can your mother in law, your parents, your children, your boss, your education, your age, your IQ, your height, your previous religion or your looks. The way you can get close to Yahweh is the same way that David or Moses or the prophets did.

You must pray. You must study your bible and fast. You must meditate, obey Yahweh and do good works. If you do these things, you will draw close to Yahweh. Nothing or no one can keep you from it. Yahweh promises that they who hunger and thirst after righteousness... shall be filled” (Math 5: 6).

Yahweh is merciful and loving. He wants us to be close to him.

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says Yahweh, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. “And ye shall search for me and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart” (Jer 29: 11-13).

Nothing can separate you from Yahweh. Nothing but you!!!

What’s your excuse?

Head Coverings By Don Esposito



Where did the custom of women wearing head scarves come from?

If we look into the Greek culture that the apostle Paul was writing to into the book of Corinthians we will see that women in the Greek culture wore head scarves after their pagan deities that they worshipped. One does not have to look much further than the Catholic Church and the Mary or more correctly Istar idols.

In 1Cor 11, Paul is addressing the group of brethren that were trying to force head scarves on all the women, and clearly this is his response:

1Cor 11: 16 But if any man seem to be contentious we have no such custom, neither the congregation of YHWH.

It is clear from Paul's response that he did not agree with women's having to wear an additional cloth on her head as a secondary covering. The first thing that one should ask is if women were meant to wear head coverings why does the torah not say one word about it? Also, did Paul have the authority to change or add to Torah? Absolutely not! When looking at the subject also remember it is head coverings, not hair coverings.

So what is 1Cor 11 about then? I believe that what the real issue that Paul was trying to deal with was not head scarves but hair lengths. In the Middle Eastern Greek culture where women were wearing these head scarves, it is also very hot, so since their hair was not shown, many were cutting the hair short to have more comfort from the heat and scarf. On the other hand, many men who were also trying to imitate their Greek male gods wear also trying to imitate them by wearing long flowing hair such as you see on the "Jesus" pictures, which is a model of the Greek god, the son of Zeus. This is the real problem of Corinthians 11. I will quote from the original Greek manuscripts to make it easy to understand.

1Cor 11: 4 Everyman praying or prophesying, having anything down over his head, dishonors his head.

The Greek word used here is Strong's # 2596 - "Kata" and means to have anything down over the head. Paul here is referring to a man having long hair fully covering the head.

1Cor 11:5 But every woman that prays or prophecies with her head uncovered dishonors her head: for it is the same as if she were shaven.

The word here for uncovered is Strong's # 177 and means, to be uncovered. In other words he is saying that if a woman has short hair (not fully covering her head) that it is as if she were shaven. In scripture the only time you see a woman with short hair was when she was shamed, such as when her husband suspects she was an adulteress, as we see in Numbers the 5th chapter. In this case the priest would shave the woman's head before he gave her the test of adultery.

1Cor 11:6 For if a woman is not covered let her also be shorn: but if it is a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered.

Here again Paul is saying that if a woman is not fully covered (*having long hair*) then it is as if she is shaved, but since women are only shaved for shame, then let her be fully covered (have long hair). The Greek word here for covering is Strong's # 2619 and means to fully cover the head.

Verse 14-15 makes Paul's case clear.

1Cor 11: 13-14 Judge for yourselves is it fitting that a woman pray unto YHWH uncovered? Does not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man has long hair, it is a shame unto him?

1Cor 11: 15 But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her: for her long hair is given to her instead of a veil.

The word used here for veil is Strong's # 4018 and literally means a cloth, wrap or veil. This is the first time in the letter that Paul even mentions the word veil; all other references were referred to coverings, not veils. Most who purport wearing head coverings, totally mistranslate this most important scripture to say that the long hair is given as an additional covering, but this could not be further from the truth and is changing scripture. The word used for instead is "**anti**" which literally means in the place of, or instead of as *anti-messiah* is *in the place of* messiah. Remember we are discussing head coverings, not hair coverings.

Paul clearly believed and showed that the long hair is the covering. Where maybe the beginning of Paul's letter was a bit confusing because he does not come out and explain the true purpose because of his writing (hair length, not veils,) the latter part of the letter is very clear, that as long hair is a shame to a man, that it is a glory to a woman and the long hair has been given **instead of** a veil. And to the brethren that do not want to accept this teaching from Paul, he is also very clear.

1Cor 11: 16 But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, (the custom of wearing a head scarf) neither do the congregations of YHWH.

Could it be any clearer, the Congregations of YHWH have no such custom of women wearing a veil or men having long hair! This makes total sense as although the Torah never commands a woman to wear a veil, it does say that a man is not to dress or look like a woman and neither should a woman dress or look like a man. When women have short hair and men long hair they are going against the spirit of this law of Torah.

If 1 Corinthians 11 is speaking about hair lengths and not wearing clothe wraps, then what about the men in the assembly. Well, 1 Cor 11:14, just also clearly showed us that a man should not be allowed in our assemblies with long hair, since it was given to women for her glory, and would be out of judicial order.

The next question that may arise is what about a man who had a Nazarite vow? Well, first of all, most people who had a Nazarite vow kept it no longer than 30 to 100 days, because someone with long hair was not allowed to enter the Temple or sanctuary of Yahweh. As a matter of fact Numbers the 6th chapter tells us that when the vow was completed the person had to shave his hair at the steps of the Sanctuary in order to be able to enter, to do his sacrifice.

Num 6:13 And this is the law of the Nazarite: when the days of his separation are fulfilled, bring him in to the door of the tabernacle of the congregation,

Num 6:18 And the Nazarite shall shave the head of his separation at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and shall take the hair of the head of his separation and shall put it on the fire which is under the sacrifice of the peace offering.

Clearly, this shows why most only had a Nazarite vow for a short period of time, except if it were someone like Sampson, or John the Baptist who was told to keep the vow for life, as the person could never enter Yahweh's sanctuary if he had long hair. Also, in the millennial sanctuary, the priests are commanded not to have long hair to serve, but to have their hair short and neat.

Eze 44:20 And they shall not shave their heads, and they shall not send forth long hair; trimming they shall trim their heads.

What does scripture say about a man wearing a Kippur or skull cap as the Jews do?

1Cor 11: 4 Everyman praying or prophesying, having anything down over his head, dishonors his head.

Clearly, scripture tells us that man was made in the image of Yahweh and it would be dishonoring Yahweh to wear anything on our head during our service. Also, the Jewish Kippur comes from the false god Hermes and is totally pagan from sun worship. It was instituted during the reign of the evil priest Jason who was a Hellenizer, and trying to please the Greeks by instituting the Greek pagan customs on the Jewish nation. Look at what the Historical book of Macabees says about the Jewish Kippur and its origin.

2 Maccabees 4th Chapter:

Verse 7) But after the death of Seleucus, when Antiochus called Epiphanes took the kingdom, Jason the brother of Onias worked deceitfully to be the high priest.

9) besides this, he promised to assign an hundred and fifty more talents of silver, if he might have permission to set up a gymnasium, and for training up the youth in the fashion of the heathen,

10) Which when the King had granted, and he had gotten into his hand the rule, he (Jason) continued in all things to bring his own nation to the Greek fashion.

11) And the royal privileges granted special favor to the Jews by means of John the father of Eupolemus, who went as an Ambassador to Rome for amity and aid, that was taken away, and he also put down the governments that were set up according to Torah, and he brought up new customs of the pagans that were against the Torah;

*12) for he gladly built a place of exercise (gymnasium) under the tower itself, and brought even the most noble young men under his subjection, and made them even wear the **Greek sun cap**.*

13) Now such was the height of the Greek fashion, and the increase of heathenish manners, through the exceeding profanes of Jason, that ungodly wretch, and no High priest.

14) that many priests had no courage to serve any more at the altar, but despising the temple, and neglecting the sacrifices, hastened to be partakers of the unlawful allowance in the gymnasium after the game of the Greek god Discus called them forth.

15) Not setting the honors of their fathers, but liking the glory of the Grecians best of all.

16) for what reason great calamity came upon them, and they were still their enemies and avengers, even though they followed their customs so diligently, and they desired to be like them in all things.

18) Now when the game that was used every fifth year was kept at Tyrus, the king being present, this ungracious Jason sent special messengers from Jerusalem who were Antiochians, to carry 300 drachmas of silver to sacrifice to Hercules.

Clearly, if we as men, are created in the image of Yahweh, then we should not cover our heads in the assembly, and most of all we should not wear a pagan kippur, which is fashioned after the sun. You can see many false gods wearing kippers in ancient Greek and Roman statues, as it is supposed to give a power for special knowledge, interesting enough even the pope wears this pagan symbol. The scripture is clear on this matter that women do not need a clothe wrap on their head, but their LONG HAIR is their covering and men don't need a pagan kipper, but should have short neat hair in the assembly to give honor to Yahweh in whose image we are created.

How Can You Build RIGHTEOUS CHARACTER



We understand and believe YAHWEH's purpose is to build holy, righteous character in human beings. But just what is character? Why is it such a primary objective in our lives as believers? Do you really know HOW to produce HOLY character?

Character could be simply defined like this: *"Character is that moral or spiritual force within us which impels one to unyielding integrity."*

We concede that a person has character when in the absence of external constraint or coercion, he or she inherently chooses the path of right, honesty, fairness, goodness and equity.

Character is not expressed by *"forced"* conformity to a prescribed standard of conduct. But character is expressed and strengthened when that conduct springs from free choice of the individual.

NOT BORN WITH CHARACTER

We are not born with that kind of character. We don't inherit character as we might inherit a strong body, or black hair, or blue eyes, or the height of our frame. We can't be given character. Character is a spiritual and moral force that develops within a person.

But character is difficult to measure. Two people may have character, but they will probably differ in strength of that character – the strength of which can only be expressed by the degree or amount of temptation, pressure or trial necessary to overpower that level of inner moral or spiritual force.

"A" has character. "B" has character. Subject the two of them to the same tests, trials, pressures and temptations. One may yield, the other may not. The one who doesn't yield has deeper character than the one who does.

When we are under extreme pressure, temptation and stress – and still choose the right course of action – then our character is deep. But when we compromise

under moderate conditions of stress and pressure, then our character is shallow.

PETERS EXAMPLE

Just before His crucifixion, YAHSHUA said to His disciples, ***"All of you shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I shall smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad"*** (Matt 26: 31)

But Peter – impetuous as he was – felt that he had the moral force within him to stay steadfast no matter what would occur. ***"Though all men shall be offended because of thee," answered Peter, "yet will I never be offended"*** (verse 33).

However, YAHSHUA well knew Peter's weakness and replied, "Verily I say unto thee, that this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice" (verse 34)> But again Peter responded: "Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee" (verse).

Later on, Peter did deny the Messiah. The moral, spiritual force within Peter was not strong enough to cause him to stay steadfast and loyal to the Messiah. That same evening, another of the maids saw Peter and said, ***"This fellow was also with YAHSHUA of Nazareth."*** And he denied Him again! He lied! He broke several commandments of YAHWEH that YAHSHUA had taught.

After a while still others came to him and said, "Surely you also are one of them; for your speech betrays you." Then Peter began to curse and swear, saying, ***"I don't know the man!"*** (verses 71:-75)

Again, Peter's character failed the test.

Then the cock crowed! Peter remembered YAHSHUA had told him he would do this very thing, and he wept bitterly. This trauma in Peter's life so moved him that he repented deeply, and the remembrance of the experience helped him to become a powerful leader in YAHWEH's congregation!

DANIEL'S THREE FRIENDS

Let's review another example, this time in the third chapter of Daniel.

Nebuchadnezzar made a huge image of gold and commanded everyone to fall down and worship it when the orchestra played. But Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused. They knew YAHWEH's command said not to bow down and worship idols. And so they were facing a test of their character!

Notice verse 14: ***“Nebuchadnezzar spoke and said unto them, it is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, do you not serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?”***

“Now listen, I'll be fair with you,” Nebuchadnezzar may have whispered. “Forget the past – what you have said. You just be ready at the time you hear the sound of the music. If you will fall down next time, and henceforth, and worship the image I have made, ok.”

“But if you worship not, you shall be cast the same hour (before an hour is gone) into the midst of a burning furnace; and who is that Elohim that shall deliver you out of my hands? (Verse 15)

It was a very clear cut choice. There would be no compromise, no way out. “Either you will bow down – or you die!”

“Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego answered and said to the king, Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our Elohim whom we serve is able to deliver us from the fiery furnace, and he shall deliver us out of thy hand, o king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.” Verses 16-18).

They wrote their own death warrant!

“Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury.....” You can well imagine – the great king had dignified the episode by calling a special meeting, bringing these men personally before him and saying, ***“I am going to play the music again, and this time YOU ARE GOING TO BOW DOWN, or you are going to die!”*** And these three men of YAHWEH stood right up to him and said they would never worship the golden image!

“...and the form of this visage was changed..” (verse19). You know the rest of the story. But what is the lesson?

A choice had to be made. And that spiritual and moral force that was within Shadrach, Meshach and

Abednego impelled and empowered them to choose the right, no matter what the cost!

What about your own character?

How much character do you really have? And most important of all – is it growing or is it in decline? Are you consistently making the right choices and following through?

Each of us in YAHWEH's congregation has our own level of character. None of us has been tested in the way Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were – but our character is being tested!

THE CHARACTER OF YAHWEH

Character is that one element in YAHWEH's kingdom which even YAHWEH cannot create at will by divine fiat.

YAHWEH can't just say, “Let there be character,” and suddenly there is character! It just doesn't come into being that way. Character cannot be made instantaneously, because it is a quality of choice – something that we have to develop gradually out of choosing the right and then doing it.

If YAHWEH had created us so that we would always do right, under every circumstance, *automatically* – because there was no other possibility for us – we could have no character. We would be programmed individuals – like mechanical robots. YAHWEH could create that kind of being by the millions, but we would never be sons of YAHWEH! For unless there is a choice to go one way or the other – there is no character involved.

If the Father, or the son, had no choice they would have no character either. But our Elohim is an Elohim of choice, free choice is love, force is a controlling spirit. And if they did not have free choice, they would not have their character so deep, so profound, so perfect, that Their eternal performance is absolute! The backup of all His laws is not “*automatic*” in the sense that He cannot under any circumstances cause things to happen otherwise. If that were true, Elohim would not be Elohim. But Elohim through their righteous character, will always do right because Yahweh and Yahshua do have perfect character.

YAHWEH has such righteous character that the choice is never a problem. YAHWEH chooses that He will never lie, for example – that is why YAHWEH will never lie. YAHWEH's law will

always go straight down the line, and you can depend on it – because of YAHWEH’s character!

It is important to realize that, brethren.

That kind of character is what we are to be developing as the begotten sons of YAHWEH – the kind of absolute right performance that comes from the within, which will always produce right, good, holy, proper conduct.

Such conduct is not automatic! But it can be developed through continued making of right choices, even under duress or stress of temptation.

RESULT OF WRONG CHOICE

But let’s notice an outstanding example of a wrong choice. Commencing in EZ 28: 12, we read: ***“Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, thus says Adonia YAHWEH, you seal up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden, the garden of YAHWEH, every precious stone was thy covering..... the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth, and I have set thee so thou wast upon the holy mountain of YAHWEH, thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.”***

This “anointed cherub” was Lucifer, an angelic being of the very highest order – who had the ability of choice. Now notice IS 14: 12-15: ***“How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thy heart, I will ascend to heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of YAHWEH: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the MOST HIGH. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.”*** Under the stress of temptation and lust, Lucifer chose to do evil. A high angelic being made the wrong choice – he chose to rebel.

WHY CHARACTER IS SO IMPORTANT

Satan is going to wander in the blackness of darkness, foaming out of his own shame (Jude 13) because he compromised his character. He disqualified himself from his position as one of the covering cherubim over the very throne of the creator of the universe! He was thrown out of heaven

and soon will be driven out of his office on earth because he did not choose self-restraint, to utilize character to obey YAHWEH’s law always!

YAHWEH is reproducing Himself. But He can’t make sons of YAHWEH without character. To become Yahweh’s children we must develop character that is like Yahweh’s. *Mat 5:48 Therefore, you be perfect even as your Father in Heaven is perfect.*

We need the character that Yahshua, the Son of Yahweh, exhibited while He was on the earth and who now sits at His right hand. Without character like that, the kingdom simply cannot be expanded.

Every single one of us has been called to be a king, a priest a ruler. Each of us makes choices in our homes, in our cars, on our jobs, or wherever we are every day. If we compromise with what we know is right, do you think it is important to the creator, YAHWEH?

Every person who becomes a born son in YAHWEH’s family is going to be given tremendous power! And that power must be backed up by the right kind of character – the kind of deep moral and spiritual force within that will impel those persons to choose the right, honest, pure thing always! We must be developing this character now, or we will simply not be given eternal life.

YAHSHUA HAS LED THE WAY

In Hebrews, the second chapter, YAHWEH gives a very clear look at where we are going and how we are to get there.

Verse 6 “But one in a certain place testified, saying, what is man, that you are mindful of him? Or the son of man, that you visit him? You made him a little lower than the angels, you crownest him with glory and honor, and did set him over the works of thy hands what work they are! The dominion of the heavens and the earth are endless in scope and size, beauty and majesty! Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him.

“But now we see not yet all things put under him. But we see YAHSHUA, who was made a little lower than the cherubs for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor, that the by the grace of YAHWEH should taste death for every man. For it came him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, and in bringing many sons to glory,

to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings” (Heb 2: 6-10).

And in Hebrews 4: 14-15, we read *“Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into heavens, YAHSHUA the son of Elohim, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, but was in all points tempted like we are, yet without sin.”*

YAHSHUA led the way. He is the first one to be born from the dead as a son of YAHWEH. He is the first to produce holy character! How did he do it? By making right choices – continually! By never compromising with sin in the slightest!

In Hebrews 5: 7, we find this remarkable statement about YAHSHUA: *“Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; though he were a son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered. And being made perfect he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him”* who develop character like He did.

YAHSHUA had to exercise character throughout his mortal life. He did not automatically become a born-again Son of Yahweh. He didn't automatically chose and do right. He stayed steadfast, and he learned character and obedience because He was put to the test!

TEMPTED SEVERELY

YAHSHUA was tempted and tried in the same manner we are – only much more so... In Math 4, we read how the devil “tempted” him in one particular instance. Satan told YAHSHUA to turn stones into bread, appealing to his hunger. But hungry and weak, YAHSHUA faithfully replied,

” Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes out of the mouth of YAHWEH verse 4. *Then the devil took YAHSHUA up on the high place of the temple and said, If you are the son of man cast yourself down, for it is written, He shall give his angels charge over you and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time, thou dash thy foot against a stone* Matt 4:6. *YAHSHUA said to him:” It is written again, you shall not tempt YAHWEH your Elohim* verse 7.

Finally the devil took him to a high mountain and showed Him the glory and majesty of all the kingdoms of the world, and said,’ All these things will I give to you, if you will fall down and worship me verse 9.

Satan could have also added, and you won't have to go through any trials or crucifixion, and you won't have to fight temptation, nor be rejected for your preaching. All those tempting thoughts he could have conjured up in Messiah's mind. But Yahshua said to him;

“Go behind me satan”: for it is written, you shall worship YAHWEH your Elohim, and Him only shall you serve” verse 10.

What beautiful character our Pioneer- the Captain of our salvation expressed, and set as an example for us to follow. *1Pe 2:21 For you were called to this, for even Christ suffered on our behalf, leaving behind an example for us, that you should follow His steps;*

That's the kind of character that you're going to have to want with all your being! Perhaps in this life you won't be able to reach the same level or standard of inexorable lack of compromise with YAHWEH's law that YAHSHUA did. But you must fervently, energetically, do the best you are able, and to your uttermost capabilities and talents strive to exercise that kind of character!

Unless there are trials, unless there are tests, unless there are choices there is no character building.

HOW TO DEVELOP CHARACTER

First, let's realize that YAHWEH has given His Holy Spirit to us. The Holy Spirit enables us to look through our eyes with holy vision – spiritual vision. For the first time our minds are open to really know what is right and what is wrong!

A spirit filled believer begins his spiritual life from baptism – and goes on to develop greater depths of spiritual understanding. As he grows, he comprehends more deeply and finitely what is right and what is wrong about his own life, and also what he personally must do about it. From the moment we receive YAHWEH's spirit, we are then responsible for whatever knowledge of right and wrong that it opens to our minds to see. From that point our righteous character begins.

YAHWEH tempts no Man Jam 1: 13, but often allows us to be tempted and uses those temptations to try us – to see just how much character we have built.. Each time we give into some temptation we tear down some character. But each time we give in to temptation head on and conquer it, we become a little stronger. We don't ever have to fail these tests – if we remain close to YAHWEH in prayer and bible study, continually drawing upon and activating His Spirit in us!

You simply choose the right, through the free will that He blesses us with, and exert all your own power to submit to His word and will, and YAHWEH will supernaturally strengthen you through the mighty power of his Holy Spirit, so you can resist any temptation and endure any trials that comes your way!

NEVER COMPROMISE

From the moment of your baptism, you are set upon a road along which you repeatedly have to make *decisions* – CHOICES – as to whether you will obey YAHWEH or disobey. The key to character building is to NEVER COMPROMISE with Yahweh's standards, with His law and with His will! You have the power at hand through the Holy Spirit to obey, so always do what Yahweh has shown through His word to be right. Let me repeat again, NEVER COMPROMISE; every compromise with the principles of YAHWEH'S law leads to **death** and causes **destruction** which equals **character assassination!** No matter how small you may think the compromise to be, if it is with Yahweh's standards, His laws and His will, there is nothing more deadly to your spiritual life. In James 1:17 we read ***“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, whom there is never the slightest variation or shadow of inconsistency.***

In other words, with Yahweh there is absolutely NO COMPROMISE! Yahweh is uncompromisingly consistent and never departs from His Laws or His standards. Therefore if you want to be in the family of Yahweh, never compromise, because compromise is accursed, an eroding and weakening and tearing down of character. Even the slightest compromise is a weakening of your character.

AREAS WHERE COMPROMISE BEGINS

Prayer is the pulse of spiritual life! It is the heartbeat of our spiritual growth and progress. How much do you compromise with prayer?

Do you have a heart rendering prayer with YAHWEH every day – never fainting – never giving up? The quality of our prayer and what we pray about are vital. How many of us are assassinating our character by not praying at all?

Lack of prayer – once allowed to commence – can spread on into the weeks and the month, until prayer is simply no longer a force in a person's life. As a result his character goes right down the drain.

Take another example of compromise. YAHSHUA said, ***“This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you (Jn 15: 12).*** We have heard those words many times. And yet all too often don't perform the loving service for our brethren that we have the power to do. Instead we sometimes say harsh things to them and about them, usually behind their backs – half truths, three quarter truths, even whole truths about things better left unsaid.

Brethren, gossip is like a wound going down into the most innermost parts of the belly. To stop it, all we have to do is shut our mouths and shut our ears!

FOLLOW YAHSHUA'S EXAMPLE

Yahshua Messiah qualified to become a Son of Yahweh because He didn't compromise with love. Yahshua fed multitudes, comforted the sick, healed the blind, set the lepers free, and even in the midst of a jostling hostile crowd; He healed a poor woman who touched the tassel of His garment. All these acts of love are an example of Holy righteous character. To have this kind of character we need to deny ourselves daily, all our selfish motives and wants and truly have a heart of love and compassion for our brethren and fellow man.

Brethren, choose to follow the example of love set out by our Pioneer and Captain of our salvation Yahshua. Don't compromise with opportunities to serve others and show love and compassion as Yahshua did. Remember, ***“to him who knows to do good and does it not, it is sin.”*** If we are building Holy Righteous character, then we will have eyes to see these opportunities daily, and will not be blinded by our own lusts and selfish ambitions. Yahweh gave you the power through His Spirit, so you can do it- ***if you choose to do so***, and refuse to compromise!

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS

Did Elijah and Enoch die or are they in heaven?

Answer- Both Enoch and Elijah were not taken to Yahweh's throne in Heaven but merely translated to another place. There are three heavens, the sky, the place of the stars, and the throne of YHWH, they were not taken to Yahweh's throne as no man has ascended to His throne in Heaven but Yahshua.

Joh 3:13 *And no one has gone up into Heaven, except He having come down out of Heaven, the Son of Man who is in Heaven*

Gen 5:23 *And all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty five years.*

Gen 5:24 *And Enoch walked with Elohim. Then he was not, for Elohim took him.*

This scripture never says that Enoch was taken to the third heaven to YHWH's throne, but only that he was translated or moved (*that is the meaning of this Hebrew word*) from one place to another. Why would Yahweh have moved Enoch as He did, the answer is in Jude 14-15.

Jud 1:14 *And "the seventh from Adam," Enoch, also prophesied to these men, saying, Behold, "the Almighty came with" myriads "of His saints,"*

Jud 1:15 *"to do judgment against all, and to rebuke all" the ungodly of them concerning all their ungodly works which they ungodly did, "and concerning all the hard things ungodly sinners spoke against Him.*

Enoch was a righteous man in a wicked generation and was boldly preaching of the judgment to come on that wicked generation. How long do you think those evil people would have stayed still and listened to Enoch before having a mob killing of him and desecrating his body, so instead of allowing this to happen Yahweh translated or moved him from one place on earth to another place on earth.

Also look in Hebrews 11 about Enoch and Elijah

Heb 11:5 *By faith "Enoch" was translated (taken from one place to another so as not to see death,(at that time for his righteous preaching) and "was not found, because Elohim translated him." For before his translation, he had obtained witness to have been pleasing to Elohim*

Heb 11:32 *And what more may I say? For the time will fail me telling about Gideon, Barak, and also Samson and Jephthah, and also David and Samuel, and the prophets, (certainly this would include the greatest prophet Elijah)*

Now look what it says about all these men including Enoch and Elijah

Heb 11:13 *These all died by way of faith, not having received the promises,*

They all died, including Enoch and Elijah, at the time they were merely translated (moved from one place to another to protect them) and later they died and are sleeping in the earth waiting the resurrection as the rest of the just are.

Also look at this scripture:

2Ch 21:12 *And a writing came to him from Elijah the prophet, saying, So says Yahweh, the Elohim of your father David, Because you have not walked in the ways of your father Jehoshaphat, and in the ways of Asa the king of Judah,*

This was several years after Elijah was translated, so clearly he was not in heaven, but hiding somewhere else on earth. Remember Jezebel was looking to kill him, and in His mercy Yahweh did not allow this but translated or moved him, as He did with Enoch to another place on earth. Remember scripture clearly states that the dead are asleep in the earth, waiting the resurrection, and only Yahshua is born again from the dead and is in heaven. Please read our bible study lesson 5 on the reward of the saved.

Feast of Sukkot (Tabernacles) 2008



It is truly one of the most exciting experiences that you will have in your life, to be blessed to spend a feast in Israel and take a Pilgrimage in the land. After reading the Holy Scriptures for so many years, to be able to see it all with your own eyes will be a life changing experience. We are trying to truly encourage representatives from countries all over the world to come and experience this rare blessing, and represent their given nation as **Zech 14:16** states. After spending the feast in Jerusalem you will never want to spend it anywhere else. As it states in

Eze 36:38 Like a holy flock, like the flock of Jerusalem in her appointed feasts, so the wasted cities shall be filled with flocks of men. And they shall know that I am Yahweh.

We are living in these times where Yahweh has brought Judah back to the land of Israel after 2500 years of Diaspora. Come and share what Yahweh is doing in His land, Israel, in these end times.

Before Sukkot you will arrive in the **Old City** and we will build our Sukkah before the opening night of the feast. Then, during Sukkot we will travel several days around the **Old City of Jerusalem** and you will get to see the **Mount of Olives**, **The City of David**, as well as **David's tomb** and the **room of the last supper**, and also the remains of the **House of Caiphas**, where there is still today, the remains of the scourging room where Yahshua would have been beaten, and also the holding cell where He would have spent His last night on earth, before His crucifixion.

After Sukkot we will get to see **Emmaus**, and then we will stop at the **Valley of Elah** where David fought Goliath, before stopping to see the remains of **Ashkelon**, one of the 5 cities of the Philistines. From there we will visit the port city of **Joppa** where the Apostle Peter met Cornelius at Simon the Tanner's house. From there we will stop at **Caesarea** on the Mediterranean Sea, and will end the day on **Mount Carmel** where Elijah fought the priests of Baal.

We will stay overnight at a hotel in **on the Sea of Galilee** and then in the next day travel up North to **The Mount of Beatitudes**, **Hazor**, **The Golan Heights**, **Tell Dan**, **Caesarea Philippi**, and finish the day on a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. We will stay overnight in **Galilee again** and then the last day of the tour you will get to see **Gideon's spring**, where he chose his army, **The Tel of Megiddo** where the last battle of mankind will be fought, The **Jezreel valley** where Ahab's Palace was, **Mount Tabor** where the transfiguration took place, We will then take you back to Galilee for the Sabbath and then early departure Sunday morning for the airport if you are not coming to the bible school.

This would include **14 days and 13 nights** during the feast and the tour, **Not including airfare but including** all touring costs during and after Sukkot with two meals daily. We have just opened our Third Feast complex, which is only about a ten minute walk from the main complex, and expect to have our largest crowd for a feast yet. The price of **\$1299 per person based on double room occupancy**. You can download all feast information and applications at www.coyhwh.com . Prices are rising as the dollar is dropping, so send in your application today to secure this price.