

ONE TORAH FOR ALL

Zerubbabel ben Emunah
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Spiritual Maturity

Growing in our walk with Yeshua

Qorintyah Aleph (1st Corinthians) 12:3

Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of Elohim says, "Yeshua is accursed"; and no one can say, "Yeshua is Master," except by the Set-apart Spirit.

Please repeat after me. And please say this out loud.

"Yeshua is Master!"

"Yeshua is Master of my life!"

We can only say this as we are enabled by the Set-apart Spirit!

What you have just said was under the unction of the Set-apart Spirit. He is near to you and ministering to you. Therefore, as we proceed, may He continue to enlighten us and increase our understanding of Him and His ways.

Ivrim (Hebrews) 5:11-14

11 Concerning Him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of Elohim, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant.

14 But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

Spiritual maturity is a subject that is not dealt with nearly enough. We as His disciples need to know what a spiritually mature disciple looks and acts like. This way we have something to aim for, and also something to guide us, so that we are not deceived by wolves in sheep's clothing. To accomplish this we need good solid food. Solid food will sharpen our senses so that we will be better able to know what is good and what is evil.

Interpersonal Relationships

Matityah (Matthew) 18:15-20

15 "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.

16 "But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED.

17 "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the assembly; and if he refuses to listen even to the assembly, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

18 "Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.

19 "Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven.

20 "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."

In the process that we are currently undergoing, YHWH is calling out His people; it is important that we know, understand and practice the above very diligently.

What we cannot afford, is for individuals to go off gossiping and slandering or libeling others every time they get their feelings hurt or they do not get their own way. We need to practice maturity, spiritual maturity. Even when we do not feel like doing so, and perhaps, *especially* when we do not feel like it, we need to do right in this area, without making excuses as to why we don't have to do this.

If we cannot live together now (outside the Land), what makes us think that we can live together inside the Land?

Ma'aseh (Acts) 2:1

When the Day of Shavuot (Pentecost) had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

We need to be working towards being in one accord. How can we do this if we are not willing to put aside our own pettiness? (Selfishness) How can we do this if we do not focus upon Him and His Kingdom? How can we be in one accord and work towards building His Kingdom rather than our own self-centered kingdom?

Ephesians 4:4-6

4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;

5 one Master, one faith, one baptism;

6 one Elohim and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Did we catch that? There is only one body! There is only one faith! But beware of those who say that you must be a part of their group, in order to be in the one true faith! This is simply not true and is said in order to manipulate and control your thoughts and actions for the benefit of those saying such things. Did not Yeshua Himself state that He had sheep in other folds?

Yochanan [John] 10:16

"And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear My Voice; and they shall become one flock, one shepherd."

We who have descended from the ten tribes of the Northern Kingdom have inherited a rebellious spirit that dates back almost three millennia. That's not a very good track record! Each and every one of us is going to have to choose consciously to put away this spirit of rebellion against YHWH and His Torah. This is not going to be an easy task for any of us to do this. But it is going to have to start inside each one of us. We are going to have to stop being in rebellion towards Him first and foremost, then towards one another as Scripture states that we are to be subject one to another.

Ephesians 5:21

subjecting yourselves one to another in the fear of Mashiach.

Forgiveness

Matityah (Matthew) 6:15

But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

This is so very important for each of us to grasp and hang on to that to miss this one thing in Scripture is to miss out on eternal life.

We have to forgive each and every person who hurts us and does us wrong. If we do not, well, according to what Yeshua taught here, we will not have eternal life.

"But, teacher", you say, "if you only knew what that person did to me, you would understand why I cannot forgive them. Surely, YHWH will understand, won't He?"

We have a clear commandment to forgive. If you violate that commandment, how is that proving that you love Him, when He taught that those who love Him keep His commandments?

Yochanan (John) 8:7

So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first."

Is there anyone among us today who has not sinned? Of course not!

So why is it that we spend so much time throwing stones at each other within view of the public? If a brother sins, are we not supposed to go to that brother and make a genuine effort at turning him back to Torah? And is this not to be done in private, first and foremost?

And if we do not do this, do we not share in his sin? To be sure, we do.

But how can we do this if we hold unforgiveness in our heart? Well, to be truthful, we cannot follow the Matthew 18 process of restoring our brother if we have not personally gone through

the Matthew 7 process of getting the log out of our own eye first, and then having spent time praying and seeking His face in that particular matter.

Matityah (Matthew) 18:22

Yeshua said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven."

The moment we put a limit upon our forgiveness towards our brothers, we have sinned.

If we do not forgive, then we cannot take the proper steps to restore our brother. This is a very grievous sin, to see a brother in sin and do nothing to rescue him. It would be like seeing a man drowning while we had a line in our hand and we refused to throw it to him to rescue him.

And yet, I have seen this so many times in Messianic and Nazarene circles. It must truly grieve our Heavenly Father. Brethren, these things ought not to be so among us as something that is proper and right, when YHWH clearly commands us to do otherwise.

Philippians 3:13-14a

13 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,

14 I press on

If Shaul had not gotten a hold of it when he had written this, what right do any of us have to think that we have it? We don't!

Each one of us needs to press on. Furthermore, we need to help each other to press on. We are not going to make it alone. If we think that we can make it alone, then we are lying to ourselves and His Spirit is not in us.

Let us not live in the past, which we cannot change, but which Elohim can forgive! Rather, let us look forward, pressing on towards that which He has called us to do and live a set-apart life, pleasing to Him in every way!

Faith

Romans 14:23

and whatever is not from faith is sin.

This passage of Scripture seems pretty simple. Yet, how many of us truly understand its implications?

If we do something and we don't do it with and by faith, basically, it is sin.

How about watching TV? Can you do that by faith?

How about buying a new car?

How about buying groceries?

How about finding a parking place?

You see, YHWH wants to be involved in our everyday lives. But too often we shut Him out of the minor details and decisions of our lives. When we do, we sin.

***Qorintyah Bet (2nd Corinthians) 5:7
for we walk by faith, not by sight***

When you pray and ask YHWH for something and that something arrives, do you just assume that it is from Him? If you do, then you are walking by sight, and not by faith.

YHWH commands us to test every spirit. When we receive something, a spirit is bringing it. Do we test it, or just assume it to be from Him?

Satan would like nothing better than to give us material things and for us accept them from him. He does not care where we think they are from, because this gives him access into our life.

However, if we walk by faith, testing the spirits as commanded, not assuming anything, but rather being careful to listen to His Voice in all matters, then we will walk by faith, not by sight.

Stewardship

Matithyah (Matthew) 25:25

'And I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.'

This is so very wicked! When YHWH blesses us with gifts, talents, abilities, material goods, or whatever, He expects and desires for us to choose to bless others with those things. If we selfishly keep them for ourselves, we will not have eternal life.

Please take careful note of this passage in Matthew 25:25, in which the wicked servant stated that he was "afraid" and acted in accordance with that fear.

Gilyana (Revelation) 21:8

"But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

Please note in the above passage who it is that is listed first that will be cast into the lake of fire: it is the cowardly. That is those who are afraid, full of fear, and trembling. These are those who allow fear to rule their lives, rather than listening to His Voice and stepping out in faith to obey His personal commandment to them.

Let us be resolved to be strong and courageous for YHWH, Yeshua, and His Torah!

Qorintyah Aleph (1st Corinthians) 6:19-20
19 and that you are not your own?
20 For you have been bought with a price

If we are going to be the good stewards that He desires for us to be, then it needs to start right here with this passage. Each one of us needs to understand that we do not belong to ourselves; He bought us with His own blood.

So, if I don't belong to me, then how can I own anything at all? And if I do not own anything, then why am I hoarding what is in my possession? Why do I hang on to things as if they were mine?

Ministry

Galatians 5:13
13 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

We are called to serve each other.

If we are truly looking out for the interests of our fellow believers as Torah commands us to do, then we cannot be walking after the selfish desires of our own flesh. However, the converse is also true. If we are seeking to elevate ourselves and do primarily what is pleasing to ourselves, then we cannot be truly looking out for our brethren.

Let us serve one another in love.

Matithyah (Matthew) 16:25
"For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

Are you seeking your own will? Are you seeking to do what seems right in your own eyes? If this is so, then ultimately you will lose your life.

Let us lose our life for His sake. Let us give our life in service to Him and our fellow man.

Ya'aaov (James) 2:15-17
15 If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food,
16 and one of you says to them, " Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?
17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.

We must be careful to meet those needs that are genuine, especially those needs that are in the body, wherever we see a need. Also, in an effort to reach out to those not yet in the body of Messiah, we need to reach out in an effort to bring them into the body of Messiah. This should be done as His Spirit leads us.

Matithyah (Matthew) 25:45-46

45 "Then He will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.'

46 "These will go away into eternal punishment,

It seems that everyone with a computer these days has a "ministry". However, is writing articles and having a website the only things a true ministry is involved in?

Also, some have an online "ministry" just to gain wealth for themselves.

There are surely those in need around us every day. Are our hearts open to His Spirit as He would desire to lead us in helping those in need around us?

Walking in the Spirit

Galatians 5:7

You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth?

This is an interesting question. The answer is, that no one can stop you from obeying Torah.

If you or I stop obeying Torah, it is because we have made a personal choice to do so.

If there is a particular commandment that we do not desire to keep, then if we do not keep it, that is the choice that we make, and nobody forces us to make this choice.

For example, the keeping of Rosh Chodesh (New Moon) as a Mo'ed (Appointed time); if we keep this Mo'ed, it is by choice. If we do not keep it, again, it is by our own personal choice. Whatever we do or do not do, it is by our own personal choice. We need to own up to this truth and stop blaming others or circumstances for the choices that we make!

Ephesians 4:1-3

1 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Master, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,

2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,

3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

It is only possible to do this if we walk in the Spirit. If we attempt to do this in any other way, we will fail and fail miserably.

The tolerance that we are called to show to one another is not a tolerance of sin; rather it is in understanding that we are all at different levels of maturity. As such, we need to show tolerance to those who are not as mature as some are. And this maturity can be seen in different areas of our walk as well. One might be more mature in one area and not so mature in another area. We need to understand these differences for what they are and to give leeway where it is due. This way we can stop condemning our fellow servants of YHWH and be encouraging in our words and deeds towards one another.

Ivrim (Hebrews) 13:16-17

16 And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices Elohim is pleased.

17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

Being in a leadership position carries with it a load of responsibility. And that responsibility is answerable directly to YHWH for how one cares for those who we are to be feeding and helping to grow.

However, there is also a responsibility of those who are cared for, to be cared for in such a way as not to cause grief to those over them. It should be with great joy that those in authority over us pray and feed us.

If this is not the case in our life, then our rewards are reduced according to the above passage.

Spiritual Maturity

Each one of us needs to be spiritually mature. When we are spiritually mature, we will be productive members of His Kingdom.

What this means, in part, is that we will work at improving our interpersonal relationships. It means that when we are hurt or wronged we will forgive according to Scripture.

Our walk will be one of faith in all things. We will exhibit good stewardship in every area of our lives. We will be involved in true ministry or supporting His true ministers.

And above all, we will walk in the Spirit as He is in the Spirit.

Avinu Malkenu (Our Father, Our King), we ask that You would help us to grow and become spiritually mature. We ask this in order to become effective Kingdom builders. Give us these things for Your honor and Your Kingdom. In the Name of Yeshua our Mashiach we pray,

Amein and Amein.

Zerubbabel ben Emunah

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