

Transcript – Spiritual and Emotional Maturity

Alrighty. Shabbat Shalom. And I am going to start in Joel 2, in verse 28. In the times we're living in, we know the book of Joel, just three little chapters, but all end time chapters; and although a lot of horrific things happening, also a lot of encouraging things happening here. And this says:

Joel 2:28-29 *And it shall be afterwards, I will pour My Spirit on all flesh. And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. And I will pour out My Spirit on the slaves and on the slave-girls in those days.*

And I know every Shavuot we get together, we talk about this. We talk about the giving of the Holy Spirit on the day of Shavuot. We talk about the Holy Spirit being poured out again in the end times, to some degree. But, what I want to talk about today is, I want to talk about spiritual maturity; because until we get spiritual maturity in the body of Messiah we're not going to see this happen. Now it is going to happen, it's prophesied, one way or another.

But, logically if you think about it, if Yahweh was to pour out His Spirit today and we were not mature enough to accept it, what would happen? What would happen with it? It's the same reason why we say why there has to be judicial order to baptism. If anybody could just lay hands on...and not just to baptize someone, not just to have them join a church or an organization...but literally if anybody had the ability to just lay hands on somebody and all of a sudden you can transfer the Spirit of Yahweh to people who never repented, people who weren't qualified, think of the chaos that would be going on in the world that would happen.

So, Yahweh has to have judicial order. And the same thing here. If Yahweh just poured out His Spirit and we had the ability to raise the dead, heal the sick, without the maturity enough to know how to use these gifts, what would happen?

And I've said this before, but most people grow physically; not everybody, there are people, very rare people in the world, but there are some who do not grow. Two thirds of people grow mentally. I know some of the ones here, you have been working the last couple of years with mentally challenged people. And like we say, in some sense, after you are with them for a while you realize maybe they are more normal than we are because of the love and caring that they have.

But, **very few people grow emotionally and spiritually.** And that's why, even when you look at things like Christmas and Easter and a lot of the paganism that all of us have come out of; well, I think one of the reasons why a lot of people don't come out of it, it's not even just for the fact of the belief of it. That's really simple. Open an encyclopedia, you see Yahshua was not born on December 25th. It's very easy to disprove it.

But what it is, is people remember. You know, little Johnny remembers when he was five years old. He remembers Santa Claus coming and giving him candy canes and all this stuff, and he wants to do it to his children. He doesn't want to 'deprive' them of getting all this silly stuff.

I remember one time years back we had been with my parents, and we had went to some kind of show; I think it was with horses, where they were doing horses, and what not. And all of a sudden we saw this man that was not sitting too far from us, and he had his child with him, who must have been ten years old. And the man was dressed just like the child, and they both had the same little hat with the little pig ears on it, and he's screaming like the little child. And you realize most people are just big children. That's what happens.

And what happens when a child is small, and he's not properly child reared? When he doesn't get something, what does he do? He stamps his feet and he falls on the ground, "I want this!" It's the same; if people do not emotionally mature and spiritually mature, when they get older, they are going to do the same thing.

So I want to talk about that today. I want to talk about spiritual and emotional maturity to the body of Messiah because we have been talking a lot, the last month and a half, about surrendering to Yahweh, having His Spirit poured out, and really how to have real change, and getting every thought into captivity. But if we don't get our spiritual and emotional maturity together, it will be very hard to ever get into the spiritual realm.

I want to go to Luke 21 and verse 19...Luke 21 and verse 19 says:

Luke 21:19 *By your patience you will gain your souls.*

Or, *by your patience possess ye your souls. By your patience you will gain your souls.* So, we know that one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit is patience. We know that patience is a major one; because without patience **so** many other things will happen. And we know in life, **I would say at least 80 to 90 percent of the time, when you make a mistake, you made it because you didn't have patience;** that if you would have simply had the patience to wait and allow things to unfold, to get information.

It's one of the things, if you remember when we were in the Bible school, when I talked about proper judgment. One of the first things with proper judgment is getting all the information, not assuming. You have probably heard of the old expression, what happens when you assume. I won't go into the rest of it, but I think everybody knows what happens when we assume things. And that's why with patience we possess our souls; because **patience gives us the time to get the proper information.**

We also talked about **perception and procedure.** And we have to ask ourselves, what is our perception? Does it need to be changed? Meaningfully, how are we looking at a given situation? What is our perception? And, every one of us has a perception. When we see something; when all of a sudden there's a knock on that door and the door opens up and there's a policeman there, all in his uniform with his hat on, maybe a gun in his hand, you're going to think something. Your mind will not be blank.

Sitting there, you could think, "Ooh, he's coming to arrest us", or you could think he's coming to collect money for the Policeman's Ball, or you could think he's coming to bring us candy, or you could think of a hundred other things. But, you'll think something. You won't just sit there, with a blank look on your face, not thinking anything. And that comes from our perception; and our perception in life is by our life experiences.

So that's why I say we have to go from those little children, with the little pig ears, "Yeah, yeah, yeah!" to becoming big children. We don't want to have little pig ears and screaming, "Yeah, yeah, yeah!" We want to mature; we want to grow up. And unfortunately, like I said, to the world most people will not. They will not spiritually and emotionally mature. But we need to be looking at our perception, how are we perceiving things?

And that's why many, many years ago when I was first becoming a believer, one of the things I did, I took flashcards and I tried to memorize the whole book of Proverbs. Because, Proverbs is the art of skillful living. And if you can memorize the whole book of Proverbs, you know what's going to happen? Every time a situation comes, someone comes and attacks you, what will happen? Instead of attacking back, and letting your emotion come out, you are going to have a scripture come in your mind. And it's going to tell you how to react to that.

When somebody hurts our feelings, when someone does this, when someone does that, we will not be going on simply emotion. We will be going on the Spirit of Yahweh. And that's basically what spiritual maturity is. It's being led by the Spirit of Yahweh; and you need patience for that. Because, what have we been saying the last month? **We have to surrender our will to the Holy Spirit; but, without patience you're not going to do it.**

By your patience, possess your souls. Because, without patience the human part will come out first. And then what's going to happen? Our whole life is spent saying, "I'm sorry, I didn't mean it. I apologize for this". And that's great to do that when we're wrong; but, if we are apologizing more than we are actually bearing fruit, then there is also a problem with that.

So, **we want to make sure that we are in control of our spirit.** Because, if you are not in control of your spirit, you are no better off than a possessed person...If you're not in control of your spirit, you are no better off than a possessed person, and you'll never exhibit the fruits of Yahweh's Spirit in Galatians 5. Patience is simply controlling your emotions and your spirit. So, like I said, when somebody is possessed, by definition, it means they are doing something that they are not controlling themselves; a spirit that's not of Yahweh.

And again, maybe by the society we live in or maybe movies that you saw years ago, when somebody thinks of someone being possessed, you think of them falling on the floor and looking real distorted, and that could happen. I've seen people like that; I've cast demons out of people like that. But, what I'm talking about today is not all out possession, demon possession, but being influenced by demons.

And again, because if you go to Galatians and you see the spirit of Satan is...a matter of fact, let's go there. Galatians 5, verse 19.

Galatians 5:19-21 *The spirit of Satan is revealed: adultery, impurity, uncleanness, lustfulness, idolatry, witchcraft, enmity...which is hatred...fighting, jealousies, anger, rivalries, stubbornness, division, heresies, envies...here twice...murders...which, if you get angry at your brother, you murdered him...drunkenness, revelry, and things like these; which I told you before, as I said before, the ones practicing such things will not inherit the kingdom of YAHWEH.*

So, if you are uncontrolled with anger, or you're uncontrolled with jealousy, or you're uncontrolled with lust in any way or form, then what's happening is you are being controlled at that time; maybe not fully possessed, but you're being controlled by a demon. Because the Spirit of Yahweh is what?

Galatians 5:22b-23 *...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control...Self-control. Patience, self-control. Very connected to each other; a little bit different, but connected to each other...Against such things there is no instruction.*

So I could talk to you a thousand times; **I will never talk to you with instruction against the nine fruits of the Spirit. There is no instruction against these things!** There's nothing that will instruct you not to do them, but except to be filled with them. But if we are showing these other tendencies of, like I said, hatred, fighting, jealousies, anger, rivalries, stubbornness, divisions, heresies, then that means whenever that happens we are being influenced by a demon.

And now, like we said, granted you realize it, "Ooh, I got angry. I lost my temper. I apologize. I'm sorry for that. I repent." And that's it. But, if you continuously; if you're doing it day after day, or week after week, or months after months, you know what happens? The more you give over to it, sooner or later, now it can become full possession. Because, you are what you eat; and in spiritual ways the same thing, you are what you do; you are what you possess.

And if you're possessing the spirit of an angry person, if you're always angry, then you're an angry person. If you're always lusting, "Ooh! You know I got nine coats, but I love that coat!" you are a lustful person. If you're continuously jealous of somebody else, then you're a jealous person. What you exhibit is what you are. And that's why we need to have the self-control and the spiritual maturity to overcome.

Let me go over a few Proverbs here.

Proverbs 14:29...says...*One slow to anger is of great understanding, but he who is short of spirit exalts folly.*

Proverbs 25:28 *A man to whom there is no control in his spirit is like a broken down city without a wall.*

And the walls are the things that protect the city; **the same thing as your self-control is the thing that protects the Holy Spirit in you.** And I don't know about you, but I know myself, I could be around a lot of people, there's people sometimes with handicapped people that they're uncomfortable around them only because they have never been around somebody like that before. And that's normal. When something is not normal to your nervous system, you don't know how to react to it. But then they're around and you see, "Wow! These people, no, they are loving, caring people".

But I know with myself, I am very uncomfortable about people that don't have control of their spirit; of people that, you might say the wrong thing, you don't know how they're going to react; or all of a sudden, whatever you're saying, they're blowing up, they're screaming, they're yelling, they're angry; because it's a demon. It's a demon there. And when somebody is consistently you don't know how to react to them, or they're consistently misjudging your words. Perception.

We talked about perception, right? You open the door for a woman. What is the perception? It could be, "Oh, thank you for doing that!" or it could be "What do you think, I can't open a door for myself?! You male chauvinist!" It's just perception. So our perception is going to be how we are going to react to situations. But if our perception is always, "Oh, you know what. He's mad at me", "He looked at me this way", "She looked at me this way" "Do you think this one's mad at me?" "Do you think they're not mad at me?" If you are always having a perception that's coming, not from the fruits of the Spirit but is coming of the world, then you're going to become that. That's literally what you are, and you become.

And remember, in the end of the day, the flesh that we have it's going to die or it's going to wither away when Yahshua returns, and the only thing left is the Spirit. So we don't want to be left with envies, and fightings, and

jealousies because that is going to burn up. We want to be left with love, joy, peace, patience, longsuffering. Because these are the things when we shed these bodies, that's the only thing; it's not visible, but the only thing that will be left. And then Yahweh will give us a glorified body at His return.

Proverbs 16:32 *One slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.*

You know when I was younger, I used to, as a young man I was a lot into sports. I did weight lifting. And I used to think that physical strength was the thing that is going to make your life worthwhile. Because, again, you grow up and there's always bullies, and you don't want to get bullied around. So you want to become big enough that no one is going to bully you. I was never a bully, but I always stood up against the bullies. I hated that! Because if I'm going to prove I'm strong, let me go to someone twice my size, not somebody half my size. That doesn't prove anything. But, as I got older I realized it's the weakest people in the world who have to do it that way.

It's the mind! It's the ones that can come and can reason together, and can come to solutions to problems! Those are the real powerhouses of the world. Education is knowledge. Right education. But not by power. We see that today. We see a whole Middle East being transformed over the last decade. And what do they say? You can't bring democracy on the end of a gun. You can try, but it hasn't worked. It doesn't work.

So physical power and screaming and yelling and banging on people, that's not going to change them at the end of the day. It's going to be showing them love, showing them joy, showing them the end result of what Yahweh's way of life leads. *One slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.*

Proverbs 19:11 *A man's discretion makes his anger slow, and his glory is to pass over a transgression.*

"How dare he did that to me!" "How dare he said this to me!" "How dare he looked at me that way!" That was the big thing in America when I was growing up. "Hey! Who are you looking at?" "Why are you looking at me that way?" People want to always see who's looking at them, and be tough with this, but that's ridiculous. *A man's discretion makes his anger slow, and his glory is to pass over a transgression.*

The greatest thing in the world is when somebody transgresses, it's not to bring it to light, it's not to talk to others, it's not to gossip, but it's to cover over the transgression. It's to go to your brother or your sister and restore them in love, and cover it over and make them a better person by it.

Ecclesiastes 7:9 *Do not be hasty in your spirit to be angry; for sorrow rests in the bosom of fools.*

Now, there is a righteous indignation; Yahshua had it. When we see injustices going on in the world, there should be righteous indignation, as you see children being killed, whether it's in Syria or anywhere else in the world; but at the same rate, like it says here, *do not be hasty in your spirit to be angry*. So righteous indignation is still a controlled spirit, it's not uncontrolled anger.

Sometimes people will go to Yahshua when He turned over the moneychangers, but I'm sure that He was still in control of His Spirit at that time. He wasn't like some wild guy, just running amok. He was in control of His Spirit, He was not *hasty to be angry; for sorrow rests in the bosoms of fools*. Anger is demonic, uncontrolled and foolish. That's basically what we're reading here. Anger is demonic, uncontrollable and foolish.

Jacob 1:19-22 *Therefore, my beloved brothers, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath. For the wrath of man does not work out the righteousness of YAHWEH. Wherefore, remove far from you all impurity, and the abundance of wickedness; and, with meekness, receive the word that is implanted in our nature, being able to save your souls. But become doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourself.*

Therefore, my brothers, be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath. The way to solve problems is by asking questions. When I sit down and I'm counseling somebody, the first thing I'm doing is I'm asking questions. I want to get answers. You want to have information to be able to make proper judgment; not the first thing coming out, and judging somebody, attacking somebody. He who can control his spirit will listen before getting angry.

Acts 24, and verse 25. I love this scripture because, here it is, Paul is in prison, he's preaching before the king. I mean, here it is, it's his shot, Yahshua said that he's going to have this opportunity; he's waited his whole life, now he gets there, and look what he's preaching about:

Acts 24:25 *And Paul having reasoned concerning **righteousness, self-control, and the Judgment that is about to be, being afraid, Felix answered, For the present, go; but taking time, I will call for you;***

So, here it is, he's before Felix, and what is he talking about? Righteousness, Psalm 119:172 *all Thy Commandments are righteousness*, self-control, and the Judgment that is about to come. So again, as the people of Yahweh with His Spirit - remember there's two spirits living in us - **if we don't have self-control then you're never going to be able to control that the Spirit of Yahweh overtakes that spirit of the world.**

We talked about this in the last sermon, in Romans 7, I'm not going to go there today, but Romans 7 clearly shows there's a spirit of man that's in us, there's a Spirit of Yahweh; and, unless we put to death the deeds of the flesh to let the Spirit live, we will die. But if, by the Spirit of Yahweh, we kill that human nature that is in us, then we will live. It's a very, very clear choice that we have.

Titus 2:1-2 *But you speak things which become sound doctrine: teach the older men to be temperate, sensible, pure, sound in faith, in love, in patience;*

Balanced weights are the delight of Yahweh. We need to be temperate in things and we need to be patient, not making rash judgments. And, like I said, most of it is from wrong perception. Wrong perception. We're talking about surrendering to the Holy Spirit. You have to allow it to speak before you can surrender to it. And, if you're immediately reacting, if you're a person that is always in reactionary form; something's happened, boom, quick, reacting...reacting...reacting, you're not giving the Holy Spirit time to talk to you.

Do we go to our prayer closet? Do we pray to Yahweh? Do we ask Him first for the answers before we are making decisions?

Romans 6:16 *Do you not know that whom you present yourselves as slaves for obedience, you are slaves to whom you obey, whether of sin to death, or obedience to righteousness...*

We talked about this before. There is no such thing as freedom; it's a lie of the devil. None of us are eternal; none of us created ourself; none of us have life inherent. Everybody has only life that comes as a gift from Yahweh. So what He has given us is free choice. He's given us a will that He allows us to make those choices, who we will obey. But you have to obey somebody.

And that's the danger of Babylon, the danger of western society, the danger of people wanting to create their own little kingdoms; that they think that they're free and they need nobody else, and yet like I said, all we have is freedom to choose who will we obey. And if we're obeying the spirit of the flesh, then we become ministers of Satan; if we're obeying the fruits of the Spirit, then we become ministers of Yahweh...

Romans 6:17-23 *But thanks be to YAHWEH that you were slaves of sin, but you obeyed from the heart the form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you were enslaved to righteousness. I speak as a man on account of the weakness of your flesh. For as you yielded your members as slaves to uncleanness and to iniquity, so now yield your members as slaves to righteousness unto sanctification...Talked about this, remember at Pesach, about sanctification; setting ourself apart from the world... For when you were slaves of sin, you were free as to righteousness. Therefore what fruit did you have in the things which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin, and having been enslaved to Elohim, you have your fruit unto sanctification, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of YAHWEH is everlasting life in Yahshua, Messiah our Master.*

And like I said, never forget Satan is a roaring lion, looking around who he can get. We know our weakness deep down, each of us; and so does he. So, why give him an in toward it?! I always joke, my parents had this cat, and it was...nice cat, indoor cat; they never let the cat outside. But sometimes the door would open, and the cat would get out there, and he would hide underneath the deck, and we couldn't get him.

And every time, all you had to do was come out with a little rope, and swing the rope; and he'd always come to get the rope and then you'd grab him. And you would think after doing this about 50 times, the cat would catch

on, "Uh, oh! They're not having this rope to play with me. They only have that rope to catch me!" But the cat didn't catch on. He never caught on.

We are the same way! Don't we understand, every single time we're exhibiting, like I said, something that's not of self-control, whether it's anger or false perception or jealousy or whatever, it's like Satan is doing the same thing that I did with that cat. He's dangling this in front of us, and we're falling for it! Again. And here it is, 6,000 years of him doing this from the Garden of Eden, he hasn't changed. He hasn't changed his operation. It's the same way. So, that's why we have to surrender ourselves to the Spirit of Yahweh, and then he becomes useless. Then these little tricks, these little ploys that he does, they're not workable.

But we have been set free from sin, and having been enslaved to Elohim, you have your fruit unto sanctification, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of YAHWEH is everlasting life in Yahshua, Messiah our Master. You are the servant of what you obey. Must be mature enough to change from false doctrines and past way of life. That's where we have to get the maturity of that. We have to be mature enough, because we are the servant of what we obey.

2 Timothy 1:7 *For YAHWEH did not give a spirit of cowardice to us, but of power and of love and of good discipline...or self-control.*

So this is the Spirit of Yahweh. And, this is what each of us, through our free will, has to decide. Do we want to hold on to that spirit that is filled with anger, and jealousies, and rivalries, and all the other things; or do we want to surrender to Yahweh, and through His Spirit, come with this? Because, like we said, His Spirit is power, and love, and self-control, and **good discipline**. And if we don't have good discipline in our life, what is it telling us? That something is missing with His Spirit. We're not surrendering enough! Because it is a Spirit of self-discipline!

And it should automatically come! It should automatically come out. When the Spirit is changing us these desires of the flesh should just disappear! It's not going to happen overnight, but through time it will. But the more you give in to it, the more that somebody does something, and you hear that little voice that says, "get mad", and you listen, you're never going to overcome it. **You have to deny it!** And I've told people don't be afraid. Don't be afraid to say, "Get behind me Satan!" Don't worry if somebody is there. You have to say it. You have to take control of it.

And when you're feeling this, whatever feeling that's not of Yahweh's Spirit, you need to publicly and openly come out and say, "Get thee behind me Satan!" It's not a little thing, you're thinking (quietly) "Get behind me Satan". That's not the way you're going to win the battle. **You're going to win the battle by taking command**. Because, like we said, *the Spirit of Yahweh is not a spirit of cowardice, but of power and of love and of good discipline.*

We have to get discipline in our life. We have to be able to discipline our life. And that's why, like I said, why when you come to the school we set plans of actions; we set habits for good discipline. Because, the flesh comes before the spirit. The physical comes before the spiritual. And if you don't get your physical life in order, your spiritual life will never be in order.

Ecclesiastes 3 talks about there is a time for everything. There's a time for everything. There's a time to be born, there's a time to die; there's a time to laugh, there's a time to cry; there's a time to sew, there's a time to rip what was sewn; there's a time to gather stones, there's a time to throw away stones; there's a time for everything in life.

So, when we are talking about spiritual maturity, we are not saying having no emotion. It's not about having no emotion, and it's not about suppressing your emotion. Because, what did we say? What are emotions? Do you remember? Been a while. **Emotions are trigger points**. They're trigger points! So whether that's an emotion of happiness, or emotion of sadness, or emotion of crying, or emotion of joy, whatever it is Yahweh gave us these emotions; they are to tell us something. They are trigger points that an action has to be taken.

So, we're not saying suppress them! We are not saying get rid of them! What we are saying is you have to control them. You have to control them; don't let them control you. There's people that have their heart on their sleeve, they say; that's the expression they use. And it's great to have heart! Believe me, I have heart! But you have to control it too.

You can't be crying every third word that comes out. You can't constantly, every time you speak, cry. Because if you do, you're not going to be able to control your emotions the right way. Now, **there is a time for it**. And that's why, even when we are teaching the men speeches. What do we have? We have Ad Color speech, where you are giving a lot of adjectives.

Then we also have a speech where it's a heart to heart; where it is an emotional speech. It's a speech to draw people in. I'm hoping, I've gotten a lot of letters over the last years of giving my testimony. I'm hoping in the next couple of weeks, one of the sermons, to give my testimony, which is more of a heart to heart. But if every time I spoke (crying), I mean, after a while it would probably make people feel uncomfortable.

I mean, people want to know; they want to see that you're real! They want to see you have emotion! You look at the Bible, David cried. When Jonathan died, he wept and he cried. So, there's nothing wrong with tears, and I'm not afraid to shed them; but not every time, not every word, not every story, everything coming out just crying; or the same thing, laughing.

There's people that are just silly. The Bible tells us about silly jesting! And there's people that every single thing out of their mouth, always one liners. And every time they say something, there's always at the end, with a little one liner, a little one liner, a little one liner. **It's silliness**. And the Bible says, in the end time, turn your laughter into mourning. We're heading into the worst time the world has ever known. Ninety to ninety-five percent of the world is going to die. Horrific things that we're already seeing up here. And there shouldn't be laughter with it; there really should be a somberness and a sorrow.

And that's why I said, we need...emotions are there for trigger points; and Yahweh has every one of these emotions and He gives them to us. And like I said, the same with anger. We should have a righteous anger when we see an injustice being done. But, it needs to be controlled. And it can't be controlled through your physical body because we don't have the ability, but it can be controlled through the Spirit.

Let's go to Romans 8. Because we've said this before, **the miracle that happens when the Spirit of Yahweh is in you**. It's not a club you are joining; it's not like the latest credit card; it's not a new church. But, literally you are getting the Spirit of the living Elohim. He is taking a piece of Himself, and He is putting it in you to transform your life, if you allow it to happen. But you have to accept it. You have to accept it, you have to embrace it, and you have to believe it.

Just like we were here a couple of weeks ago, and Yahweh blessed people with a gift. Do you believe you received that gift? The Bible says it; it's there! He has that gift for each of us, all you have to do is believe it! Believe it and act on it! But like He says, *without belief, a double minded man will receive nothing*. You have to believe that Yahweh is giving it to you. Romans 8.

Romans 8:1-2 *There is therefore now no condemnation to those in Yahshua Messiah, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to Spirit. For the Law of the Spirit of life which was in Yahshua Messiah set me free from the law of sin and death.*

The Spirit in us has freed us from that spirit! And that's why I say, if you still have anger, jealousies, revelries, all the other things we talked about, something is wrong. You're not surrendering enough to Yahweh's Spirit. Verse 9:

Romans 8:9-10 *But you are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, since the Spirit of YAHWEH dwells in you. But if anyone has not the Spirit of Messiah, this one does not belong to Him. But if Messiah is in you, the body indeed is dead because of sin, but the Spirit of life because of righteousness...Verse 12*

Romans 8:12-13 *So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to flesh, for if you live according to the flesh, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the practices of the body, you will live.*

Self-control. It's the only way you're going to do it. Self-control; emotional maturity; spiritual maturity; controlling yourself. Proverbs 1...Proverbs, the first chapter, starting in verse 1.

Proverbs 1:1-10 *The Proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel: To know wisdom and instruction; to discern the words of understanding; to receive instruction in prudence, justice, and judgment, and uprightness; to give sense to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young man. The wise hears and increases*

learning, and the understanding ones gets wise counsel, to understand a proverb and an enigma; the words of the wise, and their riddles. The fear of YAHWEH is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. My son, hear your father's instruction, and do not forsake the Torah of your mother; for they shall be an ornament of grace to your head, and necklaces for your neck. My son, if sinners lure you, do not be willing.

So here it is, like we said. Man, can you imagine the Bible without this book?! This book has all the answers for every situation in our life; how to deal with people, how to raise our children, how to deal with Yahweh. I mean, everything is in this little book of Proverbs. What a wonderful book to live by! And over, and over, and over, and over in this book it says **the wise are the ones that love instruction**, and the fool doesn't want it.

Like I said, western society today, the tiniest little correction that you can give somebody, people will be offended by it. People will feel offended, and "Oh! They're correcting me!" But they're not reading Proverbs. They're not reading Proverbs, and you will never have spiritual maturity without the book of Proverbs. **True wisdom, fearing Yahweh, unconditionally surrendering to Him and His Word.**

Romans 10:3...says...*For being ignorant of the righteousness of YAHWEH, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, they did not submit to the righteousness of YAHWEH.*

Bottom line, it's simple. Like I said, we've talked about this before, surrender to Yahweh. Willfully getting rid of, allowing these things that are not of Yahweh, out of our life. Allowing His Spirit to transform us. Like we talked about, the transformation to the new man. All of these things.

1 Corinthians 9:25-27...says...*Every man who battles in the contest frees his mind from everything else. And yet they run to win a crown that is perishable, but we to win one that is everlasting. So I run accordingly, not as uncertainty; so I fight, as not beating air; but I conquer and subdue my body, so that, by no chance, when I have preached to others, will I myself be disapproved.*

Like I said, envy, jealousy, perception and procedure. What is it? Is it coming from the Spirit or is it coming from the flesh? Are we always jumping to conclusions without facts? What is it? What is our perception? What is our procedure? **Emotional and spiritual maturity is reprogramming your mind and your nervous system from the false belief of getting and self to the true belief of giving and love, as a way of life.** We must associate pleasure with giving.

We talked a lot of this at the school, neuro associative conditioning; how everything that, physically you do, comes from your nervous system. And that comes from how you have been conditioned in life. And then that conditioning goes to your mind, it gives a response and it tells you what to do. So again, we need to recondition our nervous system.

That's why, when the school starts, one of the first things we do is we write down all of our positive anchors in life, our negative anchors in life, our rules, so to speak, and we work on it. Is this a powering belief, or a disempowering belief? Most people have no idea. They have no idea that their mind and their nervous system even works this way. So they go through life with disempowering beliefs that destroy them.

There's people, old people that will not leave their house because of fear! Is that a powering belief or disempowering belief? There's people that won't come to Israel simply because they're afraid of flying! Safest way to travel in the world, statistically, and they are just afraid to. So again, allowing false evidence appearing real. They are not reprogramming. They're not looking at their beliefs.

And like I said, **take our empowering beliefs and strengthen them; take our disempowering beliefs and getting rid of them.** It's not something we just do once in our life, when we come to the Bible school. **This is something you should be doing every few months.** You should be looking and seeing how are you doing. How are you doing? Are you overcoming this? Are you empowering your life?

Because we have the greatest power in life, that like I said, that less than one hundredths of one percent of the people in the world have! The literal Spirit of Yahweh living in them! Many are called, few are chosen. So, there's many people out there that the Holy Spirit may be guiding and may be leading; but there are very, very few people that the Holy Spirit's living inside of. Many are called, few are chosen; fewer are faithful. Are we being faithful with what Yahweh is giving us?

So, of course the best way to do this is from childhood. That's why it says, *Train up a child in the way he shall go, and when he gets older, he will not depart from it*; Proverbs 22:6. But most of us were not born into the faith. So if we can take a child who's born into the faith, and from birth instill this, instill this, instill this; then you're going to make that their belief system. You're going to make it their belief system, and it's easier.

But for us that have come already, and we have all these different beliefs from everywhere, we have to reprogram ourself. We're going to have to reprogram ourself. It doesn't mean that it can't be done; Philippians 4:13, *I can do all things through Messiah, giving me the strength*. Because, yes, there's people, even people that have come to the school at times, that say, "Oh, it's impossible! I'm this...I'm that..." And it's like, yes, in the flesh it is impossible.

If you remember when Yahshua is telling Peter and the apostles the road to the Kingdom, and how hard will a rich man enter into the Kingdom. It's easier for a heavy rope to go through that little needle, than for a rich man to get into Heaven. And what do they say? "Master we left everything! What about us?" With man it is impossible, but with Yahweh everything is possible.

And that's why you want to get rid of yourself. That's why, like I always say, Don may seem like a nice guy, but I've been trying to get rid of this guy for 32 years now; and he keeps following me everywhere I go. One of these days, I'm going to lock him out. I'm going to get rid of him. I'm looking forward to that. But, with Yahshua, **all things are possible**.

You need to reprogram your belief system, your nervous system; and like I said, your emotions are sent to your nervous system, to the brain, and what you have to understand is they're not necessarily based on truth or reality, but on your thought pattern and belief system. You know, the Muslim out there that's ready to blow himself up to get 72 virgins in Heaven. It's not based on reality! It's based on his belief system, what's been indoctrinated into his belief system.

And many of the things we believe, the person who's afraid to come to the Feast because he's afraid to get on an airplane, it's a phobia; but, it's not based on anything real. And that's why there has to be reprogramming, in that false belief system. So many people that have false belief systems! Christianity, 99.9 percent of Christianity believe that Sunday is the day of rest in the New Testament. It's not based on fact! And it's not based on truth. So we want to make sure that everything we're believing is based on Yahweh's truth. And that's why we have to reprogram ourself to it.

Somebody can be hypnotized; and literally, they can put a piece of ice in their hand and tell them it is fire, and their hand will burn. It's not a trick. It shows you the power of belief. And that's all faith is; faith is simply believing, Hebrews 11:6, *believing that Yahweh is, and He's a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him*. So, it's simply belief. The problem is, sometimes, it's not that people don't have faith, sometimes people have faith, but they have the wrong faith. They have faith in self, or faith in the wrong belief system.

Wouldn't you say a Muslim that's ready to blow himself up for his false deity, that's not faith? No, he has faith. It's just misguided. It's faith in falsity. He has belief. But, we want to make sure that we are not doubting the truth; because we have something different. And people will say, "Oh, but everybody says that!" Good luck! Yeah, everybody says it, but everybody can't be true.

So what we have, the way we know it is true, is because it's proven by the Bible. And anybody, there's no other book! The Koran never says it's infallible. The Koran never says there's no mistakes. You can look at the Koran; it's filled with inaccuracies! The same as any other religious book. The Bible is the only book in the world that we can show that it has been written over thousands of years; that everything coincides, there's not one contradiction! It's written on all different levels! You have Bible Codes that come, all different things, there's no doubt; prophetic prophecy, inspired prophecy for the future; naming people hundreds of years before they were even born!

The problem is 99% of Christians don't believe in the Bible. They will say it. I have people tell me that all the time. You meet them somewhere, "Oh, so what do you believe?" "I believe only in the Bible!" "Oh, we do too!" "Oh, you keep the Sabbath?" "No." Well, what are they believing in? There's no way! So, if you really want to believe it, we have to. We have to go deep inside of ourself, first into our soul, right? Our soul, our spiritual self, and we have to look at our inner self to change. But also, we have to go deep in our self, in our nervous

system. And we have to reprogram our nervous system, from these false beliefs we have. And, again, if we are willing to do that, we can see change. But, again you have to surrender to do that.

And people that want to hold on to their false beliefs, they want to hold on to all these crazy things, they don't want to follow any man, and all this other stuff, they're not going to go anywhere. And those are the same people that you see today, five then ten years down the line they will meet somebody else, following somebody somewhere down the line. So, you can't worry about those people because they are not going to change.

But, what we need to do is we need to look inside of each of us, and we need to do the things necessary to go to that next level. If we can control our body, like I just read 1 Corinthians 9:27, **through submission to Yahweh and discipline in our flesh, then we will have the proper trigger points in the flesh to walk in the Spirit.** If not, then our physical body will rule, and control us, and destroy us, as we will be walking in the flesh and not the Spirit.

Because, think about it, the Spirit does not hunger, the Spirit doesn't thirst, the Spirit doesn't lust, the Spirit doesn't covet. So, if you are coveting the new coat that is in the window, or you are jealous at someone that has something that you have, it's not the Spirit of Yahweh; His Spirit doesn't do that. So, like I said here, **if we can destroy the flesh, then we can walk in the Spirit.**

Revelation 18:13 says Babylon has made slaves of the souls of men, and how has it done it? Through pleasure seeking, through things, through a system of greed. People think in America that they have so much, and they're the leaders of the free world. Many people are working 60 to 80 hours a week, for what? Do they really own the house, or does the house own them? And then they see, as soon as they lose the job, and they can't pay the house in a few months, then the bank comes and takes it away. So, who really controlled who? You're the servant of what you obey; and if you're working 60 to 80 hours a week for the mortgage, then that mortgage is not serving you. You are serving the mortgage. You are the servant of what you obey.

And that is the point. **If we surrender to the Spirit and we obey the Spirit, then the Spirit will be our life.** We have to recognize our problems and overcome it. Like we said, perception are our made up rules for life for everything, eating, hygiene, child rearing, whatever it is; we have our rules. We have the way it is done. And procedure, how we enact those rules. Our procedure.

So, what happens? Maybe a husband might be coming home late from work, maybe he got reamed out by his boss, had a real hard day, forgot his papers in an important meeting, and now all of a sudden he has to come home, he has this on his mind, because he has to write down what they told him; the boss said, "You don't do this right now, you're going to be fired tomorrow!" So, he runs in the house, he goes to write it down.

All of a sudden, the wife, "Ooh, he didn't kiss me when he walked in the door. He doesn't love me anymore. He doesn't love me." No, it has nothing to do with that. What it has to do with, he was just busy at that time. So, wrong perception. Now, what's the procedure? "I'll burn his dinner tonight." Wrong procedure too. Perception and procedure. **And this is why 90 percent of problems come in human relationships;** whether it's marriage, friendships, whatever. **It all comes by wrong perception and wrong procedure.**

Because the Spirit of Yahweh is the outgoing Spirit. The Spirit of Yahweh is love your neighbor as yourself, whether that's your husband, your child, your friend. So, you are not thinking of the worst; you are not thinking "so and so looked at me this way" or "he didn't say hello to me". You're thinking, "Wow. Maybe he is hurting". Let me go, and "Hey, is everything alright? Are you having a hard time this week?" That's the Spirit of Yahweh; and that's the Spirit we want to surrender to. Our perception and our procedure.

We have been conditioned that life is about self-gratification; as long as we physically work for it, it's okay. Pleasure seeking is the reward for hard work, instead of believing that every human has a duty to Elohim, to serve and love him with our heart, mind, soul, and strength; and love our neighbor, the creation of Elohim, as ourself. **The Spiritual mature take emotional maturity to an unnatural level.**

Matthew 5:43-48 *You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbor" and hate your enemy; but I say to you, Love your enemies; bless those cursing you, do well to those hating you; and pray for those who take you by force and persecute you, so that you may become sons of your Father in Heaven. Because He causes the sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust. For if you love those loving you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same? And if you only greet your*

brothers, what exceptional thing do you do? Do not the tax-collectors do the same? Therefore, you become perfect (complete), even as your Father in Heaven is perfect.

This is unnatural in the flesh! People can't even love their own families, never mind their enemy. But, with the Spirit of Yahweh, you can take spiritual maturity to an unnatural level, with emotional maturity. Love your neighbor. It's one of the things, when Yahshua was on earth that he said to his disciples that, you know something. If you love your enemy, then he's no longer your enemy. And if you continue to do that one by one, what will happen? Through time you will have no more enemies, and if you have no more enemies, then you're not under slavery anymore. Because slavery comes by enemies and overlords.

It's the same today. Look at these horrific things going on in Syria, and what not. This one thing to be exhibited. Bring humanitarian aid, put the guns down for a minute. Love your enemies, do good to those who persecute you. How much it can change the world overnight, from the bringing democracy at the end of a barrel of a gun type mentality. Spiritual mature take emotional maturity to an unnatural level; forgiving, loving your enemies. And if we can't even love those of our family and congregation, how could we ever do this? Because even the tax collectors love those who love them. So, we want to make sure that we are exhibiting this kind of love.

When we become believers, we don't only want to question our religious practices, but we want to question every avenue of our life. The religious practices, it's a good start. You come from Christianity, you stop Christmas, you stop Easter, you stop celebrating birthdays, all these little things, which are good starts. But you want to question every aspect of your life, and say, **is this something that is glorifying Yahweh, or isn't it?** Is this something that is making me a better believer, to love Yahweh with my heart, mind, soul, and strength, or is it just something toward myself?

Emotional and spiritual maturity is developing from reacting from the natural impulses and responses of human nature, to the spiritual principle of loving one's neighbor as yourself. It is something that must be instilled in our mind, in our nervous system, which gives the response of action to the brain, and it is developed by submission and self-discipline. There's no other way around it.

The kind of world we live in, what people want to hear is that at the end of the sermon I'm going to give everybody a little pill, and the pill says: Self-discipline. Take one every day for the next 10 days, and you'll have self-discipline. Unfortunately, life doesn't work that way. I wish there was, because I would be taking a bunch myself, but it doesn't work that way. **Submission and self-discipline by experiencing, by doing it, is the only way you're going to change.** Because, like I said, Yahweh made us as creatures of habit.

That's why he says **train** your children when they wake up, on the roadside, when they go to bed; because, when you train over and over and over, then all of a sudden it gets in your mind, it's a trained response. Why does Johnny run? Because Johnny runs and runs and runs. You don't have to think about it. You don't have to get up in the morning and say, "Oh, I forgot how to brush my teeth. Uh, don't tell me now. Uh, was it up and down or was it across?" Of course not! You do it a thousand times, you know how to do it.

It's the same way. You keep training yourself, love your neighbor as yourself...love your neighbor as yourself...love your neighbor as yourself, over and over and over, and it becomes a trained response. Kill the flesh, and the Spirit lives. You are not born with emotional maturity, it is totally unnatural to our human nature. It must be nurtured by Yahweh's Spirit. Like I said, most of the things that we see, we understand, most of the things we are taught from birth are not real. Like I said, perception and procedure. Is it real or is it just our perception? Is it just our rule we made up?

A perfect example is babies, right? I mean, how can you look at a newborn baby and not say, "Oh! It is the cutest, most wonderful little, goochie, goochie, goochie, goo!" But, really think about it. There is nothing more selfish on this earth, than a little baby. Nothing! That baby, he wants food, "Waaaaah, waaaaah!" I mean, that's it! It's not thinking, you don't see this little six month old baby sitting there, and saying, "Wow! You know, mama, she took care of me for nine months when I was in her belly, and she has been up day and night feeding me. You know what? Even though I'm hungry, I'm going to let her sleep".

A baby doesn't think that way. It's not the way a baby reacts. A baby, all of a sudden the nervous system says to the mind, "Baby, you're hungry"; it comes up here "Hmmm. I'm hungry. Waaaaah!" That's the next response. So, although they are cute, although they are adorable, they're selfish. It's human nature at its core.

And this is the point. We have to get to the reality of what life is; because, we don't want to go from that little baby, that just because they're cute we let them get away with it, and "Oh! Don't train them". That's the new thing, "Don't train your children. You will hurt their self-esteem. Oh, if you tell them, you are going to hurt their self-esteem". And look at the kind of world we come up with!

You have people that don't even know if they're male or female. They're talking about hurting their self-esteem?! Maybe, when they were little, if you instilled it in them what they are, and what they should be doing, you wouldn't have people today that they want to make the bathroom half man and half woman! The same bathroom, if you can imagine! It's nonsense. Psychology, sociology, all of this stuff is nonsense! It's not in the Bible; in the Bible is training. It's training, like Pavlov's dogs. You train, you train, you train; and you train one thing, the Word of Yahweh. That's it! Everything else is out the window.

And once we get these trained responses, what happens? Through the Spirit of Yahweh living in us, we can kill our human nature, and the Spirit of Yahweh will work; and then **miracles happen**. You are not born with emotional maturity; it is totally unnatural to our human nature and must be nurtured by Yahweh's Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:6-3:3 *But we speak wisdom among those who have comprehension, but not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, those being brought to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of Elohim in a mystery, having been hidden, which Elohim ordained before the world for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age has known. For if they had known, they would not have crucified the Master of glory; according as it has been written, "Eye has not seen, and ear has not heard," nor has it been risen up into the heart of man, the things that Elohim has prepared for those that love Him. But Elohim revealed them to us by His Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of Elohim. For who among men knows the things of a man, except the spirit of man within him? So also no one has known the things of Elohim except the Spirit of Elohim...Very clearly, two different spirits...But we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit from Elohim, so that we might know the things that are freely given to us by Elohim. For the things which we discuss, are not dependent on the knowledge of words of man's wisdom, but on the teaching of the Holy Spirit, thus explaining spiritual things with the spiritual minded. But the material man rejects the things of the Spirit, for they are foolishness to him, and he is not able to know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But the spiritual man discerns everything, and yet no man is able to discern him. For "Who has known the mind of YAHWEH that he will instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Messiah. And, brothers, I was not able to speak to you as spiritual ones, but as worldly ones, even as babes in Messiah. I gave milk to drink, and not meat, for you were not then able, and even now are not ready for it. Because you are still worldly; for as long as there is among you jealousy, and strife, and divisions, are you not worldly and still following the material things?*

Well, what is He saying? Unless we get ourself together, unless we get spiritual maturity, we will never walk in what He's talking about here; we will never be able to have the Spirit of Yahweh overtake us. **And that's why your environment is so important.** Your environment is everything! I said this, first year in the Bible school, biggest lesson I've learned, environment is 90 percent of the battle.

Your environment sets the stage for your belief system, which sets the stage for your nervous system, to give reaction to your brain and for you to respond. This is why tv, internet, and Babylon in general, is so dangerous; as subconsciously your physical body or mind is being manipulated by Satan's system of pleasure seeking, greed, lust, and pride on a daily basis. What goes in? What comes out? Like I said, Pavlov's dogs, creatures of habit.

And Yahweh made us that way, because as we have children and we train them, they will automatically do it. But on the other end, if you're in this end time system of Babylon, where all the training is bad, and all this stuff coming in is bad, that's what is going to become. Very, very clearly environment is everything.

So, let me very quickly, in the next 10, 15 minutes, before we end, I want to go over four points to developing spiritual and emotional maturity.

Four points to developing spiritual and emotional maturity.

2 Peter 1:2-10 *Grace to you, and peace be multiplied by a full knowledge of YAHWEH, and of Yahshua our Master. Who has given us all things that pertain to the power of Elohim, for the life and worship of Elohim, through the full knowledge of the One calling us through glory and virtue, by which means He has given to us the very great and precious promises, so that through these you might be partakers of the divine nature,*

escaping from the corruption which is in the world by lust...That is what we are talking about, killing our fleshly, human nature and partaking of the divine nature, through the Holy Spirit...But also in this very thing, having brought in all diligence, having fully supplied in your faith virtue, and with virtue knowledge, and with knowledge self-control, and with self-control patience, and with patience holiness, and with holiness brotherly kindness, and with brotherly kindness, love. For these things being in you, and abounding, they will make you never to be useless or unfruitful in the full knowledge of our Master Yahshua Messiah. For the one in whom these things are not present is blind, being shortsighted, and forgetting that he was cleansed of his sins in time past. Therefore, brothers, rather be diligent to make your calling and election sure; for doing these things, you will never fail.

So, here it is. First point is:

1. Right knowledge being interpreted correctly.

You must put on the mind of Yahweh. Like I said, how many times do we get upset, emotionally, about something that is not even true?! He looked at me that way, she looked at me that way. In any given situation you must realize, **the reality that you see is not necessarily the way we are perceiving it.** Don't always think we know what is going on.

Like I was saying, opening the door for a woman, it could be, "Oh, thank you very much!" or it could be, "What do you think, I'm not strong enough?" Must rightly be able to understand what any given emotion is trying to tell us, make appropriate change to receive the result of the desired emotion. **Emotions are built through relationship.**

If you receive a very, very negative letter from somebody who was very close to you, it would hurt you more than if it was just from a stranger. And that's why we want to make sure our closest relationship is through Yahweh. We want to make sure that His letters that He gives us through His Word, are the ones that are touching our hearts the most. **Our relationship with Yahweh and Yahshua must be so strong that it dominates our life, and the proper emotions will flow from it.**

Point two - Jacob 4. Point one was right knowledge being interpreted correctly; point two is Jacob 4, and verse 3.

2. Submission to Yahweh

Jacob 4:3-10 *You ask, and do not receive, because you do not ask sincerely, you ask in order that you may satisfy your lusts. Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship of the world is enmity with Elohim? Whoever, then, purposes to be a friend of the world is an enemy to Elohim. Or do you not think that vainly the Scripture says, The pride dwelling in us lusts with envy? But He gives greater grace. Because of this He says, "YAHWEH Himself sets Himself against proud ones, but gives grace to humble ones." Then submit to YAHWEH. Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to Elohim, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, sinners! And purify your hearts, double minded ones! Be distressed, and mourn, and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy into shame. Be humbled before YAHWEH, and He will exalt you.*

This can only come by 100 percent submission to Yahweh; humbling ourself before Him. If not, everything else is a game we are playing. One hundred percent submission to Yahweh and His judicial order. We have to reframe our belief system for this to be a reality. You're never going to be able to submit to Yahweh with the human mind you have; you have to reframe it.

Without this, you will never be spiritually mature, and you will never come to the fullness of Messiah or your re-created potential. **This means you will have to change your false beliefs, submit to human leadership, ooh even though they're men, that Yahweh has appointed, and humble ourself to admit our wrongs.**

Like I was saying before, if you look at it, we all come from somewhere; we all have baggage, that's not a problem, it's getting rid of that baggage. When you look at the people, so plain when you have all of our teachings on the false tongues of the Pentecostal Movement, it's so simple! Everyone, "Oh, I get it! No problem". Who are the ones that don't get it? The Pentecostals; the ones who are doing it. Divorce and remarriage; it's very simple, one man, one woman forever. You can't leave your spouse and marry another; it's

adultery! What's so hard about that?! It's not hard. Everyone gets it, except the ones who want to divorce and remarry.

So, that's why I say, you have to surrender to Yahweh. If you want to surrender what you don't do; if you want to surrender what someone else is doing, you're never going to change. So it's not about knowing what he or she is doing, **it's about what my vice is and changing that. We have to be able to 100 percent fully submit to Yahweh, in all things.**

3. We have to evaluate in any given emotional situation, is our perception or our procedure wrong.

Like I said, so many times in this world we live in, somebody sending an email, one press of the button, they can degrade somebody's character, they can send it to hundreds of people with gossip, maligning. We've never had a world like this; without even facts!

Right now we're going through a situation, America wants to attack Syria; and everybody is saying, what's the rush? Let the United Nations do their job. Let's get all the facts. Let's see what happened. Self-control, patience. **We want to make sure that we're getting all the facts to make the right decisions.** Many times we're making emotional decisions based on a wrong belief system, that we were taught, that is not accurate.

And that's why, what do the New World Order do? They want to sway the people. **They sway on their emotions.** That's what Satan wants to do; he wants to sway on your emotions. So, yeah, let's show babies that are choking on gas; and that's a terrible thing, and it makes people want to be angry, and "Let's go get them!" But then, you know what? The week later we find out, that didn't happen in Syria; those pictures they were showing was from Iraq 20 years ago.

So, not everything you see is what you think you see. You have to get the facts down. And in this day and age, so many things are faked; probably most of what you see is not what you think you are seeing. Many times we're making emotional decisions based on a belief system that was taught to us, and is not accurate. Could our procedure, how we are handling the situation, be wrong?

If our spouse was totally consumed with a real important job, and we interrupted them and they did not respond positively, and we spitefully ignore them, could our procedure for looking for attention be wrong? Could it be they didn't love us less, but maybe they were just busy at that time? Must communicate our emotions to others properly. Remember, emotions are trigger points for action. We want to control them, not suppress them. **Dialogue, communication; that's the way we solve problems.**

And the fourth thing:

4. Self-discipline.

The most important of everything; because, without the self-discipline you are never going to have emotional and spiritual maturity. **It can only come through training, response, repetition.** Write it down, have a plan of action, reassess it weekly, monthly, again and again. Look at your perception and your procedure when you're doing this.

This is most important. This can change your life! Without a shadow of a doubt, this can change your life. Because self-discipline will stop you from making so many different mistakes. You don't know how many times in my life, that if I would have acted quickly, I would have put my foot right in my mouth; and that's why I didn't. I've learned, through the years, to wait and let things work their way out. Have patience. Don't jump to conclusions very quickly.

Even sometimes, there's sometimes where someone may be doing something, and you may know they're doing it, but you don't have the proof. The Bible says *in the mouth of two witnesses let everything be confirmed.* By bringing that out, and saying, "I know what you're doing!" You know what you just did? You just let the person know you're onto them now. You know what's going to happen? Now he's going to do the same thing, but he's going to be more sneaky about it.

You need patience. You need self-control. You need to wait things out. Let the proof come, and in the end, it always will. We have to trust in that; that Yahweh will always bring the truth out in the end. But if we act

too quickly sometimes on situations, we can only make them worse. So, we want to make sure...this is so important...self-discipline in our life. It can change your life, if you apply it.

You have to write it down and you have to have a plan. Must be able to reframe situations. As we said, **reframing is taking a situation that could possibly be negative and turning it around and seeing the positive side of something**. Like they say, if they throw lemons at you, make lemonade. Must be able to reframe a situation to sustain better emotional outcome.

Death is a great example. When someone dies that we love it is a horrible thing, we're going to miss the person. Nothing wrong with mourning; and actually, it's a normal response. If you try to hold back and you don't cry, you don't mourn, you're only going to hurt yourself more, later. Mourn; letting it out. It's a normal response. There's a time to mourn, there's a time to laugh.

But, we don't mourn like the world. Because we realize there's something more than this life. We realize there's more to it. We realize, if they're not converted, well, at least they're not going to go through the Tribulation; and if they were converted, we realize they made it. They're waiting for the Kingdom. So, we mourn, but we don't' mourn like the world.

I mean, if you think about it, without Yahweh's Kingdom, wow, death is a hard one. How do you explain that to anybody in the world; how do you explain it to an atheist? They may say, "Oh, well. You know, I'm good with that. I live my life and then I die, and there's nothing else". Yeah, right! See them on their death bed. See them if somebody is over there with a gun to their head, how scared to death they are.

Because if there's nothing else but this, then they're going to live a life of fear of it. So again, we use these emotions, but **not like the world**. Making right decision, exhibiting self-control, and of course, using wise counsel.

Proverbs 11:14 *In the absence of wise counsels the people fall, but safety is in abundance of counselors.*

So, **we want to make sure we're making right decisions, we're exhibiting self-control, and we're seeking wise counsel**. Only 10 percent of people write down goals in the world. One out of ten. Only ten percent of people write down their goals, but 90 percent of the most successful people in this world are the ones of that ten percent who write their goals down. **So we want to make sure we're writing things down; we're writing them down, we're always having a plan of action.**

Now, the spiritually immature. Spiritually immature are total opposite. **The spiritually immature: they make decisions based on feelings and emotion, and they let human emotions control them**. We see it here for all the years we have been here. We meet them; unfortunately women are worse at this than men. Because, women are more emotionally bound for all different reasons. That's why, praise Yahweh, if you're a lady that Yahweh put Numbers 30 in the Bible, that if you make a rash vow, your husband or your father or whoever is your headship can disallow that vow.

But we have met all over the place, you don't know how many women we've met here in Israel that are telling us they're prophets and prophetesses, and they're going to do this, and they're going to...**all emotional based**; not based from Scripture. When you show them, "But, the Scripture says the opposite." "Well, I'd rather be led by the Holy Spirit than be led by the Old Testament." That's the answer, if that makes any sense. The Holy Spirit is the Word of Yahweh, it is the inspired Word.

So, the spiritually immature make decisions based on feelings and emotion, and are led by human emotions; they let them control them. **Number two, they act completely impulsive, like a child, and have no self-control or discipline**. You see people this way...I've seen people my whole life that are spiritually immature; one day they're saying this, and one day they're saying that. One day they're going to be a raw-fooder, and they're never going to eat meat again; they're going to tell you how bad it is, and then the next week they are over here eating five hamburgers, and doing something else.

Emotionally and spiritually immature people will bounce back and forth, and they're not stable for your life; because as they're trying to tell you one thing, the next day they're doing the total opposite. And what does Yahweh say? *The double minded man is unstable in all his ways*; so they're not dependable. They're not reliable.

And number three, they let mood swings control them, which are set by negative anchors and pride; and they are no better than a possessed person, not in control of their spirit.

So one day they can come in and all happy, and giggling, and joking with you; the next day they could be like a bear. Their mood swings are back and forth, the emotionally immature. Because, you know what? The reality of life is every one of us has good days and bad days, every one of us has times that things go bad and you might feel a little down, or things are going good and you feel up; but when you're emotionally mature you don't let it affect you because you know that every day you want to affect somebody else in a positive way.

And, if you are going to come out there, and you want to make somebody else's day happy and you want to help solve their problems, if you come all frowning you're not going to help anybody. So all you are going to do is bring people down. So when you are emotionally mature, even when you're feeling those ways, you're able to override it because you know there is a greater good to that day; that you don't want to let a day of life go by that you lost!

Can you imagine? You're on your bed at night and you're thinking to yourself, "Wow! You know, I just took a day of life from Yahweh, the greatest gift He can give me, and I blew it today!" For what?! Because it's raining out? Because I'm unhappy about this? You can't do it!

So, when you're spiritually mature, you have those emotions, but you keep them in check because you know there's a greater good that day. Your wife, your husband, your children, your friends, your neighbors, the brethren, the lady at the store. You know how many times that lady at the store that gets yelled at all day, and now she sees your smiling face, and that changes her. Wow! One smiling face makes the difference.

But the immature, like I said, the mood swings go all over; and it makes people feel uncomfortable because you don't know. You don't know how to react to them. So sometimes you don't say nothing. It's like, "You didn't say nothing to me! You're mad!" And then you say something, it's like, "What did you say that for?!" and you can't win, because it's not you; they're emotionally immature and anything you say, or any way you look, or just showing up, they're going to have something on why you are wrong.

And unfortunately, that's just the way it is. They get offended extremely easy. Emotionally and spiritually immature people get offended extremely easy, and yet Psalm 119:165 says, *A great understanding have all they who love your Law and **nothing shall offend them.*** So, we want to make sure that we are using these responses; that we're working, we're praying to Yahweh for self-discipline in our life, that, like I said, we are having goals that we're writing down; we're looking at our belief system, we're looking at our empowering beliefs and we're strengthening them, we're looking at disempowering beliefs and we're getting rid of them in our life. We are praying to Yahweh's Spirit to control us every day.

Right knowledge interpreted correctly, Submission to Yahweh, Perception and Procedure, and Self-discipline. The four things that if used correctly, not only can, but will change your life and make you spiritually mature, and physically mature in Yahweh.

Yahweh bless, Shabbat Shalom.