

Transcript -Teen Challenge Philippines
Building a Relationship with the One That Created You

So, I am very happy to meet all of you and I have a very exciting session to do with you today, called *Building a Relationship with the One That Created You ... Building a Relationship with the One That Created You*.

So, I have good news and bad news for you today. The bad news is **satan wants to destroy you**. The good news is I'm here to tell you how to stop it. So, I have very, very important what I want to share to you. And when I was your age and older people like myself used to talk, I used to giggle and say, "Oh wow, that person is so old! How does he understand?" And now, life goes so fast. And I can remember when I was your age, and I can remember the things of that. But it goes very, very fast. And you realize as you get older, as you go on in life, that many of the things that are there in the world that look exciting are really there to destroy you.

So, we're living in a world that's not the Kingdom of Yahweh. We're living in a world that Satan created and many of the things in there. And he's very enticing. It's like if somebody brings you a big bowl of ice cream with all kinds of chocolate on top, and then the whipped cream and cherry. And I've had some, it tastes very good, but sometimes it leaves you with a stomachache if you have too much. And that's the way satan's world is. They seem very, very good on the outside, but on the inside, not only does it leave you with a tummy ache, it's got maggots and worms inside.

So, we're going to talk about it today, and I want to hear from you on some of this. But the first question I want to ask is, did you ever wonder why Yahweh made you? You ever think about that? Because when I was only like a ten-year-old boy, I used to think about that because, what am I doing here? Why am I here? Am I only here to go to school and learn math and learn English? Like, wait, there's **got** to be something to this. There has to be a reason why I'm here. Anybody ever think about that? Raise your hand if you thought about that. Yeah, right? It's got to be more than just "Hey, here I am. What happens now?" There's a reason, and I want to share that reason with you today, because there's a very, very important reason why you were created and I want to help you to have a better relationship with the One who created you.

I wanted to start in Genesis 1, in verse 26. And only this past Sukkot I started this new program called Teen Challenge. We did it for three days. Three days, and it really, really went great. Today we just have one session, but I'm hoping that our elders in the other areas can go on this, because I think it's really, really important, that we need ... our youth is the future.

And if we are entering the last seven years, some of you that are older will be baptized to be first-fruits, but some of you that are younger, you're going to be the first human beings in the kingdom. You're too young to be an adult and a baptized member in a spirit being at that time. And when the Kingdom comes, who's going to be the physical leaders? Who's going to be the presidents of countries and the secretaries of states? It's going to be our children. They are the physical future of the Kingdom of Yahweh when it comes. So, we need to start nurturing our children. We need to help them better understand at their level why they're here, what is their purpose, and help to develop that.

Because we're made different. We have a lot of animals around here. I see Shalom the cat, nice cat that's there and different dogs. And they're fun to have, nothing wrong with animals, they're really good. By where we have, we have some sheep and we have goats and all kinds of things. But the animals are instinctive.

And I learned this because when years back I had a cat, and the cat used to do this funny stuff, and I used to think, "Oh, my cat is the most unique cat in the world!" Until I talked to people and I said, "You won't believe what my cat does!" And they said, "Yeah, my cat does the same thing." Right? Because all cats do that, just like all dogs do that.

So, we're not like that though. We're unique in every way, every single one of us. Matter of fact, only until recently did we know this, that every single one of us not only has unique iris, unique fingerprints that you could be tracked by, but unique DNA. DNA is like, you could say it's like a recipe, right? Like think if you're cooking something and it says, two cups of flour, one cup of sugar, one thing of salt Your DNA is a recipe, but that recipe doesn't have five or six things to it, it has millions, millions of codes. And every single human being's code is different, every one.

And the Bible talks about Yahweh knows how many hairs are on our head. Now, I'm losing my hair so I keep Him busy. Because every day He's got to figure out how many I have because I'm losing it. But He knows how many hairs are on our head, never mind those millions of code of DNA.

And I think most of the people here, you know gematria, because somebody was even talking about gematria today. Gematria is number value, right? Like we were saying, the number four ... and "I am Elohim" is 153, like the number in John. Well, do you know that in the DNA code is the gematria for Yahweh? The name of Yahweh is over and over and over. The one that connects ... because you have millions of code but there is a connector to every one of those codes, and every single connector is the gematria of Yahweh. And people are going to say that we don't have a Creator, right?

So, wow. So, I want you to start thinking about that. Wow, think about this. So let me read here, Genesis.

Genesis 1:26a *And Elohim said, let Us make mankind ... Right? Men and women, human beings ... in Our image, according to Our likeness;*

Comment: So again, we're not like the cats. Most animals, they're going on four legs and walking; no, we're standing upright. And we have eyes like Yahweh, it says He has eyes and He has ears and He has a nose and He has a mouth. He makes us in His image, but we have to grow in His likeness. His likeness is total love and mercy and kindness.

Genesis 1:26b *and let them rule over the fish of the sea, and the birds in the heaven, and the cattle, and the earth, and over all the creepers on the earth.*

Comment: Right? So, everything that's out there, the animals, the fish, we were over there today at the fish pond, Yahweh has given us dominion to rule over that. And not just ruling in the sense of like a dictator ruling, it means to care for it. He's giving us the dominion to care for what He created. And what has mankind done? He's destroyed it. It's one of the scriptures in the end time, mankind is destroying the earth, right? With all the things that he's doing, he's destroying it.

Genesis 1:27 *And Elohim created the man in His own image; in the image of Elohim He created him. He created them male and female.*

Right? So, Yahweh has the characteristics of both men and women. Men think on the right side of the brain, women think on the left side of the brain. Men are visionaries, women are detail.

So as a young man, Yahweh blessed me, I was successful in business. I was only 18 years old; I owned my own house and I was very proud of myself, I own a house. But people would come in the house and they'd look and they'd always say, "Oh, I know a bachelor owns this place." I'd think, "What are they talking about? What do you mean a bachelor owns the place?" Until I got married and then I saw, my wife was the detail, putting the beautiful flowers and the arrangements and I'm like, "Oh, okay." So, when you buy it, I had a house, but it made it having a wife into a home, and then when we had a child, it was a family. So that's the way that we're made in Elohim's image.

Genesis 1:28 *And Elohim blessed them; and said, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the land, and subdue it, and rule over the fish of the sea, and the birds of the heaven, and over the beasts creeping on the earth.*

So, Yahweh made us in His image. Like I said, each human being made is made totally separate, totally different. He knows every piece of your DNA, down to the last part of it, and He understands. And you know what He wants from us? Only a relationship, that's all He wants; He just wants a relationship. And you know what has happened? When mankind does anything, he puts a wall between it. So, religion, when people come to religion, they think, "Oh, religion is something with Yahweh." Religion is the opposite of Yahweh. Religion is a wall between Yahweh and me. So today I want to help you to break that wall down.

I was on an airplane one time and I was sitting next to a man and we start talking and he says, "Oh, what do you do for a living?" I said, "Oh, I am a pastor." And the man said "Oh, I hate religion. I said," I do too." He said, "Huh? You're a pastor, and you hate religion?" "Yeah, of course I do." Because religion is manmade, religion is not in the Bible. You don't see that word, right? You see relationship, that's the word you see. And that's what Yahweh is looking for, He's looking for a relationship with each of us.

And you all know the story in the New Testament of the Prodigal Son, right? Where the man has two sons and the one goes out and he's using his inheritance. And the thing that touches me more than anything with that story is the father every day was out there looking, waiting for his child to come back. And that's all Yahweh wants with us, He wants a relationship.

And when we pray ... they asked Yahshua, "How do we pray?" And He gave us just an outline, what to pray for, but He doesn't want us praying like the pagans and fake repetition. Prayer is just simply talking to your Dad. That's all it is. So, every day He wants to hear what you did, He wants to know about your school, He wants to know the good things, He wants to know the bad things. And when you build that relationship with your Father ... In Hebrew we say, *Abba*, and you know what **Abba** really means? It means *daddy*. He's our Daddy, He's our Father. He wants to know you in a personal way.

And that's what life is about. That, in the Garden of Eden, Adam chose to go another way, and really, it hurt the Father really, really bad. And from that time, and especially now in the end time ... we talk about this is the restoration ministry; we are the ministry of reconciliation, not condemnation ... that's all we're looking to do. We're just looking for people, to help them to learn about the One who created them, the One who wants to be part of their life.

John 15 and verse 16. John 15:16. It says:

John 15:16 *You have not chosen Me, but I chose you and planted you, that you should go and should bear fruit, and your fruit remain, that whatever you should ask the Father in My name, He may give you.*

So, we don't choose to join Yahweh's Congregation. We don't choose our calling, He's choosing us. And the blessing that each of you have is, each of you sitting here ... Pretty sure, maybe there's one or two that are a young adult that just came on your own. I know my family was not in the truth. I was 16 years old when I started coming to the truth just on my own, Praise Yahweh that He called me ... But I'm assuming that pretty much all of you here are sitting here because at least one of your parents or both of your parents were called to the truth.

So that's the blessing that you have by having a parent that was called by Yahweh. That you automatically get to be called to the truth. He's calling you automatically because of your parent, because of your mother or your father or both.

And you know something though, you have to though accept it. Even though you have opportunity for that calling, you have to accept it on your own. Yahweh gives us free will and that's what love is. Love is not dictatorship; love is not force. Love is choice. And that's why Yahweh says, *I put before you life and death. Choose life.* He gives us everything in the Bible so that we'll understand the difference between life and death, choose life.

And unfortunately, in the flesh our human nature, we have to understand, it's corrupted. Our flesh is not the way Yahweh created it, it's a corrupted flesh. And satan wants to trick you by saying, "I'll give you the candy. I'll give you the sugar. I'll give you that ice cream." But that's not a loving parent, right? A loving parent might give you a little bit of that on a special day. But if a parent gave their child ice cream every day, what's going to happen? That child's going to get sick and eventually die.

So, when the parent is giving the child rules it's because they love them. But satan wants to talk to our human nature and tell us, "Do whatever you want. Be disobedient. Don't listen to this." And that's your human nature. And you know what? That's going to get you nowhere but death. In the end, that's what's going to happen, because in the end of the day, we reap what we sow.

And this is what I tell ... I meet sometimes some that are atheist. And they talk to me and they laugh and they say, "Oh, Elohim doesn't exist." And I say, "You know what?" And I say, "It's not offending me what you're doing; because whether you're me or whether you're you, whether you believe or whether you don't, it doesn't change the fact that a day will come when Yahshua will be on the earth and He will judge every last human being. So, you don't have to believe it for it to be true. If something is true, it's true and if something is not, it's not. And every single one of us will have that day when we're before the throne of Yahweh and we're going to be judged."

And this is where **if you choose** to have that relationship with your Dad and you choose to be part of His family, you don't have to have that judgment. That's where you go from death to life. And that's the choice you have to make. And like I said, satan in the meantime, he's going to put a lot of false carrots before you, he's going to put a lot of false temptation before you. But at the end of the day, you get to make that choice. Yahweh doesn't make it for you, satan doesn't make it, your parents don't make it; you make that choice. But it is life and death, it is life and death.

And when I was first coming to faith, I told you, I was only 16 when I started, and I was up my uncle's mountain, he had a mountain in New York state and he used to bring us up there. And a cousin of mine was talking about eternity. What does that mean to us, right? We're human beings, you're young, most of you are under 20, maybe there's a few that are a little over 20. But what is eternity when you're young, right? What is eternity even when you're 80 years old? What is eternity?

So, he told me like a little explanation. He said, "If you had a mountain" ... How high is this mountain? Anybody know how high the mountain is here? A thousand meters? Anybody know what the mountain is here? The height of it? No ... But if you had a mountain, let's say that was 3,000 feet, 1,000 meters, and a bird came once a year and pecked his beak on the top of that mountain, for the time it takes for that mountain to get down to land level ... Just think about that for one moment. 3,000 feet, and he only pecks his beak once a year. So, for the time that would go down there, you're talking about zillions of, quadrillions of bobbillions, numbers you don't even know to get down there. He said, "**That would be one second of eternity.**" And I said, "I'm in. You got me, I'm in. I'm in."

I mean, 60, 70 years in this life, **if you're lucky, or that-eternity?** I want it. And that's the choice you get to make, the choice you get to make. Do you want those few, tiny years in this rotten system that is ... even if you have the best life in the world, it's going to bring suffering and sickness and death? It happens to everybody.

In our last Teen Challenge, we ended up at the third day at the cemetery. And we were there in the cemetery, and we're looking at these graves, and one happened to be a 16-year-old child. We didn't know that, that was in there. And we said, "Wow, that's the age of like half the people that were in the Teen Challenge, 16, 17 years old." And you know what? Now that person is laying in that coffin, and they can't do anything else good or bad. The only thing they're waiting for is resurrection and judgment. It goes quick, it goes to the second, and that's the choice you have to make.

Do you want eternity in a good society? No sickness, no suffering, no death, no sorrow? Or do you want a few lousy years in this miserable world and then judgment? Wow, if you look at it that way, I don't know how anybody can choose now, choose a few years in this society. But that's what Yahweh is giving us. But He's giving us free will and He's giving us that choice in our life. And like I said, He's created us, not with just this great human potential for now, but for the future.

Because you want to know something up there? It says in the Psalm, *When you look in the sky, and you look at the stars, what is man that Yahweh is mindful of him?* You have billions of planets in our solar system, but you also have billions of solar systems with billions of planets. So, you get back to quadrillions and zillions. What is Yahweh going to do with all that, right? He's probably going to be sending us out there to do the same thing He did on earth. So, we're going to be creating because He's a creator. We're going to go throughout the universe, we're going to be doing all this stuff. We're going to be doing stuff that is so much fun and exciting that we can't even imagine.

And satan ... because satan will be destroyed and won't be there, misery loves company ... he wants to take each and every one of you with him when he goes to the Lake of Fire. But that's one of the scriptures that really scares me, when it says in the Lake of Fire, *There'll be weeping and gnashing of teeth.* Gnashing of teeth is like, "WAAHH!" I mean, people are going to be screaming and yelling because they're literally going to be burning in the fire. And it's only because ... not that Yahweh wants them, He doesn't want anyone to perish, it's because we have free choice and **we have to choose ... we have to choose.**

And I'll tell you something you're young now. I hope that each of you have good relationship with your father and mother, with your brothers and sisters, with your friends. But as life goes on, you get married, you have a husband, there will never be anybody in life who can give you the comfort that Yahweh gives you.

I travel all over the world. I love my daughter, I love my wife, I love my father, I love my brothers, I love you, but there's nothing in my life that gives me comfort then when I'm in my room, by myself with my door locked, with me and Yahweh. Going through His word, the feeling His Spirit gives you, you can't explain it to somebody, but it is a peace that surpasses all understanding. And there's nobody in the world that can ever take that peace away. Whether I'm in prison, whether I'm suffering, no matter what, there's no human being that can take that peace away, when you have that from Yahweh.

And it's interesting because there's books, I wrote my book on the *Gates of Hell Shall Not Prevail Against Them*, about the history of Yahshua's Congregation, there's other books, *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*. But you know something, I've studied more than 30 years, the history of Yahshua's Congregation. And I could tell you in 30 years of studying history ... and I read about a lot of martyrs, people that were killed for Yahshua, and some of them were horrible, heads chopped off ... I can't tell you one example that someone did not die with a smile on their face. They all died in faith, they died happy, because we know in this life, like if I died right now, boom in one second, I'm resurrected.

There's no consciousness in the grave. So, when you're dead, you don't know it, you don't know ... it's like sleeping. When you wake up, you're like, "Boy, I'm glad that eight hours passed." You're not looking at your watch every three seconds, you're sleeping, you don't know it. And then time just passes, and that's the way it is now. When somebody dies, they're just sleeping in the grave.

And that's why I told my wife, I said, "At the end of the day, I could care less where you bury me. Just make sure when I die, they put a smile on my face." Because I know the next waking moment, I'll make Yahweh's Kingdom. And **that's** what He's giving each of us. That's what He's giving each of you. He's giving you this wonderful, great opportunity to be part of that.

Let's go to Psalm 139, because I want to even show you something more amazing. Psalm 139 and verse 13. He says:

Psalm 139:13 *For You have possessed my inward parts; You wove me in the womb of my mother.*

So, I don't know if anybody here has ever done like weaving blankets, or weaving or knitting, crocheting, sewing, but Yahweh is saying that, that's how He made you. He literally wove you in the belly before you were born. Even greater Scripture than that is Psalm 22:9 and 10. Look what He says. Psalm 22 and verse 9 and 10. He says:

Psalm 22:9 *For You are He who took me out from the womb; causing Me to trust on My mother's breasts. I was cast on You from the womb, from My mother's belly, **You are My El.***

Wow. So, before you were even born, Yahweh knew you, *before you were born*. Look in the Bible how many times people's names are born, that they're told, John the Baptist, Yahshua, to name the person, Samson, a certain name.

And I tell the story of before Moriyah was born. Before Moriyah was born, I had a dream, I had it three times actually and I saw her in my dream. She was about five-year-old girl at that time with the curly hair. We didn't know if it would be a boy or a girl, we had no idea. But I saw her, Yahweh showed her in the dream. And I was telling Petra, "You're not to believe it, the baby is going to be like this." And lo and behold, that was exactly ... They used to say she looked like Shirley Temple when she was little. She had the curly hair like that.

Because Yahweh wove us. He made each and every person individual. And He wants **to know you individually**, that's the main plan. That's all He wants to do; He wants to know you in that way. So, wow, and this is why it's showing you, abortion, how horrible abortion is. Because Yahweh, as soon as the egg and the sperm come together in the womb, that's a life. And then it grows and it's nurtured.

And you want to know something? Our spiritual life is like that. The Bible says we're *begetten*. So right now, like me, I'm like still a baby in the womb spiritually, and I'll be **born again** when Yahshua returns. That's when anyone whose baptized will be literally born, you'll be born a spirit being. So, when babies are aborted, it's taking an eternal life, not just the life then, but eternal life and satan is trying to do away with it. And that's why it's so evil.

But spiritually, when somebody like yourself, if you get baptized and then you turn away, it's like a spiritual abortion. That's what it's like. Because even people, like I said, like myself, I'm like a baby in a womb, I'm begotten, but I'm not born yet. Because Yahshua said those that are born again, they're like the wind. And that's why I say the born-again movement, they don't understand it. If anyone ever comes to you and they say they're born again, I say give them the pin test. Because it says they'll be like the wind, where they can't see. So, stick them with a pin, and if they scream, then they know they're not born again, right?

And that's the key to it. We're like that baby in the womb, we're being spiritually, we're being nurtured and our mother is the congregation. And that's why you can't be on your own. How can a baby survive outside the mother's womb? It can't. It won't. The same way we cannot survive outside of Yahweh's Congregation. We're nurtured by the mother, we're nurtured by the elders, we're nurtured with each other.

And Yahweh, like it says, knew each of us **before** we were born. That is so neat to know! It's so special that He knows each of you in that special way. And He wants to know you more, He wants to get to know you as a dad. He wants to, like I said, know the good, He wants to know the problems, He wants to be part of your life.

Galatians 4 and verse 8. But like I said, religion gets in the way, because man wants to get in between you and your Dad and he wants to stop that relationship. Galatians 4 and verse 8. He says:

Galatians 4:8 *But then, indeed, not knowing Elohim, you served as slaves to the ones by nature not being Elohim.*

Comment: He's talking about people that are unconverted, that before they were converted, they're serving this religious stuff. You see here Catholicism. They're bowing down to stone statues and praying to stone statues.

Galatians 4:9-10 *But now, knowing Elohim, but rather being known by Elohim, how do you turn again to the weak and poor principles to which you desire again to come under bondage? You observe days and months and seasons and years.*

Comment: What's coming up in a few days? Christmas. What is Christmas? It's not the day Yahshua was born. When Yahshua was born, the shepherds were in the field. Believe me, I come from there, I've been in Bethlehem many times. There are no shepherds in the field this time of the year, it's too cold. They're not out there. So why are they saying it's His birth? Because the day they're calling Christmas is actually the pagan day of Saturnalia. It's a terrible day of debauchery and drunkenness and evilness. So, what does satan do in his society? He takes that evil and he tries to put it on Yahweh.

Galatians 4:10-11 *You observe days and months ... he says ... I fear for you, lest somehow I have labored among you in vain.*

So, I'll be honest with you, to somebody in the world that doesn't know any better, you can only feel sorry for them. And my whole life, I've seen people, they start out maybe Catholic and then they go to Jehovah Witness and then they go over here to Evangelical, and then maybe they come to the Truth. Which is great because wherever that walk comes, praise Yahweh for it. But for you, you started with the truth. Like I said, when you get to Mount Zion, there's nowhere to go from there, Mount Zion is the top of the mountain.

So, if any of you chose to say, "Well, I understand this is truth, but I want to go out in the world. I want to be part of that." Where do you go from here? You're going to go to Christmas **now** once you know it? It's one thing if you had never knew. When I was a little boy, I didn't know Christmas was pagan and I loved Christmas. I loved it because it was a time for me to give to people. But once I found out how bad it was, whew, that was the end of that and I never kept a Christmas again.

So where do you go? Where would you go if you left here? Would you go to **that**? You're going to go to Christmas, you're going to go to paganism? You're going to go to Catholicism, bowing down to a stone statue? So, you've been blessed that Yahweh doesn't have to take you through Jehovah Witness and these other things. You've been blessed because of your parents. And I'm going to give you homework right now for tonight. I want each of you, tonight when you're praying, to thank Yahweh for your parents. Because if you didn't have parents that took this calling, and would sacrifice and we're dedicated to this, you wouldn't be sitting here today.

And I'll tell you something as somebody who didn't grow up in the truth. And praise Yahweh, I came into the truth, like I said, I started at 16 years old understanding it, but I didn't really come in until I was 19, 20 years old when I was baptized. In the world, you go through things that are terrible and you're blessed that you don't have to go through that. And I know sometimes it's hard, you don't understand it. I know like our daughter, we tried to protect her, she's been home-schooled, and I'm sure there's times she's thinking that she's missing out on something. But believe me, as someone who went through it, you're not missing out on it. You know what you're missing out on? You're missing out on suffering, you're missing out on having people take advantage of you, you're missing out on people that would use you in a very, very bad way.

You know today in the world the number one thing that is traded in the world now? It's no more ... it's not oil or it's not food, it's people and young people your age. They're trading them by the millions for terrible things, sexual things, horrible things. And satan knows once that happens to someone, they'll never be the same again.

He knows and that's why he tries to kill the babies. That's why he wants abortion because he wants to take away innocent blood. He knows it. And he knows when the innocence of a person is taken away, you'll never get that back again. It doesn't mean you can't change or repent or come to truth, I mean look at even in the Bible there are many prostitutes that came to truth, but you can be spared from that. You are blessed because of your parents' commitment that you never have to go through what I went through and maybe some of your parents went through being in the world. Yahweh is giving you that opportunity, that blessing to not have to go through it.

And I say that ... Like people say, "Well, sometimes you learn from experience." Right? So, if I touch that stove and I burn my hand, I know I'll never touch it again. But you know what I say? I say the best way to learn is not by experience. The best way to learn is by somebody else's experience. So, I don't have to have the scar on my hand to know it's hot. If you touch the stove and I see your hand melting that's enough for me to know don't touch the stove. And yet if I'm stupid enough to still touch it then I'm going to pay the consequences.

Because in the world, like I said, you reap what you sow. And this thing every time I drop it it's going to go down, that's law of nature. So, it's not that Yahweh is punishing you when you do something wrong, you're punishing yourself. There's laws of nature that are there and if you go against those laws of nature you're going to pay the consequence to it. But that's why Yahweh has given you that opportunity, you don't have to do that, that you don't have to do that.

And Yahshua said, *I came to give life and give it more abundantly*. And we're not monks, we're not martyrs. You're young, you can have a lot of fun, you could do fun things. And today we went fishing, that was the first time me and Moriyah ever went fishing, he said all the girls, right? So, it was a lot of fun doing that. And you can camp and you can hike and you could do 100 different things. If one of you became a missionary, like me, the greatest joy of my ... like this, going around the world to different areas, and meeting brethren and seeing people, and it's fun. It's a lot of fun. And you can choose that fun in your life, as long as it's something that's not violating Yahweh's Word. So, you have such an opportunity because of who you are and because of how you've grown up. You can avoid a lot of these things.

Romans 3 ... Romans 3. And one of the reasons why we don't baptize usually people under 18 years of age because baptism is the biggest decision of your life, even more than getting married. Because it's forever, you're making a contract with Yahweh forever. And forever you're going to be in His Kingdom as His child and forever He's going to be your Dad. So, you're making this covenant with Him, and when you're really young, if you're 13, 14, you're really not at an age where you could make that commitment.

It's hard because what I've seen what happens is way, way back 25, 30 years ago, sometimes when we were baptizing young people, we were really doing them a disservice. Because what would happen is they really didn't understand it at 14 or 15 or 13, and then they are 20 and they're saying, "I know I was baptized. But I feel like I didn't understand it." And then there's this thing, did I receive the Holy Spirit? Didn't I receive the Holy Spirit? So, we don't have a specific age to baptism, normally it's between 18 and 21, but it's age of accountability. The person really has to understand the accountability, what's coming for it.

And part of that accountability is to understand every one of us is a sinner, every one of us is fallen short of the glory of Yahweh. And that's just the Garden of Eden, that Adam chose a way that was against Yahweh. And all of us, **every human being that ever lived**, except Yahshua, has gone that way. And this is ... I'm going to read here in Romans 3 and verse 9. He says:

Romans 3:9-12 *What then? Have we superiority, when we have before decided as both Jews and Gentiles, that all are under sin? According as it has been written, "There is none righteous, not even one!" "There is not one understanding; there is not one seeking YAHWEH." All turned away, they became worthless together, not one is doing goodness, not so much as one!"*

Romans 3: 13-17 "Their throat is a tomb being opened;" "they used deceit in their tongues; the poison of asps is under their lips; whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery are in their way; and they did not know a way of peace;

Comment: Look today in Israel. How terrible, it breaks my heart, all these people dying for nothing. The Palestinians and the Israelis fighting each other for nothing because they don't know the way of peace.

Romans 3:18-20 and *there is no fear of Elohim before their eyes.*" But we know that whatever the Torah says, it speaks to those within the Torah, so that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may be under the judgment to Elohim. Because the works of the Torah not one of all flesh will be justified before Him, for through the Torah is the full knowledge of sin. ... and verse 23 ...

Romans 3:23 *all have sinned and fall short of the glory of YAHWEH,*

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of Yahweh. And Romans 6 verse 23:

Romans 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of YAHWEH is eternal life in Yahshua, Messiah our Master.*

So, I started in the beginning to say you have free choice to make this choice. And you do, you do have free choice. But here when you read the Scripture every one of us is sinned. You've sinned, I've sinned, because Yahshua showed sin is not just in the action, it starts in the mind. And He says if you've ever gotten angry with your brother you've murdered him. So, is anybody here ever gotten angry? Yeah, right. All of us have gotten angry. Has anybody ever wanted something that wasn't theirs? It's coveting. And these are sins that bring the death penalty.

So yes, you do have the choice, you still have the choice. You have the choice to join the covenant with Yahweh or not. But at the end of the day, you have to remember that if you choose to go the way of satan, the wages of sin are death. That the day will come, your life is going to go like in a blip; you're going to die or Yahshua is going to return and you're going to be before His throne and you **will** have to give account for that, one way or the other.

Like I said, I tell the atheist that, as he's laughing, I said, "You could laugh but it doesn't change the truth of it." When it says there's weeping and gnashing of teeth, those are those atheists that were there and laughing today but tomorrow they'll be crying as they're going there.

So, this is a choice. Yes, you have free will to make that choice but you really have to think about it. It is the choice between life and death, and that's what Yahweh says, *I put before you life and death. Please choose life.* He's begging you. Because like I said, He's your Dad, He wants a relationship with you. But you get to choose that and you have to really think serious about it. Yahweh wants us to redeem and come back to it.

So, I want to ask you, do you believe you are sinners? And what do you believe will be that penalty, if you don't get those sins removed? Death, death is the penalty. So, like I said, and that's why I say it is serious and that's why we don't baptize people before a certain age. But at the same rate, it's encouraging, because in the Old Covenant there was no way to have the sin removed, Yahshua didn't come yet. Now that sin can be removed.

So, have you ever done anything in your life that you really regretted? Maybe you were home and you forgot to turn off the stove and something burned. And you're like, "Oh, if I only would have done this." Is there anything in life you ever regretted? You did wrong and then later you said, I wished I didn't do this. But at the time maybe it brought something you didn't realize, there was a consequence and you couldn't bring it back. Like if you burned something and destroyed it, maybe the house burned down. You could never bring that house back. You could build another one, but that house you can't.

But here's something where it can be redeemed. This is something where you can start all over again. It doesn't matter what you did. Do you know our biggest ministry in Babylon America today is in the prisons? In the last decade we've had thousands of people in prison write. And I tell them, those bars may be in front of you, but you're no longer in prison. Sin puts you in prison. Because when you have a penalty to pay, you're in prison.

I remember one time I did something in school that was not good. I went to the principal's office and the principal said they were going to call my father and tell my father. And you want to know something? They never wound up calling my father, but I wished they did. Because for days, as soon as like ... every time I came in the house, I'm waiting to hear, "Donald, come up here." And the anticipation of my punishment was worse than any punishment they would have given me. And that's what happens here. It's like the anticipation of that punishment when you know you're going to be punished is worse than the punishment itself even.

But here's where Yahweh says, *it can all be forgiven, you can start all over again*. And like I said, no matter what was before, you could be a murderer, you could have got angry with someone, you could have punched your brother or sister, whatever it is, it can start all over again. That it can start from scratch and Yahweh gives you that opportunity. And then the rest of your life, because like I said, even now, I'm almost 40 years in this faith, if I were to today get angry with somebody, I can get on my hands and knees and repent and it can be forgiven immediately. So that's such a blessing in your life that you never have to live with guilt ever again.

And I'll tell you something, if you're not in this walk, I will guarantee you that every single person that's not in this walk has some kind of guilt in their life. And if they say they don't, then they have guilt and they're also a liar. Because every human being out there has guilt, because everyone has sinned. Everyone. So, there's **no way** that a human being can't have some guilt in their life.

And **this** is how free you can be. Having no guilt is such a freedom. Because it enables you to go out and to do new things without having to worry about penalty of it.

And I think about it, I've been in business for myself. And when I started business, I had to take a lot of money and put it into the business, not knowing would the business fail or would the business succeed. And if it succeeded, great, it's going good, but if it failed, I lose everything. Where now, as a servant of Yahweh, I get to invest of myself, but there's no way I can lose. I can't lose, there's no way to lose, because Yahweh is making up for everything that's not there. So, it's like being able and going out and investing without any opportunity of losing.

And in life, all of you are going to have to think of what you're going to do for a living before Yahshua returns, right? Because even though we're not part of the world, we still have to survive. Like your parents, we've got to put food on the table and whatnot. But when I became a believer, and again, I was already 18, 19 years old, I owned my own house, I owned my own business, I was very, very wealthy for a young man. And I sold my business; I had a business that was like Federal Express. And at that point, I had 30 drivers working for me. My business was in and out of New York City, it was a million-dollar business, the money that we were bringing in.

But as I became a believer, I said, "I can't do this." Number one, I could, but the business was seven days a week. But to me, it didn't make a difference, because the principles I learned in business, I could put those principles into anything. So, I sold the business. And then I was deciding to get into another business. And I kept thinking to myself, what business can I do that Yahweh will bless? Because I didn't want to do any business. What good is it? I want a business that I could partner with Yahweh.

And I was thinking, "Ah, you know what? I'll open up a daycare center. That's great that I can help children." Then I thought, "No, that's not good because the mother is supposed to be caring for the children, not me." And then at the

end of the day, I decided to get into landscaping. Like I thought, "Wow, this is something Yahweh could bless." That I go to people's properties and it's all the weeds and everything, and then once I leave, it's perfect, it's cut and it's fine and it's perfect. And I did that for 15 years, and Yahweh blessed that business tremendously.

And it was like ... what was great is every day of my life, I was going out and doing **something** that was productive. There was a lot of widows that couldn't afford to pay for it and I would just cut the grass for free. So, I was helping people, I was doing. And now my job is the greatest job in the world: going around and bringing Yahweh's Word. So, think about that as you get older.

A few years ago, when I was in Kenya on a mission trip, because of my business background, they asked me to speak at the college. And I was speaking there at the college and the first thing I said was ... and the eyes of the teacher that was there, his eyes went up in the back of his head because I said, "The first thing I want to tell you is, everything you've learned in school, forget."

And it really is true. When you go to college, you don't use virtually anything that you learned in your job. I mean, if you're a doctor, of course, you're going to learn something like that. But most jobs, I'm saying most people that go for business training, or something like this, anything you're learning, most of it you're learning, doesn't even have to deal with that. Math and English, what does that have to do with if you're a doctor or whatever?

But I told them, "Forget everything you learned to this point, and I'm going to tell you something that'll help you in the rest of your life." I said, "Don't follow the way of the world and do your job for money." That's the most thing. How can someone 15 years old know what they're going to do? When I was 15, in my high school, they're telling me, "What do you want to be when you're older?" I want to be Superman! What do you know when you're 14, 15 years old? You don't know what you want to do. They should be teaching you principles to go out, and they never taught any of that stuff. What I told them was, "Find your passion and the money will take care of itself."

Every business, and I've had a lot of businesses, I never did a business for money. I did a business because I loved it, I did a business because I wanted to do something, I did a business because I wanted to build something. Find your passion and the rest will take care of itself. So as a young person, think about that. Your life is short, and every day you wake up, you don't want to do something, even if you're making a lot of money, that you hate.

There is a deacon that was in the Congregation that was a lawyer in America. And this guy was a very good friend of mine, and he was making a lot of money, **and he was so unhappy**. And I told him, I said, "So and so, why don't you just do something else?" He says, "I'm 60 years old. What am I going to do? There's nothing I can do to make this kind of money." But can you imagine every day your life going to an American courtroom that's full of injustice, the laws are all mixed up, and you have to deal with that every day? But once you get into it, you can get too far.

Like in America, that's why they say they want you to say what you're doing at 15. You know why? Because two years later, you're going to go to college and you're going to spend \$150,000 that you're going to borrow for some profession, and whether you like it or not, you got to pay those bills back.

So that's why I say, think about and pray about, what is your passion in life? Find out what your gifts are. Do you have a gift of drawing? Do you have a gift of service of people? Maybe you can open up an orphanage, maybe ... there's a million things you can do, it's endless. But do something you love to do and something that Yahweh will bless. And then you'll be happy. Every day you wake up, you'll be happy and you'll be serving somebody else.

And that's really the key to life. Because it really is ... the Scripture in the New Testament, *it's more blessed to give than to receive*, it really is true. I mean me, I love getting a gift, everybody does, but you get much more pleasure giving to somebody else of something they need than getting it for yourself. So that's just a little caveat that I want to share with

you as you get older. But really think about that. As you get older, do something you love to do, do something that you're passionate to do, and do something that Yahweh can bless in your life.

Matthew 11. And like I said, when you make that commitment, the greatest friend you have in the world is Yahshua. He's your Partner, He's your Friend. Matthew 11. And sometimes, as parents, we try our best to be good parents. Sometimes we might feel strict; we love our children, we try our best with them. But even so, when you're young sometimes, I know you feel like, "Oh, my parent doesn't understand me. You know what? They don't understand me." So, I want to read you a Scripture of Somebody that will always understand you.

Matthew 11 and verse 28. It says, this is Yahshua speaking:

Matthew 11:28-30 *Come to Me, all those laboring and being burdened, and I will give you rest. Bear my yoke upon you and learn from me. That I am tranquil and I am meek, and in my heart you will find tranquility in your souls. For My yoke is pleasant, My burden is light.*

And when He's talking about yoke, He's not talking about an egg. He's talking about the cows, the yoke on the cow, the burden that comes on them. *His yoke is pleasant and His burden is light.*

And like I said, there's something ... the worst thing I feel for people in life, and I meet people all over the place, is people that have no relationship with Yahweh and Yahshua. And like I said, in this world, divorce rates are 50, 60%, all the horrible things going on, and I feel so bad for people that have nowhere to turn. And when you're in this walk, you always have a place to turn. You always have your Friend, Yahshua, there with you, He's there for everything.

And I want to read you a Scripture now in Hebrew 2. Because did you ever wonder ... Yahshua is Elohim, like the Father, He lived forever, They have no beginning and no end. And yes, He had to come to earth to die for our sins, we know that, right? But if that's the only reason He had come to earth, then He could have did that in three days and three nights. Why did He come for thirty-two, thirty-three years as a human being? And I want to read you here why it says it.

Hebrews 2 and verse 9. He says:

Hebrew 2:9-13 *but we do see Yahshua, who humbled Himself to become a little lower than the cherubs through His suffering and His death, but now is crowned with glory and honor, so that He tasted death for the sake of everyone except YAHWEH. For it was fitting for Him, because of whom are all things, and through whom are all things, having brought many sons to glory, so that from the very beginning of their salvation they are made perfect through sufferings. For both the One sanctifying and the ones being sanctified are all of one nature; for which cause He is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying, "I will announce Your name to My brethren; I will praise You in the midst of the congregation." And again, "I will be trusting in Him." And again, "Behold, Me and the children whom Elohim gave to Me."*

Songs are big anchors. When we talk about anchors, anchors are things that put you in a different emotional state. And all of a sudden, you could just be like a normal day, and then all of a sudden, you're depressed and you don't even know why you're depressed. And it could be because you heard a song that reminded you of the day your grandfather died or something else. Smells sometimes even can anchor you to something. So, songs are very powerful and they come from emotions. So, we have to make sure we're controlling our emotions.

But when you're proactive, your values, not your feelings, is where you're making your decisions. Also, not your conditions, because like I said, I cannot control if the authorities put me in prison, but I can control how I react. So, a proactive person is making his decisions, not based on feelings and not based on conditions, but it's based on your values. That's why at your age now, if you can put these core values in, and you can live by them and say, "I will always give 100% of myself. I will never lie," and you put these values in, you'll become like a super person. You really will

because you will be such a powerful person and satan will have no control over you, like he does to most of the people in the world.

So, a disciple of Yahshua has to be proactive in order to produce fruit for the kingdom. Because again, remember, we're one out of a thousand people out there, or maybe a million people. So, if you're not proactive, wow, you're not going to want to go out there and share the truth with somebody because you'll feel this inability. You'll feel, "Oo, what if they turn me down? Oo, what if they say this?" And that's where we say the art of reframing, something I teach at the Bible School. "When they throw lemons at you, make lemonade;" reframing.

So, I say, like here is somebody that may have a fear of rejection, for whatever reason. It could happen in life, maybe you had a dad who always put you down, so you have this fear of rejection. So, we're believers and we're going to go out, we're going to talk to the people in the town here and we're going to bring the truth to them. And you don't want to go because, what if they turn me down? So, we just have to reframe the situation. We're going to make a new goal. Your goal is to go out there and get rejected by five people. So, when you go up and say, "Hey, I'd like to share the truth," and they say "Get out of here!" Yes! That's one. "Can I share something with you?" "No!" Yes! That's two. See, all we have to do is reframe. We reframe the situation, "They throw lemons at you, make lemonade."

Because everything is mental and like I said, everything is pain and pleasure, and your mind without you even thinking about it is already thinking about it for you. So, if I were to say to you, if I had something here and I said, "Would, you like a piece of this?" You're going to look at that and before you even ... you're thinking, your mind is looking and saying, "Uck, that looks like something that came out of the dog." Or you might could say, "Wow, that looks good. Give me a piece." You don't have to think because your nervous system is thinking: is it going to be pleasurable or isn't it going to be pleasurable? And if it looks like pain, "Uh-uh, I don't want that." But if it's like, "Wow, candy? Yeah, I'll take some."

So that's the way it works. So, what you have to do is you have to reframe sometimes. You have to reframe the situation, but you have to be proactive. As believers, we have to be proactive. It's a proactive commission: *Go out*, that's proactive. *Go out into all the world, making disciples*. So, it comes to that.

Philippians 3:13 and 14. Philippians 3:13 and 14. He says:

Philippians 3:13-14 *Brothers, I do not count myself to have reached the goal, but one thing I do, forgetting the things behind, and stretching forward to those things before, I press toward the goal to receive the prize of the victory of the highest calling of Elohim in Messiah Yahshua... So,*

Philippians 3:13 *I do not count myself to reach the goal, but one thing I do, **forgetting the things behind**, and stretching forward to those things before,*

And that's why I said, what a great thing, even if you make a mistake, you get on your hands and knees, and you ask Him forgiveness and you move on. That's what we have to do in our life. We can't live in the past, you can't live in guilt, and you don't have to, there's no reason to. Every day is a new day, and that's the proactive person, he's ready to let the past go, and move on toward the future. The reactive person, though, he's always worried about concerns, not what he can influence. He's worried about concerns, not what he can influence. It's inward, it's self.

So, if we say, "Hey, we're going to go out here and witness to people." He's not thinking, "There might be somebody out there who's going to die, they're going to go to the Lake of Fire, and now we can bring them into the truth!" He's worried more of concerns. "What if they say no? What if they call the police? What if they yell at me?" So, the reactive person, they're always thinking of concerns, not what they can influence. They always have a reason why they failed or they blame others in their situations, because they're a product of their feelings, their moods, their impulses, right?

So, you don't want to be reactive, because it's a terrible way, you'll never accomplish anything. And in reality, the reactive person that's always blaming somebody else, how much fruit are you— “Well, I can't do it now because of this, because of that. Well, I have a sick mother, I'm caring for. Oh, when I was younger, my father always yelled at me, and that's why I...” So, but in reality, it doesn't bring success. It doesn't bring results when somebody's like that. So, you don't want to be reactive in your life, because you're never going to get anything in the end. It's always going to end up with a big fat zero.

They're a product of feelings, moods, impulses. They play the victim, right? The reactive person plays the victim. They gossip, they talk about other people, and in the end, there's no fruit to bear from them. Where the proactive person finds solutions, not excuses. When you're proactive, you find a solution.

You want to know something? Your mind is an amazing thing. It's better than any computer that's ever been made. And I say this all the time, I say it in the School, “The quality of your life is in the quality of the questions you ask.” So, because your mind is the computer and you're punching something in. So, like, if something happens, you get sick, if the question, “Why does this always happen to me?” The answer is going to be, “Because you're stupid.” Right? The quality of your question, is the quality of your answer, so you have to ask better questions.

You don't ask a question like, “Why does this always happen to me?” You ask a question, “How can I overcome this?” And if you ask better questions, your mind will come up with the answer. And not only, “How can I overcome,” “How can I overcome and enjoy the process?” Because life is a process. You don't want to just get there, you want to enjoy it, right? It's not about just doing it, it's about enjoying it, it's about getting the fullness out of it. So, the better questions you ask are the better answers. And the proactive person finds solutions, not excuses.

And that's why it's interesting that the way the human mind works ... Like when you have a child, if I had a five-year child here, and I keep saying to that child, “Don't spill the milk, don't spill the milk, don't spill the milk.” The way your mind works is you have to think of spilling the milk before you think of don't spilling the milk. So, if I keep saying that to the child, “Don't spill the milk, don't spill...” You know what's going to happen? (*He knocks cup off the table, onto the floor.*) “Waah!” That's the way it's going to work, right? So, you don't say, “Don't spill the milk.” You know what you say? “Be careful. Be careful.” Because then the mind is on “Careful, careful,” not spilling the milk! And that's what you have to do. You have to ask yourself better questions, and you're going to come up with better answers. Have it where you have your mind working for you, right?

And we want to learn **responsibility**. *Responsibility*. Think of that word. *Response-ability*. It's the *ability to respond*. That's all responsibility is. So, when I say, “I'm going to give you responsibility. You're going to be in charge of turning the lights off in here at night.” Right? Because responsibility, if you're given responsibility, that's important. And all it is, is *the ability to respond*. So, we need that, we want to make sure we have the ability to respond to something. And if you're reactive, you're never going to respond. You're only looking for excuses, you're looking to justify yourself. But there's no fruit there. A proactive person has a consistency in their life, right? They can keep promises, a reactive person most times can't.

You can choose your decisions, but you can't choose the consequences. So that's the key to understand. As a proactive person, you choose your decision, you don't choose the consequences. When they came out with that COVID shot, the death shot, all I know is **that's my choice**. My body, my choice, right? Isn't that what they always tell you? Until it comes down to the shot. Then it's no more, my body, my choice, now it's, “You take it or not.” But it's like, “No, I'm not. You're not going to force me. That's my choice. I will not take it. Now, you have the choice from there that you could fire me, you could stop me from coming in your supermarket, you can do whatever you want, that's your choice. But my choice is I will not do this.”

So, we have that, when you're responsible, **you have that choice**. You can choose your decision, but you know you can't choose the consequences. Reactive person, they're only thinking of the consequences. Like I said, let's go out and witness. But what if they say no? What if the police come? What if this happens? They have a million reasons to never do anything.

But like I said, if you want to be productive ... And you all, all of you ... we didn't go over this extensively, if we had more time we would, but all of you have gifts, and as you grow, and particularly after your baptized, you'll get more gifts. That's one of the exciting things about baptism. It's like you get more gifts that you never even realize you had.

And one of the reasons why I don't like meeting people like I knew from high school, and this and that, and they're still my friends, I've known people forever. Or now and then my family will say ... they're on Facebook and all that stuff, I'm not, but they'll say, "Oh, so and so that you went to school with says hello." And I'll say, "Say hello to him." But the reason why I don't want to meet them is, I'm not the same person. They would never know who I am, I have nothing in common with that person back then. I've been trying to kill that guy for 40 years, and he keeps showing up and now and then, but I'm getting rid of him one way or another.

But I'm different, I'm a different person. And that's what happens, once that Ruach H'Chodesh comes inside of you, you become something you never knew you could become. And things you thought you couldn't overcome, they disappear in your life. And you become a powerful, powerful worker for Yahweh and for yourself. You become somebody that's bearing fruit, and the gifts that you may have now, like gifts of music or whatever, they get elevated. You become almost like a super human in these gifts. So, it's a wonderful, wonderful thing. But you have to be proactive. You have to use them, or how would you even know you had them? Like I said, reactive person is addicted to victimhood. He has no vision for tomorrow, only accusations when they fail.

And then the third one is the no-active person. That's just the person that basically goes along in life as it comes, basically no ambition to better themselves. They're just satisfied with sitting in a chair. They'll just sit there and say basically, "Okay, things will get better," but they don't do anything to make them better. So that's really the no-active person. No goals really, in life or anything.

And they're not lazy people. They're really not lazy. I mean, there's people like this, no-active people, that sometimes, they work a job for 40 years somewhere. They're on time every day, they work their job, they just have no ambition to do anything else. So, it's not that they're lazy, it's that the no-active is they just have no ambition to do more. They're just basically going like a reed in the wind.

What's interesting is there's a man called Victor Frankl who wrote a book after the Holocaust. He was a Jewish man and he looked at the Holocaust, and he saw six million Jewish people die. But there were, how many million people that came through it. And he was trying to figure out the reason why some people made it through the Holocaust and some people didn't. And it wasn't just by chance.

And what he realized was after doing his study on this was that the people that actually survived through the Holocaust were people that felt the need to live. They said, "No matter what, I'm going to survive because I never want this to happen again. I want to tell my story. I don't want this to ever happen again." They felt like there was more to their life than then. The people who didn't, the people basically quit and gave up, they died.

So, it shows you here, in using the Holocaust as an example, of the proactive person, to the reactive person, to the no-active person. That the proactive person saw the reason to go on, they saw the reason. And really it gives you adrenaline in your life. It gives you excitement in your life because you have vision, the proactive person sees vision. And then

everything that happens in their life and there will be bad things that happen to all of us, it doesn't take away from your vision of where you're going. So, it's extremely important that we have this.

It's powerful to control your destiny by your own free choice. People can't control their environment but they can control how they will react. Satan can only tempt you to do wrong when you're emotionally immature. Like I said, by your feelings. If you're emotionally immature, he can do it. If you're immature and undisciplined, it's very easy for him to get to you.

I used to have a cat years ago and he was an indoor cat, and sometimes he would get out of the house and he'd hide under the porch. And as he'd go under the porch, I'd stick this little thing under there and then he'd come and I'd catch him every time. And I'm thinking after about 50 times of doing that, doesn't he realize that I'm going to put this here, he's going to come and I'm going to catch him? But he didn't. That's instinctive thing, that's the way the cats are sometimes. So, we have to make sure that we're not immature and undisciplined.

And like I said, in the world we're living in, where we're going, the global government making immunity passports, restricting travel, stopping you from working, we have the freedom to how we will react to that. We don't have the ability to change what they're going to do, but we certainly have the ability how we will react.

Number two, number second habit, we have here, is **everything you do in life you should plan with the end in mind**. And this is what happens sometimes, like you see ... all of a sudden, you're driving down the road, and you see this stone building, halfway, with steps and you're like, what on earth is that? He ran out of money. He didn't plan with the end in mind. Everything you do, plan with the end in mind. How many people start college, spend a lot of money in one, two years and then quit, either they don't want to do it or they didn't have the money. You have to plan with the end in mind. Everything you do has to have the end in mind.

And it's the same most importantly with our spiritual life. We're starting this walk with the end in mind, knowing we are going to be kings and priests in the Kingdom of Yahweh. That's the end of it. So, knowing that, if tomorrow somebody in my family dies or I get cancer or, Yahweh forbid, they put me in prison, it doesn't change the fact of what the end is. The end is still being a king or a priest in Yahweh's Kingdom.

Now if I don't have that, when these troubles come up, what happens? Some people fall away because of it, they quit. Everything you do in life you have to do with the end in mind. You have to understand everything with the end in mind. Like I said, "The person you are today is stemmed from the person who you were yesterday and is rooted in who you will be tomorrow." So, you have to think of everything with the end in mind.

Matthew 6:33 says:

Matthew 6:33 *Seek ye first the kingdom, and all these things will be given to you.*

So, you want to make sure you have focus, you have drive, you have ambition, but you're thinking with the end in mind.

Third habit, I want to share with you is **you must have your priority straight**, right? You have to have your priority straight. So, in life, there's many things ... like the Bible says, bodily exercise profits little. It doesn't say none. So, I like to exercise, but I have priorities. I'm not exercising eight hours a day. I do a little bit of exercising, me and Moriyah exercise, usually about 20 minutes a few days a week. But you have to have your priority straight. So, you have to put ... it's always Yahweh, family, and then self. But you want to make sure you have your priority straight.

All believers, **we must focus on relationships before schedule**. That's what's important in life, people; relationships before schedule. We have to live out the principles and our priorities in our life. Like I was talking the other day, you have

to know what your legacy you want to be. So, if your legacy is to open up orphanages in every country in the world, then your priorities have to be based on that legacy, what you're doing.

But many times the reason why people don't achieve their goals is because they have contradictions. They have contradictions in the goals. So, you don't want a contradiction in your goal. You have to have vision, you have to have a plan of action. And like I said, priorities in life: Yahweh, bearing fruit for the Kingdom, and family, friends, serving others. We want to make sure we have our priorities straight.

Fourth principle for life, and this is a really big one, **everything we do in life has to be win-win**. As human beings, almost everything in life is win-lose or lose-win, and that's the way it is. You buy a car, you find out a week later, the motor's bad, or you find out the brakes were bad or something, and somebody knew it, but they wanted to dump it off. Ha ha ha! You've got the bad car, they got the money. It's lose-win, lose-win. So normally it's like that.

The stock market, the reason why I say the stock market is not good, it's gambling, because every time somebody's winning, somebody's losing. So, you want to make sure in life everything you do has got to be win-win. It's got to be good for you or good for the other person. And if it can't be win-win, then you just don't do it. So that's the key.

When I'm negotiating a deal, if I'm selling a car or I'm doing something with somebody, I want them to be happy with it as much as I'm happy. And if they're not happy, I don't want to do the deal, even if I'm going to be happy, because it's got to be win-win, that's Yahweh's Kingdom. In Yahweh's Kingdom everything in the Kingdom is win-win. It's never win-lose, it's never lose-win. Everything in life and dealing with others has to be win-win.

So, we have to change our mindset on this, because in commercial Babylon, it's the total opposite. Everything is win-lose or lose-win. And everything is from competition, and like I said, competition is of the devil. In the Kingdom there will be no competition. The only competition you should have is to yourself.

So, there's nothing wrong with competing against yourself. So, like if you're exercising and you start out, you go one time around the block, and after a week you go two times around the block, and then you ... you go against yourself. So, you could compete against yourself, to do better. But you should never compete against somebody else. What's the difference? What does it matter if I could run faster than this one, or he could run faster than me? It makes no difference. What we want to do is we want to help each other. We want to support each other.

So, we got to get that mentality out of our mind of competition. **Everything has to be cooperation not competition**. As believers we want to be in cooperation. And I've seen it, even like sometimes, way, way in the past with seeing things, even like a little Bible game, how competitive people get. When I was in Church of God, and boy, the people there were loving, and caring, I never met such people in my life, but they had a family night, and I'm playing basketball with these people, and I'm like, "Is that the same guy that I was with today at services?" Wow! You get on the basketball court and it's cutthroat, it's competition, it's not good. It is not good. It's cooperation, not competition.

And this is the same in the community. In the community, there can never be lose-win or win-lose. It has to be win-win for everybody. So, we have to think about that, with every decision that's made in the community, it's got to benefit everybody.

And I remember when I had a congregation several years back, and when someone would come up with an idea, and it didn't matter what the idea was, it can be, "Hey, why don't we all, once a month, go out to a homeless center and help the people?" Or it could be something, "Let's buy a new coffee pot." Unless it was unanimous that everybody in the congregation said, yes, I would just shelve it. I'd say, "Okay, well, not everybody's on it, and let's shelve it. We'll talk about it another time." Because you want to keep unity. It's got to be win-win. So, you don't want it for some people to be win and some people to be lose.

And I remember several years back at one of our communities, because, as you know here, some people work outside the community, some people work in the community. And for the community to survive, you've got to have some money. So, in one of the communities we had, they had where people that worked outside the community had to give 60% of their salary to the community. And some of these people, when I was there, they came up and they said, "We're leaving the community." I'm like, "Why would you leave the community?" They said, "Well, we love it, we don't want to leave, we can't pay that." Some of them were taking care of family members, father and mother, they had a house, they had to pay tax, they had a pay this. So, after giving 60% to the Kibbutz, they didn't even have enough left to buy food for their family.

So, I said, "Well, okay, let's get together." So, we sat down and we're talking. And I said, to the people in the kibbutz, they're saying, "Well, we need their money. Without their money, we can't survive. And we're doing all the work. We're in the kibbutz, we're doing all the planning, we're doing all the work, and they're not." And I said, "Yeah, but without their money, you can't survive." And then to the people outside, I said, "Okay, you're making the money outside, but they're doing all the work in the kibbutz." So, don't you see? It's co-independent, they need each other.

So, to the people that were outside, I said, "Okay, 60%, it sounds high to me. How much would you want to pay?" They said, "Well, we wouldn't mind paying 20%". And then the people inside the kibbutz, "Well, 60% is kind of high. What do you think?" "Well, 40% might work." Boom, we meet at 30, in the middle. And they're both happy, it's win-win. "Yeah, 30% is good." "Yeah, 30% is good." "And you know what? I do appreciate, while I'm doing my job that I enjoy out here as a teacher, you're over here working like a dog in the fields." "And you know what? We couldn't have this kibbutz if you weren't out there bringing that money in as a teacher."

So, there's an appreciation on both sides and it's a win-win situation. It's got to be in everything. And usually if you negotiate, you can come to that. There is usually that number that comes in perfect on both sides. So, everything, like I said, in life has got to be win-win. **And Yahweh's Kingdom is a Kingdom of abundance, not scarcity.** You have to get your mind away from that scarcity.

And I would say, sometimes, like I'd be in Africa, and there'd be like one of the brothers like following me around for almost a week, trying to figure out how to get 20 dollars out of my pocket. He wanted me to give him 20 dollars. And I said, "Wow, you're spending all this time, all this energy into trying to get 20 dollars for me." I said, "If you came here with a business plan that would have helped the kibbutz, I'd give you a thousand dollars. You're thinking small. Yahweh's Kingdom is not scarcity, Yahweh's kingdom is abundance. You're thinking of 20 dollars, that's going to go in a day. Instead of thinking, you know what? If I could develop this business for the community, it could help everybody. And then I'd be happy to raise funds for you." We have to think in abundance, not scarcity.

Sometimes, you're a piano player and you're playing the piano for the congregation, and now a new family comes in and the wife is a piano player. Ooh! Oh! And there's such frictions. It's like, no, you know what you just did? You just doubled your assets! You have to think different; you're thinking small-minded if you're thinking, "Well, I'm the piano player. Now there's another one they won't need me." **No way!**

Do you want to know in New York City? In New York City, you go down the street, they have the lighting district. So, in the lighting district, there's a thousand light stores. And when I first went there, I was just a little boy with my dad, I used to think, "How do they all stay in business?" Because people come from all over the country to that area, because there's not one store, there's all the stores. So, it's not scarcity, it's abundance, right?

So, if we have two piano players here, you got five violin players, it's not competition, five is powerful! Now you could do a whole symphony with that, right? Yahweh's Kingdom is not a kingdom of scarcity, it's a kingdom of abundance, and we have to think that way. And the more that's there, the more blessing that's there, and that's what's getting your mind

away from lose-win, win-lose. When you think win-win, your mind thinks on that. You're thinking on abundance, you're not thinking on scarcity.

Number five, fifth point, **seek to understand before looking to be understood**. This is a really important one. This will help you in your life with relationships, it will help you with absolutely everything you do. Because you know what happens? Our human nature is selfish, and our human nature is self-wanting, So, when we're there with somebody, and we're discussing with someone, it doesn't matter if it's your parents you're talking to, or maybe a teacher, the first thing you want to do is get your point out. And the first thing, the other person wants to do is get their point out.

And you want to know something? I told you, I deal with easily a hundred issues a year or more with negotiating, between elders, between people, as the leader of the Congregation, I deal with this for mediating. And what I find, more than half of the problems I deal with throughout the years, the two people are actually saying the same exact thing, they just don't take the time to listen to each other. They're saying the same exact thing, and arguing with each other, because they're simply not listening to each other.

So, look to understand before being understood. So, before I want to tell you something, I need to understand you, right? If you go into a doctor, and you say, "Doctor, I'm having this problem." "Here, take this pill." "I didn't tell you what the problem was." "Take it anyway." Right? Doesn't a doctor have to know what your problem is before he gives a cure?

So, in the same way, how can I give a cure to you if I don't know what your problem is? We have to learn to be better listeners. And the way you do that is *look to understand before being understood*. I'll have my time to get, I'll have my time to be understood. I want to understand you first, I want to understand you first. And it's important, it's important for parents, it's important for children, it's important for husbands and wives. It's important for us if we're going to understand each other, look to understand the other person first, before being understood yourself.

Sometimes there's a story with a father who was having a problem, and he's saying, with his child, and he's saying, "My child, so and so, they just don't listen to me. They don't understand me." And the person talking to them said, "What did you just say?" "**They don't understand me.**" "But you're looking to be understood first. Do you understand them? You're saying, I don't understand my child, because they don't understand me. Well, you need to understand them before they can understand you. Find out why. Why is the child feeling that way?"

Look to understand, and it's a breakthrough in relationships, I'm telling you. And the art of listening in the internet age is almost completely gone. And if you want to be a powerful friend and a powerful human being, just on a surface level, be a good listener, somebody that can really listen. Because another thing I find out as a pastor, probably 30 to 40% of the time somebody coming to me and wanting to counsel, they're really not looking for advice, they're just looking for somebody to listen. And that's what you need, you need to have an ear to understand that. So, look to understand before being understood.

Every teacher understands the needs of the student before he can teach, right? If I'm coming and someone says, "Okay, we want to hire you as a teacher at the school." "Oh great, all right, let me come in. Don't I need to know what subject you want me to teach? Don't I need to know what you want me to teach?" Yeah, you don't just come in and teach. You have to know what you're teaching. So, every teacher has to understand the needs of the students before he can teach. Every lawyer has to do discovery before he can try a case, and every doctor has to understand the problem before prescribing a cure. How do we do this? We master the art of listening. In your life it can help you 1,000% to do it.

There's basically five ways of listening. The first is ignoring, which is not listening at all, it's just ignoring. Number two is pretending to listen, but just thinking of your response, right? You see that sometimes as you're talking to somebody,

and they're like this, this, (*He nods his head very fast*) but you see in their eyes they're just waiting for you to stop so they can give a response, and they're really not listening to a word you're saying.

The third one is selective listening; they hear what they want to hear. And it's funny sometimes, like I give a sermon, and somebody comes up after and says, "That was such a great sermon!" And they tell me why and I'm like, "Hmm, I don't even remember saying that." Like they've selectively heard one thing in that sermon that they wanted to hear. So selective hearing is number three, where you hear what you want to hear. Number four is attentive listening, where you're seriously listening to the person and what they're saying. But the fifth and most important one is empathic listening; it's getting into the head of the person and understanding why they're doing it.

So, it's the difference, I guess you could say, of being sympathetic and empathetic. When you're sympathetic, you really feel sorry for the person. When you're empathetic, you went through it before, you know what they're feeling. Like with El Mauro, I had that problem with my shoulder, and man, I know what he's going through with that pain. So, it's empathic listening, it's getting into the head of the person and understanding why they're saying what they're saying. You have to listen to the eyes, to the facial expressions, to the heart, because words are only 20% of our speech. And again, to do empathic listening, you have to look to understand before being understood.

The sixth point is **synergy**, and this is where community living comes in, because synergy is amazing. Where myself, I can't lift this, but two of us can lift three of these, and three of us can live six of these. It's amazing how synergy works. And I've seen people even lift a car, like there's just about eight people come ... I've actually had cherubs lift my car one time, but that's another story. But people will come and lift the car up and move it. It's amazing what synergy can do.

So, **synergy** is *two or more people working together for the same goal*. So, we have to think of that. The sum is worth more than the individual pieces, right? So, when you're working in synergy, normally by yourself, one plus one equals two, but in synergy, you know how much one plus one is? It might be four, it might be eight, it might be twenty-eight, it might be eight thousand. It's endless. When you have synergy, it's absolutely endless, because people are all working together. And that's the beauty of the Body of Messiah. We're all using our spiritual gifts to work together.

And in order to do that, **we must value diversity and differences**. That's part of synergy. Each of us have different gifts and we have to value that, right? So, I say this, if somebody can do 80% of what you can do you should delegate it. But when I delegate something, I'm leaving it in that person's hands for him to do it. So, he's not going to do it exactly like me or I'd do it myself, and I have to appreciate that synergy of the variance of differences, the diversity that comes with that. And as long as there's a common spirit, a common purpose, and common goal, it works.

And the last one ... the last point I want to leave you with, to help you in life, and maybe the most important, is **sharpening the saw**. You have to learn to sharpen the saw.

So, there's a guy out there and he's cutting a tree. And he's out there for two hours, and he's cutting this big tree, and somebody comes, he sees how hard he's working and the tree still didn't go down, and he's like, "Hey, have you sharpened the saw?" "Can't. Don't have time." Whoosh! Whoosh! Two more hours goes by. "Wow, that saw looks pretty dull? Why wouldn't you sharpen it?" "Nope, can't do it." Six more hours, he's still out there sweating. Sometimes we're so busy, but we're not accomplishing. Business is not accomplishment, you have to learn to sharpen the saw.

And it's like, I don't know if you ever watched racing, car racing, but ... I don't watch it, but I've seen it, and when I've seen it, the first thing that came into my mind was ... as they're racing really fast, and you go how many times around, you win ... a person would stop in a pit stop and change their tires and I'm like, "Why is he stopping? I mean, come on, you're wasting time!" No, he's not, because if he doesn't stop in that pit stop and change his tires and do whatever, he's going to lose. So, you have to sharpen the saw. You have to take the time to sharpen the saw.

And I've worked in landscaping for 15 years. And I know ... like at the end of every week, every Friday afternoon, I would take all my big lawn mowing machines, I'd take them apart. I would have to sharpen the blades on the bottom, I changed the oil because if not, it's not going to work. You have to do maintenance.

So, it's the same way here. These principles for life, they're not something where you're going to be 55 years old and say, "You know, I remember that time when Elder Don was there and he gave us those principles. Yeah, that was really, really good." No, if it's just a memory, oh great, it's good, at least you got a good memory, but if you implement these in your life, it will change your life. It will change your life in such a powerful way, but you have to sharpen the saw. **You have to practice that.** And like I said, the way that you become a master at something is by doing it over and over and over again.

And I'll tell you something, I believe I'm a master at the Bible. I know the Bible, I've known it for 40 years, I study it, I understand it. But still, every single thing I do ... like do you know for just coming here for this trip, I prepared for a month, just for these few days. When I have a Bible School, I prepare for six months out of the year. So, it's not just the time taking for the School, it's the preparation for it.

Things like the Temple, they call me an expert on knowing the Temple is in the City of David, and I do know a lot about it. But if I'm going to give a lecture, I don't just go and give a lecture. I'll go in again, I'll prepare myself and prepare myself and prepare myself. Because I want to make sure that I'm giving a hundred percent. And you have to do it, you have to sharpen the saw.

And even these principles I'm giving you now, there will be at least twice a year that I'll go through all this. I have some tapes that I listen to on it, and I'll just go over and over it again. Because the way our memory is, do you know, like if you read a book, tonight you read Tom Sawyer, within about a day, you already forget about 50 percent of that book. Within about a month, 75 percent of that book is gone. So, and have you ever read a book after a year or two, and you're like, "Wow, I don't even remember that being in there!"? And it's because you forget it. **So, you have to sharpen the saw.** You have to keep doing this.

You have to make sure that you're ... and that's the reason why every day we Bible study, we pray. I've read my Bible a hundred times, but every single time, every morning I open this up, I feel like it's the first time. Because Yahweh shows you new things in there, and you're understanding it in a way you never did before. So, we want to make sure that we are sharpening the saw.

So, to conclude here, when dealing with community living, we want to embrace the philosophy of inter-dependence, right? So, as a youth, you almost have to have that, inter-dependence with your parents, independence with your siblings, inter-dependence with your friends, inter-dependence with the Congregation, inter-dependence with your pastor. So, we want to have that inter-dependence. We want to be reliant on each other, and to be looking at this from that standpoint. Number two, we want to be a hundred percent committed to Yahweh. Number three, we want to continuously be working on overcoming and repentance. And number four, we want to be thankful in all situations.

So, I am going to stop there.