

## Preparing for a Role in Yahweh's Kingdom – Elder Orly – Sukkot 2024

Shalom and Chag Semeach!

This is a very memorable and it's a very salient in my life to be here with you again. Since, I think 2003, people... I was here, but not in this place. This is the first time that I am here in Palestine. And hearing all the messages we have since the first stop and this last stop to ours, the second stop, I found it very important to really share this important message to all of us and it's really very important for us to be preparing for our role in Yahweh's Kingdom.

There are three categories where we have to prepare for our lives as a believer. We have that expectation to be part of Yahweh's work.

### 1<sup>st</sup> is Spiritual preparation

Because you want to be on top of everything, especially in this end-times. So, we really need to have that kind of preparation, because preparation is really very important when we ... so much more important when we prepared that will bring great success. So I learned from Elder Don, **"Success is when preparation meets opportunity"**.

So, we are not yet kings and priests. We are walking on that road in His Kingdom. So, if we're not preparing now, we will not be able to do our role in the Kingdom. It's not ... because that is our destiny and destiny is not a matter of chance that you'll be there and you're not preparing and not even having that mindset. It's like, if the Kingdom is not in your mind or in your heart, you will not be there.

So, first, spiritual preparation you have four points here to prepare.

Study and meditate on Scripture. It's a very important one. It's not very ... but it can really help you very much for the Kingdom, if you are really adept and immerse yourself in the Word of Yah. Because sometimes we say that we believe the Word, but we are not really convicted of His Word. We memorise ***Psalms 23:1, YAHWEH is my shepherd; I shall not lack*** ... but when things get rough, we really don't trust Him. We have challenge for that circumstances.

So, regularly reading and reflecting on our Bible helps deepen your understanding of Yahweh's set things. As once for His people. If you don't read your Bible, it's clean, that means that you are dirty. If your Bible is clean, the owner is dirty. If the Bible is dirty, the owner is clean, because the Word is the one that washes us from anything, the filth in our life. Nobody can cleanse us, except the Word of Yahweh. So, ***1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 2:15*** [should be ***2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy***] it says that ...

***2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:15 Study to show yourself approved until Elohim, the workman unashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.***

So, we have to really do that, because our job is really great and huge. We have the tasks from zero, from the baptism, from the time you were baptised, that is our job. It's not just only the job of the elders. Everyone starts our tasks, to do those jobs in preparing for His Kingdom.

And also, it's kind of very important to also understand that not just only reading His Word but we have to really **immerse yourself in the Word of Yahweh. Always reassure yourself that His Word is trustworthy** and that you can really rely on, you can really trust on His Words. That's very important to understand.

And one thing we have to understand also, that we have to avoid other things than the Bible and except for, we have five books from Elder Don, *The Gates Of Hell Shall Not Prevail Against Her*, and all those books that we have, biblical books that we have. But avoid novels for the youth, avoid nonsense books and for the elders and the leaders, avoid the book of Enoch and all these kind of crazy books that has no author. And maybe the author is drunken monks living just around us and they change the narrative of the Bible. And it's really very dangerous.

I read that book before I met Elder Don, but when I met Elder Don, I really scales from scales of my life as an elder and I took off all of those things. And I rely on the Word, the Hebraic Roots Bible and I even don't use any more any Bible than the Hebraic Roots Bible. I don't use King James any more, all those I loved to use. I contain myself in this, because I believe that gives us a lot of success in our life as a believer. And it will help us to maintain our life a believer, and no swaying, no turning to the right, nor to the left, but going straight to His Kingdom.

The second one is Prayer and fasting. Prayer and fasting, very important things to prepare. This practice strengthens our relationship with Yahweh. We have just, like two months ago, we had that prayer and fasting. It really gives us a lot of spiritual energy to continue our work and to combat any kinds of difficulties, challenges in our lives, if you pray. Not just pray, but you fast. Prayer and fasting is so important, extremely important in our lives.

It might not be like once a week or twice a week, or something, even once a month maybe. It'll depend upon your pace of life that you have. Don't forget that you have that prayer and fasting. It helps our physiology even for our physical body. Fasting is really ... also have that meaning ... things that can also heal our infirmities through fasting.

Then also in prayer and fasting it is where we can help or we can ask help from Yahweh and His guidance in everything that we do. Because if we have some kind of big things to do, we really have to pray and fast for that. Don't just do it like you don't seek Yahweh's council.

The third one is obedience to Torah. Of course we know we are already aware that obedience to the Torah is very important because to obey, there is always a blessings there and to disobey are curses. So, our spiritual preparation includes this thing, obedience to the Torah. Following Yahweh's commandments and living according to His Truth is crucial. This includes observing Shabbat, no working on Shabbat; cooking, dish washing or whatever, sweeping the floor. Everything we do religiously, really that Yahweh can see us.

And also the Torah laws is not just for eating kosher food, but the way we cook, the way we buy it in the market, because there's a message from Elder Don, "*Common or Unclean*". If there's beef here and then pork, then you don't have to buy that beef, because it's already mixed with. So, that is common. So, even eating at restaurants is risky for us, we have to cook our own food as possible as we can. There are a lot of Biblical instructions also from the Scriptures that ask us to obey, because there's a righteous demand for Yahweh for us to be righteous.

Next one is spiritual discipline.

We need to have spiritual discipline in our lives. In days and practices like worship ... it's everything we have, praise and worship. And worship is not just only, singing and dancing or whatever, worship is like our lives. Part of worship is serving people, serving Yahweh and helping others is a form of worship too, as we can see that in *Jacob 4:1-7*.

So, fellowship with other believers also is important, we can see that in **Hebrews 12 [should be 10]:25**, not forsaken ourselves, with other believers. We can see that really is also very important. And then *Ephesians 6:4* ...

**Ephesians 6:4** *And fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but nurture them in the discipline and teaching of our Master.*

So, discipline is not just whipping our children, but it's kind of a deeper meaning that we can instil in our children, how we believe Yahweh. It's very important. It's like Yahweh is also disciplining us. But it doesn't mean that we are sinning through our good discipline. Because, if we see the word 'discipline', that comes from disciples ... the word disciple comes from that word. **Discipline is a kind of thing that you are doing** to really be successful in that kind of engagement, like boxing, whatever, singing, playing violin or playing instruments, you need to have discipline in order for you to succeed. Without discipline all the things we do will not be successful. It will just be in vain. So, it's important for that. And of course, as sons of Yahweh, we are also undergoing discipline. *Hebrews 12:6 to 11* [only to verse 9] ...

**Hebrews 12:6-9** *For whom YAHWEH loves, He chastens, and disciplines every son with whom He is pleased." If you endure discipline, YAHWEH is dealing with you as with sons; for who is the son whom a father does not discipline? But if you are without discipline, of which all have become sharers, then you are strangers, and not sons ... So, you see here in this verse that if we are not disciplined, we are not sons ... But if you are without discipline, of which all have become sharers, then you are strangers, and not sons. Furthermore, indeed we have had fathers of our flesh as correctors, and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits, and we shall live?*

Yesterday we heard the story of Fadi about the prison here. They don't call it prison and the prisoners are not called prisoners, but guests. And it's not punishment, but rectification or correction, like that? So, it's like the way the Bible say, we don't call them prisoners, but guests. And we've been criminals, but it's correctional and not prison, but only we call it correctional. So, here, we are not punished, but we are disciplined. But we really need to have discipline. 'Madiwha',

we have to engage or endorse ourselves with discipline. That's very important if we can see that from the fruit of the Spirit, the last one, the self-control, it's discipline. Without that we can't accept anything in this life. And too much more purpose to be in the Kingdom. Just very far away if we don't have that discipline.

And then let's go on to the practical preparation. One of the things we need to do in practical preparation is community building. Community building is very important. We started with Elder Don in 2015, he say that, or rather, "Are you ready for the community?" I say, "Yes," two hands up. And if I want to raise my feet too. We already have that community." And Sapi and Eleanor was there last December and Elder were there and sister Moriyah.

It's very important to think about that, because we can't live alone. **We can't serve Yahweh alone**. No one is. No one is an island. And we cannot just say it's between me and Yahweh alone. And you can't just say, "I don't need anybody. I don't need an elder." We need those things. Because **sheep need a shepherd**. But goats, they don't need a shepherd. Now, if you don't need anybody surrounding you with the same faith, or an elder near to you, to sustain your spirits, spiritual needs, you're not a sheep, you're a goat, right? Because the sheep needs ... sheep can't survive without a shepherd.

It's very important if you are a believer you should have an elder to you, to help you, to guide you. You cannot be independent, when in terms of spirituality, because **the elders are there as a keeper of your souls**. Don't forget your leaders, because they are there. Yahweh put them there to be your guide.

So it's very important to seek and even live with like-minded believers. So this is a blessing for us to have this community system we have. And it's around 30 communities in the world. So, very important and timely to have that kind of situations; from home fellowship, the congregational fellowship and then to community fellowship and then the Kingdom.

So, we always believe that **communities are next to the Kingdom**. This is where you can really be accounted for and your action and everything you say and everything you do will be much more checked and balanced. So, we don't really know that we are on the right track if we are considering ourselves to be in the community because there are the updates first to do, not to hear.

*Acts 2:44-47*, says it's this day. We want to go there. *Acts 2*, it's very amazing place also known about these believers in the first century. They are the first believers that are modelling for us. They start from 44.

**Acts 2:44-47** *And all the believers were echad and had all things in common. And they sold possessions and goods and distributed them to all, according as anyone had need. And continuing steadfastly with one mind day by day in the sanctuary, and breaking bread from house to house, they shared food in gladness and simplicity of heart, they were praising YAHWEH while finding favor before all the people. And every day our Master would add to those who lived among the congregation.*

So there's joy. Being part of the community gives us a lot of joy in our hearts. Of course when you are alone and you worship Yahweh alone, having your guitar or singing, you're just alone. Sometimes we are tempted to be alone and to be lonely. Alone-lonely. "Oh how I wish to be with the brethren. I wish the feast will not end." That's why I feel before. I wish the feast to just be added some more weeks.

Just as Elder Don says a while ago, we are really a creature where we have that kind of attitude to be with the people, to be with Yahweh. So nobody wants to hide and to be just alone. And I remember Elder Don's preaching on somebody who keeps Shabbat, with potato chips with his ... alone in the dark. Yeah, alone. Yeah, in the basement with his undies. Is that the kind of delivery you want to be or you really want to plan, to prepare yourself, to be in a community. It really helps us a lot to be in the community, to live in a community. That's why it's very important, the preparation, to build community.

Then number two, skills development. We need some skills. We have gifts of the Spirit to be nurtured, anything Yahweh can give us to be skilful, because Yahweh does not want us to be slothful, He wants us to be skilful. Because He wants us to be successful in life and even unleash the greater potential of us from Yahweh.

So having those skills. I know elder Don has that skill of the administration. And before he became a believer, he has that skill in the stock market. So, we do have a lot of skills before we become believers, we have those skills. And what **Yahshua wants you to do is to better use those skills**. Don't hide them, don't bury them because of fear, because of ... you might be ashamed, nobody will recognize you knowing those things.

But here in our congregation we don't need to be recognized to those things. We need no confirmation to do things. We do it because we know it. We know that it is very useful. Don't just do things to be recognized. Don't just do and perform your talents and your skills to be recognized. Because you just burn out. Do it for the glory of Yahweh and nobody cares what you do. Because most of the time people just care what you are not doing, or your failure. But nobody cares for your success and your good deeds. This is only up to Yahweh.

So, for us as believers we don't have to be skinny, like onion skins ... to be sensitive. We should be sensible. That's the best attitude we should have as a believer. Not sensitive but sensible. We should understand other people's feelings. But not just being up for other people to understand you. It's part of our habits. Seven habits of 144,000, first to **understand before being understood**.

Another one here is simplicity and minimalism. And otherwise in skills you need to know how gardening works. And even taking first aid and basic survival skills. Like, if Yahweh really bring us here for real, that will not be in this area but outside, like Bedouins. We need a lot of skills to survive, you know. I know that, even how to really make us comfortable or if not, survive on the wilderness.

The other one simplicity and minimalism. Simplify your lifestyle by reducing independence on material things. Simplification is really very important. As Paul says in *1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 6:6-9*. [only to verse 8]

**1st Timothy 6:6-8** *But our gain is greater contentment, for it is the worship of Elohim ... So, being content is also worship to Elohim ... For we have brought nothing into the world ... That's right. We came to this world naked ... and it is plain that neither can we carry anything out. But having food and clothing, let us be satisfied with these.*

In Abraham Maslow's 'Hierarchy of Needs', he needs shelter, right? But Paul only mentions foods and clothing. So, a house is not even a necessity to be content, right? Basically you can just make a ... many Americans now are having the car, van or something ... where they go they have their house with them and even tents. And even renting some cheaper place to really make yourself mightily be used by Yahweh in His ministry.

I heard elder Don says that if you have a \$3,000 house, you can sell them and put it in the bank. And then you can, the profit of it can sustain you and even use it for your ministry. There's some rich man in America that I heard of that they never had his own properties. All he did was renting, because he didn't want to pay taxes. Because if you own a property you have to pay that real property tax. But I think it's ... I forget the person ... it's very rich man, famous in America. I think I heard his story about that, he does not own anything but he's rich.

So, simplifying our lives or like make your needs, I forget that word ... make your need a necessity, something like that? I hear that from you. **Just the needs, not those wants** that we are tempted to have in this world. So, to **minimize our expenses and lives will help us a lot**.

And then we have physical health. It's very important. You come to the feast and you're not healthy, you lose a much of your presence, because there is a quarantine. You have to be quarantined if you are sick. We were here in 2013. We don't really enjoy much of the fellowship, because we were both in the room because I think we were sick. So it's really very important to maintain our health. You know, not abuse our health. I heard some stories that in order for us to achieve and to have good health, work 8 hours a day, sleep 8 hours a day and then spend with Yahweh the rest of the hours and with your family. And that's, I think, it's not complicated. Sleep well and have your health well. And mostly sickness and infirmities still come really, have sleepless nights and because of worries and stress and anxiety.

Then, another thing here that we know, that physical health is very important also, not much important. I mean, I think so, it's really important, but Paul has something to say about this. And just the same verse here, oh no, Matthew 4:8, *1<sup>st</sup> Timothy*, not Matthew, *1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 4:8*, same chapter here, same book. *1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 4:8* ...

**1st Timothy 4:8** *For bodily exercise is profitable to a little ... see that, so there's profit when there is bodily exercise. It's not just nothing ... but righteousness is profitable to all things, having promise of the present life now, and of that coming.*

So, it's not bad to have that bodily exercise, jogging, brisk walking, like this afternoon. We will do some brisk walking, I was thinking of that coming also, but I need to come. You know, brisk walking is life, walking is life. So, if you live in the community, there's a lot of walking too. So, it adds many life, it expands your life span. Okay, so important.

Then another thing is financial stewardship. **Manage your finances wisely, avoiding debt and saving for future needs.** People will tell me sometimes that they can't afford to tithe, because they don't have money. I have a little saying that is the opposite. You can't afford not to tithe. Because tithe is everything. It's quite award of financial management. Before anything else, you tithe so that you don't have to say that, "Oh, I'm sure I cannot tithe because it's all expensive. All my money was gone. Gone to expenses." But **before you spend your money, give first for Yahweh**. Put Yahweh first, even in your financial system.

So, financial stewardship, it's very important. And if you do this, like we'll read ... we're still in the same book here. 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy chapter 6:10-12. You should not love our money, right? Use them for Yahweh's glory and honor, for His purpose.

**1st Timothy 6:10-12** *For the love of money is the root of all evils, by means of which some having lusted after it were seduced from the faith, and they themselves pierced through by many pains ... So, don't love money. Love people. Don't use people. Use money. That's a good idea, right? A good saying to remember. Love people, not money. Use money, not people ... But you, O man of Elohim, flee these things and pursue righteousness, holiness, faith, love, patience, and meekness. Fight the good fight of faith. Lay hold on eternal life ... Not on these material things here. It will have helped us focus on eternal life ... to which you were also called and confessed the good confession before many witnesses.*

And now let's go to the third part, mental and emotional preparation.

Have you heard about resiliency? The resiliency or whatnot? People in the Philippines are called resilient, because when they stay home, they'll just smile when the camera is focused on them. Even if they lost their house, they lost their loved ones. That's the resiliency. We need to be trained. We need to have training like that. Resiliency is very important for us to succeed, to be on top of everything, because when time comes that we are challenged, we are tried, we are undergoing a fierce persecution. We all will know how to deal with those things.

Like, if part of the life always ... that when Elder Don told us in the school that somebody will put a gun in your head and then tell you, renounce Yahshua and or else I will kill you. And he said that, go ahead, you're helping me get to the Kingdom. Let's take it. It really empowers me. And the one thing that we learned during those lessons, I don't know if you still remember that, that a pastor asked by a communist to kill all his members. And he did it and afterwards he was also killed.

So those things really is very important to really be in our minds. Train our mind. Mental training is very important. It's really nowadays in the fifth generation of war, it's a psychosocial war. Where everything is done in the minds. So, we literally train our minds, our mentality, to adapt. To be adaptable in every kind of situations we are in.

Developmental emotional resilience to handle stress, uncertainty and adversity. Whether we like it or not, every day of our lives, we always have that kind of thing; adversity, uncertainty. So we have to practice mindfulness. We have to **be always mindful, always aware in every moment in our lives** so that Satan cannot really catch us unaware.

Meditation is also very important for resiliency training. Counselling can be very beneficial. If you need something to understand and if you are confused, don't do it yourself. Don't DIY. Seek an elder, look for an elder to advise you. Or even somebody that you trust, don't do it yourself that you want to solve your problem. No, you need somebody to help you. That's why counselling is very much important.

That's why in our kibbutz we have that counselling office for somebody who needs counselling that they will be helped. Because we don't want somebody to live in our community without helping them, solving their problems. And even listening to them is enough. Many people will come talk to me and just having me to listen to them. You don't even want any suggestions, any advice or something? Just listening is enough. For me, if I probably would just tell them the problem, if they say, okay, I will prefer you, that's enough. The problem is solved. You know, it will not linger. It's like glass.

This is not a glass. But if you hold this, this is just almost empty, right? But if I hold this long, my arm will ache. I hold this long and then put yourself in pain. Put it down. So the problems, anything can be resolved by seeking advice and even seeking somebody to listen to.

I remember a little girl told us that there's a certain therapist that don't give advice. He has a lot of calls because people just want him to listen to them, not to do ... pushing them to do something like that. It also applies to us. You need somebody to talk to. So the elders are willing to listen to your cries, listen to your worries and listen to your problems. And even if Yahweh allows us to help you, we can really help you. Yes, that's the job of an elder.

Then we should have purpose and vision. I also remember that Elder Don tell us that if we want to be successful in life, we should have an SPS. SPS is a specific purpose statement. If you want something done, write it down, check it out. If you're really doing what you want, so you have to be a good father, a good teacher, a good husband, every sort of thing, you need to have an SPS. But the successful people are the ones who jot down things to do and check it out. So, you can really have that in mind.

And then, clearly define your purpose and vision for serving Yahweh's Kingdom. Or if you are serving Yahweh in a bad purpose, in a bad heart, let it go in the heart. It will go really ... you burn out and go missing, you will be drowned. Yes, you will die in the wilderness. You can't get to the Promised Land if that is how we do the things.

Then we have to volunteer and serve. We know the volunteer is very important also. Especially if you are in the community. You need the volunteer, so serve and to make yourself available when you are needed. And we have that every first day of the week, that we have a community service. So everybody has to make themselves available for the work.

Another thing is evangelism and discipleship. It's very important also to know that we have to share our faith with others, not just hiding in the wilderness. If you understand, the people who live in the wilderness are the ones active in preaching, like John the Baptist. He does not live in the city, he live in the wilderness, but he comes to the city to preach.

And the Waldenses, those, our forefathers, they were living in the wilderness, but they come to the people to preach to them. And for us in the kibbutz, we don't want to be comfortable in the kibbutz, not doing the work of Yahweh. Sharing the Word of the Truth, sharing the goodness of Yahweh to others and getting them to be in relationship with Yahweh is really very important. And it's a fulfilment of the great commission that we have to very much put forth for the Kingdom.

So by integrating this spiritual, practical, mental, and emotional preparation into our lives, we can be best equipped for our role in the Kingdom of Yahweh.

Chag Sameach, shalom!