Precious

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Everlasting Gems

By

Dr. Gibson Jun T. Valenzona

# Precious & Everlasting Gems

By: Dr. Gibson Jun T. Valenzona Copyright © 2011

> Edited by Segundina T. Valenzona Author of several books

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# Precious & Everlasting Gems

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# Acknowledgement

I sincerely and gratefully acknowledge the abundance of God's grace and blessings that inspired me to use my pen and come up with this book.

I am also grateful for the invaluable support of all the people around me especially to my beloved parents and sisters who constantly pray for me and whose desire is my lasting success for God's glory.

I would like also to make special mention to my nephew Andrew David V. Russell and to my niece Sophia Rebecca V. Russell who gave me a unique and stirring inspiration to share my beautiful and marvelous experiences with our Father & Savior together with the knowledge I gained, the lessons I've learned for the benefit not only of the people today but more especially to the coming generations.

#### Dr. Gibson Jun T. Valenzona

I dedicate this book with 9 00VE

to

Our Heavenly Father Yahweh, His Son Yahshua the Messiah, and the Holy Spirit who gave me the grace to write and the privilege of serving Him

My Parents: Supernico Y. Valenzona, Jr. Segundina T. Valenzona

My Sisters: Ruth Love, January Gay, Vernie, Joy.

My Nephew & Niece Andrew David Sophia Rebecca

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To All The Truth Seekers

# Table of Contents

# Precious Prayers & Praises

God's Love	2
God's Grace & Mercy	6
God's Mysterious Ways	9
Tears of Joy	12
Discipline	15
God's Precious Creation	17
A Beautiful Morning Praise	20
Prayer for Help	22
Conversation with God	26
Right Attitude	29
The Beauty of God's Love	33
Cross Roads and Choices	36
Repentance and Forgiveness	39
Fight Against Darkness	42
God's Beautiful Creation	45
God's Special Purpose	47
Pride and Destruction	50
Patience	52

# **Everlasting Gems**

Courage	60
Opportunities	63
Keepers of the Faith	66
Right Choice and Right Attitude	69
Humble Obedience	73
Getting Wisdom & Insights	76
"Offer To God A Sacrifice of Praise"	79
Consider Others Better	
The Light of Life	
Sowing Generously	
Healing	
Be On Guard Against Temptation	94
Victory In Battle	97
Forgiveness	
Books Published by the Truth Seekers	
Assemblies & Ministries	104
About the Author	

# Introduction

This book, Precious and Everlasting Gems is a compilation of my recorded praises, prayers, thanksgiving to Yahweh Almighty through His begotten Son Yahshua the Messiah our Lord and Savior, during my deep and solemn meditation.

Also, the short but powerful and holy words with messages of lasting value which God Almighty, our Father & Savior through the Holy Spirit inspired me to deliver to His beloved people.

As the title says, this is my very Precious Gem and it is my decision and pleasure to make these messages available to everyone through this book with the hope that it will become blessing to many people, if not to all.

HalleluYah!

My Precious

Prayers & Praises

#### God's Love

Love is pure, real and beautiful Love is majestic in beauty and nature Love is boundless and wonderful Love is uniquely complete but never boastful Love is gentle yet invincible! Love is a perfect touch of God that expresses meaning beyond world's standard. Love is an expression that brings out magnificent beauty and wonders. Love is a very powerful energy that drives man to accomplish great and wonderful things. Love joined with wisdom, strength and self- control makes man more than conquerors. Yahweh's love for man is so beautiful! *His love is larger than life, more powerful than the* waves of sea, more magnificent than rainbows. It is a miracle; a life-giving miracle! Love moves in many different ways, and it comes from different directions. You can't see it nor hear it, nor touch it.

You will never know until it touches your heart, melts all your sadness, and wipes away all tears of pain in your eyes.

Love, like a gentle wind is gentle and refreshing.

But when it's mad, it is violent and destructive.

*It destroys all that is in her path.* 

When God holds back the waters in the earth, there is drought and famine.

When He holds back love, there is doom and darkness.

Love is powerful! No one can stop the power of love and keep one from loving.

It may be directed and redirected for a moment, but it will surely seek its own chosen path and direction.

Love never coerces, rather, it has its own special way of showing concern, persuasion, sympathy and compassion.

> Love causes justice, righteousness, and eternal life to triumph.

Love caused the Almighty Father Yahweh to punish His beloved people again and again for them to learn that mercy, justice and righteousness must be their norm. Love causes in man a life of contentment; a life of peace and happiness everlasting.

Love works in many marvelous ways. Its ways are beyond mere human feelings and emotions, far beyond what the mind can conceive or imagine

Love is a gift from God. It gives man the heart to forgive his enemies according to God's will.

*Faith is the very foundation of love while patience is an outward manifestation of faith.* 

On the other hand, love measures the degree of man's faithfulness.

Patience enhances the beauty of love. It teaches love and the lover the art of waiting, listening, and responding objectively to the needs of the beloved.

Faith and Patience put together fuels love to keep on loving. It is a combination that transforms itself into a very powerful energy that accelerates love to fulfill its purpose.

Love is what the world needs. The kind of love that was perfectly illustrated by Almighty Yahweh through His Son Yahshua the Messiah.

The love that saves man from sin, from the power of sin and destruction.

We can love with an open heart because we are loved by the Greatest Love of all! So, "Love God with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your strength, with all your soul. Love your neighbor as you love yourself."

> *Time is the most loyal partner of love. Time patches the holes of shattered love and broken spirit.*

*Time restores the unique beauty of love and teaches love to explore and share its sweetness once more.* 

*Faith is the very foundation in obtaining pure, real, ever-flowing and everlasting love.* 

For, "Without faith it is impossible to please God." Finally, God is Love!

#### God's Grace & Mercy

How lovely are your words to my ears, O my Elohim. How tender and soothing they are!

*As the sun continually rises from the east each day, so I rise to give Thee honor and praise.* 

Your unfailing love and mercy sustain me my dearest Elohim. Your love and mercy make life truly beautiful.

You made my life meaningful, fruitful and useful.

I praise you and thank you with all my heart.

You searched the inmost and outmost being in me my Elohim and Father, and filled the gaps with your love for me to be complete.

I Praise you and thank you O Yahweh my Father for the gifts and talents you bestowed upon me. I promise to use these for your Glory.

Thank you for making my life worth living. You fill my life with your blessings and gave me the true meaning of love and happiness.

Your grace and mercy sustain me during times of hardships and difficulties.

You renew my strength every morning.

You empowered me with strength and will to keep on moving forward in reaching my goals and aspirations in life.

I honor and uphold your words O Yahweh Almighty. They are very precious, they give light to darkened souls.

Father, you made me complete, what more can I ask? You have shared your wisdom, power, and greatness to me. You are truly wonderful!

Of all the hardships and persecution I encountered in life, I always came out victorious, because you were there for me when I needed you and even when I think I don't need your help, you stand by me.

You allowed me to explore the boundaries and possibilities of life to sharpen my knowledge of the things that are of value, as well as those that destruct life and its existence.

You reveal to me your inmost thoughts for me to understand your will, and to visualize your plans and purposes on earth. They are great and marvelous! Thank you for giving me knowledge of your will and for entrusting to us (mankind) the whole creation.

> Apart from you my Father and Savior I can do nothing.

But again, I thank you that I can do all things through Yahshua the Messiah my Savior and King, whose grace and mercy are ever-flowing!

#### God's Mysterious Ways

Far from human understanding does God the Father in Heaven work.
He works in ways we cannot know.
He is invisible and beyond compare.
He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.
He knows our thoughts, feelings, and desires even if we conceal them from Him.
Nothing is hidden from Him.

*He works as he wishes without the help of anyone, as revealed in the creation of the world.* 

*He only said the word and all things were made according to His words.* 

He Has all the power and authority to destroy things at His command, as well as to create new, small and great things alike.

But, Today, Why does Yahweh need man to do His works on earth?

Why is man so important in His plans in establishing His Kingdom here on earth?

At first He created the world without the involvement of man.

Why does Yahweh need man particularly the prophets to work as messengers in order to warn and correct the people?

Why does Yahweh need man "the chosen people" to destroy the wicked and for righteousness to prosper?

Why is man so important, that He needs to consult them about His plans? ("The Sovereign Elohim Yahweh never does anything without revealing His plan to His servants the prophets." Amos 3:7)

Why does Yahweh spare or shorten His punishment for unrighteousness, just because of the prayers of few good men?

Why does Yahweh await for man to repent and return to Him and begin a new life with Him, while He has all the power to wipe out everything and start anew?

Why does He allow freedom to man, and for man to keep on sinning, while He has the power to destroy sin before it destroys man?

Why did Yahweh make His Son Yahshua the Messiah looked like ordinary man living on earth and to be blasphemed by sinful men? Why did He allow His precious and only begotten Son to die on the cross for sinners to be saved?

Why is man so dearly love by Yahweh, that He needs to save them and have them live with Him?

Man, what makes you so important to Yahweh Almighty?

What is there in man that Yahweh cares so much of him?

Man, you are so privileged and blessed, but remember that everything here on earth has an end, so repent and be saved before it's too late.

"Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish."

Luke 13: 3&5

"Seek ye first the Kingdom of Yahweh and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto thee."

Matthew 6:33

### Tears of Joy

I lift my heart to sing for joy O Yahweh my Elohim and Father!

Out of gladness I dance to glorify Thy Name.

Tears flowed from my eyes as I recall your grace and tender mercy for me, and your continuing love and support.

Sometimes, I fall apart from You O' my Father, considering that I am still young, learning and growing to maturity and perfection.

But as soon as I realized that you are getting far from me and my life is becoming tough,

I bowed down and prayed, begging for your mercy and forgiveness.

Without delay you embraced me and said "O my son, my precious child, I love you. I waited patiently for your safe return, come my son be my honored guest."

Words can't express the beauty of your love I've experienced Father, and the feelings that I felt was beyond expression.

My dear Father in Heaven, thank you for making me a part of you now and forever.

How I wished life ends at an instant so that I can be with you face to face forever. But it didn't, I must move on.

Being a child of Yahweh through His begotten Son doesn't mean I have an easy life.

Rather, I have an extraordinary life with Yahweh our Father in heaven.

Sadly, some people don't understand God's working in my life, instead of inspiration they become a source of persecution.

Praise God for the chosen who responded to His call and have been my joy, my help, and inspiration.

One best thing I learned and know from my experience, Yahweh Almighty is always true to His promises.

He never leaves His children nor forsake them.

*His promises are proven true to me and will always be true to all who abide in him.* 

I also believe that Yahweh will never allow hardships far beyond our ability to bear. He only allows it to happen for us to become what He wants us to be. Faith and Patience are the virtues our Father and Savior had shown me in His dealing with my life.

He made me realized that our faith and patience are indispensable in the fulfillment of our Father's promises.

*Life is a mystery, but there are countless privileges in being a child of God.* 

*He takes care of us, He warns us and He even reveals His secrets to us, His children.* 

"For the revelation awaits an appointed time, it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it lingers, wait for it, it will certainly come and will not delay."

Habakkuk 2:3

## Discipline

Discipline me gently dear Father Yahweh El, mold me according to your will. Guide me that I may not fall, and be pleased to raise me up quickly when I stumble.

Discipline my eyes dear God not to desire evil and not to be tempted by worldly pleasure.

> Help me focus my eyes upon you and direct my attention to the path you want me to follow.

Discipline my tongue dear God not to speak lies and deceit, control it for goodness and righteousness sake.

Discipline my ears dear God not to be deceived by gossip and falsehood. Let me hear from you instead words of wisdom and knowledge.

Discipline my mouth dear God, not to eat and drink anything that destroys the body and ruins the mind.

Discipline my hand dear God not to touch or hold anything evil. Keep me from being contaminated by anything evil.

*Discipline my feet where to go and guide my steps that I may not walk on the snares laid against me.* 

Discipline my thoughts dear God not to think and desire anything beyond your boundaries, lest I be entangled to earthly passion.

Discipline my feelings and emotions dear God, make it strong and stable against fear, and disappointments.

Discipline me dear God that I may conduct myself rightfully in your sight and in the presence of your people.

Discipline me dear God in the way I spend my time, energy, money, and other resources, that I will live to be a good example to all your people and help me know my priorities in life.

Discipline my whole being dear God, body, soul, and spirit, that I may live to honor and glorify your most precious and holy name Yahweh El, and the Name of your begotten Son Yahshua the Messiah.

#### God's Precious Creation

My dearest Elohim Yahweh, thank you for all the wonderful things you have done to my life.

You made me feel precious and important. Your love for me is too wonderful that you constantly make me feel worth more than anything you have created.

*I know this because you patiently guide me, listen to me, and gladly answers my questions in life.* 

O Yahweh my Elohim. I admit, I am weak, prone to sin..., but in spite of that, I know, never a moment that you wink your eye because you do not want me out of your sight. How marvelous!

Father God, I am sorry and ashamed with myself for being insensitive at times to your warm embrace and loving care.

I am stunned to realize that never a minute in my life that you abandoned me, and in your goodness you have always provided me a way back to your loving arms.

For this, I cannot thank you enough!

Father Yahweh El, I know that man is nothing by himself, a mere dust and nothing of value apart from you.

But it was your will and purpose that man would have your power and authority to rule the rest of your creation.

I praise you and thank you with all my heart that you have given me such power and authority.

Truly, Father, I can't fully understand the depth and the greatness of your trust and confidence in me. I cannot praise you enough, I cannot thank you enough but I give my whole being to you.

Sometimes I wonder what is there in me that you care so much, so much that you chose to forgive and blot out the marks of my transgressions?

But now I know that you forgave because you are love and love covers a multitude of sin.

Father, thank you for your Son Yahshua the Messiah, the visible expression of your love and by whose blood, death, and resurrection we have been cleansed, purified, sanctified, and empowered. Father, thank you that with Yahshua the Messiah our redeemer and model, and by the help of the Holy Spirit I have the heart to forgive all those who wronged me, hurt me, and rejected me in any way.

*I release forgiveness to all of them according to your will.* 

Most of all, I thank you Father for all the blessings you have bestowed upon me, and for many more blessing to come.

Blessings I could share to your children and people that they may know the wonders of your love and majesty.

#### A Beautiful Morning Praise

One early morning as I rise to worship God the Father Yahweh El, by singing His praise to magnify His holy and mighty name, I noticed that birds in the trees were also singing in their own way to glorify God with me.

How touching and overwhelming was that beautiful morning with the wonderful melody of praise and thanksgiving!

The beautiful experience was beyond compare, knowing that God's little creatures harmoniously accompany me in singing God's praise.

How wonderful it was to express God's love with his other creations. God said, "Have dominion over my creation and teach them so."

But because of sin this privilege and authority was stripped off from man. Since then man has lost control over the other creations, and everybody is in constant competition in order to survive.

I can't imagine how wonderful it was when things were still in order, when man led the beast of the field, the fowls in the air, the fish in the sea, and all of God's creation in praising and glorifying their Creator and Master. In the beginning Yahweh made everything good and in perfect order.

His purpose was for His creation to bow down and worship Him with all their heart, with all their soul, with all their might and strength and never to bow down to any other gods.

God does not force nor coerce anyone. He gave each and everyone their own freewill, expecting that they will gladly obey him; do good and not evil.

Sad to note that out of that same freewill, man fell apart from Yahweh his Creator and Master together with the rest of the creations.

That is the sad reality of this world but praise God, one day the order that he has established here on earth will definitely be restored by His faithful people in the name of Yahshua the Messiah who has overcome the world.

#### Prayer for Help

Father God, I fully surrender my life to you.

Be pleased to take full control over my life, body, soul and spirit.

Be pleased to discipline me gently, and correct me without delay when I'm wrong.

Be pleased to direct my life according to your will, and mold my character to your desired shape and form.

Make me humble, just, faithful, and true to your word in the Holy Bible.

Without your word I'm sure my life would have been in darkness, and miserable.

By myself Father Yahweh El, I can do nothing.

But the scripture says, "I can do all things through Yahshua the Messiah who strengthens me." Help me, I pray.

Thank you for giving me a kind heart and contrite spirit, ever willing to help the poor and the needy especially your children or faithful people.

Polish my speech dear Father Yahweh El, open my mouth only when necessary and make my

words bold and powerful enough for the good of your people, and for your glory.

Inspire me your humble servant to be ever-loving in spite of every hurt and pain that I may encounter.

Thank you dear Father Yahweh El for making your love visible, tangible, and real through the people who love me and care for me, and through the works of thy hands around me.

Make me a better person out of the struggles I meet everyday and make everyone proud of me because of your presence in my life, and your light that shines upon me.

Thank you for giving me hope even when there is not enough reason for hoping, and faith that moves mountains to the sea.

Bless me Father Yahweh El, I pray, so that I could be a blessing to others all the way.

Bless me with your power and riches, even riches beyond measure – spiritual, physical, material or financial for the good of your people, and for the world to recognize that you alone are the source of all good things. Make me remember always your goodness, kindness, love, gentleness, patience, and the miracles that you have done for me.

Make me a good steward of your blessings.

Father Yahweh El, you are really so good that in spite of my shortcomings you remain faithful, forgiving, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love.

You are true to your words when you said: "I will never fail you nor forsake you."

"I have always loved you and will continue to show you my constant love."

Indeed, you did not abandon me, you did not cease to guide me day by day, you even gave your Holy Spirit to instruct me what to do to cope up with your plans and will.

You withhold nothing from me, you gave me good food to eat, clear water to drink, fresh air to breath, decent clothes to wear, a beautiful house (a home) to stay, a wonderful country, and most especially a loving family that truly cares.

Dear Father Yahweh El, there are times when I feel you are distant from me and it seems I am alone.

I keep on wondering and thinking what wrong I've done that hurts you, but I can't recall any.

Then the Holy Spirit kindly teaches me this: You allowed it to happen to test me if I will remain faithful to you in spite of the situation.

During those times of spiritual dryness and loneliness, I kept on assuring myself that Yahweh is always true to His words and promises.

He will never leave me nor forsake me, as long as I remain faithful to Him by gladly obeying His commands.

*I also believe that you will not allow any trial to happen far beyond my ability to conquer.* 

This truth has been my unfailing comfort.

Now, I understand that while we are still young in faith, God always carry us in His arms, but as we grow mature in faith, He lets us stand on our own with His guidance and support.

On the surface, Yahweh's power is not visible, but the person of faith knows that Yahweh is behind it all.

Have faith and trust in Yahweh. He loves you and me and all.

#### Conversation with God

Since I was a child, God has been speaking to me, especially during my sleep.

Words of wisdom, messages that deliver instructions and warnings, voices that inspire and assure, visions and revelations about His plans and purpose of my life and of the world to come, keep flowing to me until now.

I hope and pray that this great and wonderful conversation I have with God will never end and for me to see the fulfillment of His marvelous promise.

I remember that one special evening, in my dream I heard a very gentle and calm voice saying:

"Rise up and be the man I want you to be.

"Take courage and never be afraid, as your God Almighty, I will always be there for you, as long as you remain true and faithful to me.

"The world will reject and hate you because of me my son, but not for long, you will certainly rule over them by my power and authority. "You may encounter hardships and persecutions as you obey me, but be of good cheer I have overcome the world for you.

> "Tough times never last my precious child, but tough people do."

"My son, prepare yourself for that great task I assigned to you.

"I will help you achieve all that for my sake and for the sake of all those who are faithful to me.

"Gain as much knowledge and education the world can offer, it may help you in some ways.

> "Be keen to listen to good advices and be pleased to apply it day after day.

"It's worth more than gold and it will lighten your load.

"Always take the opportunity to learn from other peoples' experiences.

"It may add value to your life like water in a desert land and it helps lessen your own mistakes.

"My son as I help you nurture your spirit, never forget to nurture your own body, it is an asset to have a good one. "Most of all, I bless you with the spirit of the word of wisdom, as you gradually mature physically and spiritually, you will also be able to unlock the secrets in obtaining the fullness of the word of wisdom."

As I woke up from my dream, I rose up and pray, saying: Let Thy will be done my Lord and Savior.

Let Thy will be done!

## **Right Attitude**

*Life is a living mystery! It is full of surprises, full of excitements.* Life that I have known is a composite of joy and laughter, love and happiness...., as well as sorrows and pain, agony and hurting. No one can escape this life we live without experiencing both happiness and sadness. No one knows what is ahead. No one knows exactly the things at stake. People guess about the future, Yes indeed we can. But one thing is true to all, we may be here today and gone tomorrow. We should make the best in life the way God destined His creation to be. We should live life to the fullest for God's honor and glory. As they say, life is a stage and some people simply perform better than others. In the eyes of men yes they do, but in the eyes of God we are all as equals.

We are as valuable as others. It only happens that some roles in life are not as glamorous and prestigious as others.

But we all need to perform well in our role.

As long as we do by heart our portion of responsibility, we will certainly reap the wonderful fruit of our labor.

For, each one will be rewarded according to what he has done.

If you think that your deeds and accomplishment are nothing compared to others, do not be ashamed, do not be discouraged.

What really matters most is what God thinks of you and how you please God, our Father in heaven.

It is not who has done much that matters, but he who has accomplish perfectly what God asked of him to do.

In doing God's will, we must pay careful attention to our attitude.

Regardless of the situation, we must always have the right attitude.

The kind of attitude that inspires everyone to do the will of God.

Stop complaining, control every situation and make the best at every thing and be sure to always give thanks to God in everything.

When things come to worst, when everything falls out of order.

Do not panic, take a deep breath, relax, clear your thoughts and take time to pray, ask the Lord for guidance, ask the Lord for help.

> Surrender to the Lord everything. Put your trust and hope in Him.

Take time and look around you, you will be surprised of how God turns every adverse condition in your life into a blessing.

Be prepared, always be prepared. Life needs a little planning, we have to strategize in order to defeat our foes and succeed.

> *Planning helps broaden our options, it widens our scope.*

It opens doors of opportunities far beyond what we can imagine.

At the end of the day surrender to the Lord all your plans and actions, let Him decide what to do with your life. *He is our Master and our King, we are his faithful servants, we are bound to do His will, and to obey His commands at all times.* 

Living a fully surrendered life in Christ, means living a life of both happy and sad surprises or unwanted surprises; a life of mystery, a life of excitements, a glorious life in Christ!

## The Beauty of God's Love

Out of the overflowing of my heart, comes my deepest appreciation of the wonders of Almighty Yahweh's great love for me.

Man, how could I ever make known to you the beauty I felt the moment I gladly embraced the love that has long been freely given for our salvation and redemption?

In my desire to share this wonderful experience, I labor and search for words that could best describe my feelings, for others to understand and feel what it is like to be truly in love.

As my search progressed, I've discovered that it is far beyond mere words in order to describe its fullness and for one to understand the true value and importance of Almighty Yahweh's great love.

I realized that one must have to experience it by himself, for me to confirm that, that's it, that's what Almighty Yahweh's love is.

When you feel empty and lost and the world seems to fall apart, and you've realized that by your own efforts you can do nothing, why not try searching into your heart? The answer is there. Almighty Yahweh's love for you is just around the corners of your heart patiently waiting for you to accept Him.

Almighty Yahweh's love is pure and sacred, it is so great and powerful that there is no problem too big for it to resolve, nor too small to pay attention.

Out of this very love we have been created and formed, nourished and cared for.

When man fell apart from Almighty Yahweh's love because of sin, this very same love once again has been offered for our redemption and salvation by accepting Almighty Yahweh's only begotten Son Yahshua the Messiah as our Savior and King.

The Holy scripture tells us that "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life" (see John 3:16).

Is there any other more reasonable explanation why Almighty Yahweh allowed His Son to suffer and die in the hands of sinners for man's salvation and redemption than His great Love for mankind?

Why not burn everything infected with sin and start anew? I think it would be better this way than spending so much time in renewing this wicked world.

In the end I'm so grateful and thankful that it did not happen that way, otherwise, I would not be writing this prayer by now.

Be not so confident and easy in life, for everything in this world has an end, and the offer of salvation will cease and you will be caught unaware.

Then you will gnash your teeth in pain forever.

When the appointed time finally comes, everything filthy and undesirable in the sight of Almighty Yahweh will be burned and destroyed paving the way for the restoration of Almighty Yahweh's lost Kingdom here in earth.

For without Almighty Yahweh's love we all have died and perished, but because of His great love for us, we live and have our being.

There is no cause for worry or for fear, repent of your sins and be saved before it's too late.

Yahshua the Messiah is just around, knocking at your heart and pleading for you to accept Him, be saved so that together with Him, you will enjoy the glorious life He has prepared for all of us in His Kingdom.

## Cross Roads and Choices

*Out of the highways and byways of life, a person may encounter cross roads.* 

A road that may lead you to two different destinations.

One road may lead you to instant happiness, luxury and pleasure, but in the end, it leads you to eternal destruction.

The other may be rough and sturdy even stormy at the beginning, but later you'll realize that the harder it strikes, the stronger you become.

> Life becomes more exciting, meaningful, even glorious!

*Life as a whole depends on your choice, and how you handle or respond to every situation.* 

There are always two choices in life, no matter how a person looks at it.

If you pick the right one, then it will always be right.

What if it's the other? It could be wrong until the end, if there's an end to it. Every choice has its own consequence or reward.

Sometimes the two choices are not a matter of right or wrong.

In some cases, you are to choose which is most beneficial and lasting.

God the Father Yahweh gave us freedom to choose our own way of life, but we should never let this freedom destroy life through our wrong and bad choices.

Yahweh our Father will never coerce our judgments, but He is always there to correct and discipline us through the Holy Spirit.

Let us humbly and sincerely call unto Him and allow Him to discipline us and help us.

*For, Yahweh our Father constantly desires that we choose to live a holy life with Him.* 

Yahweh our Father is full of love and mercy, He never want us to die and suffer forever,

The reason why He gave to us His Son Yahshua the Messiah to save us from sin and destruction.

*He gave man the very precious chance to choose a blessed and eternal life.* 

Now let me challenge you with two choices. To be saved and live a holy and eternal life with our Heavenly Father or Suffer and be eternally condemned?

Take a pick and live your life.

### **Repentance and Forgiveness**

*O my Elohim Yahweh, show compassion to your anointed.* 

*Please grant me your lasting mercy and favor for the redemption of all.* 

From the dark path I'd traveled, You victoriously brought me back to the light, so that I may again see the wonders of your love.

I faltered and fell, but what truly amazed me when I woke up from my dark journey, is the realization that I was tenderly held in your loving arms.

> I could deeply feel the warmth of your embrace my dear Elohim.

O what a great and marvelous feeling to be back in your mighty arms. Now, I could feel the security that I've never felt before.

May this warmth that I feel be my gauge to measure how close and far I am to you, and may this experience reminds me how I was lost, not having the powerful heat of your love.

> O my Elohim, I am so sorry for the wrongs I've done.

*I deserved to be punished but I know that you do not take pleasure in punishment and suffering.* 

Rather, you delight in humility, and your mercy is on the repentant.

*Right at this moment, all I could think is your amazing love, your goodness, and tender mercies.* 

According to your great goodness, grant this thy humble servant lasting favor in thy sight and be pleased to hear me sing your praises now and forever.

O how great is your love, my dear Elohim, your mercy flows like a river.

When I realized that I was wrong and I knelt and prayed for your mercy and forgiveness, you never hesitated nor delayed your blessing of forgiveness through your beloved Son Yahshua the Messiah.

I am so ashamed of myself; ashamed of my weakness but truly grateful that "your strength is made perfect in our weakness", and for the happiness to feel afresh the warmth of your love and compassion.

O my Elohim and Father Yahweh, please bless me through your beloved Son and the Holy Spirit the power to resist every evil and temptation. Bless me and enable me to conquer all of satan's forces who are always on the look to devour me and your people.

Please send me also Father, Your holy angels to protect me from all evil and let Thy heavenly armies fight the good fight with me for your honor and glory.

*Here I am dear Father, I beg you to count me as one of your humble and worthy servants.* 

May this day, Father, mark my rededication.

*I rededicate my life to you for the fulfillment of your will and for your honor and glory forever.* 

*I promise to love you and honor you all the days of my life, help me I pray.* 

Today, I humbly declare that in the name of Yahshua the Messiah, I will faithfully obey the Father's laws and commands.

*I am willing to give up everything, even my own life for the fulfillment of the Father's will in earth.* 

*This life is solely for you my dear Father, be pleased to take full control, I pray.* 

To the Almighty Father Yahweh be the highest honor, glory, power, praise and thanksgiving through His Son Yahshua the Messiah and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

## Fight Against Darkness

I was lost and I could not find my way out.

Darkness surrounded me and all I could hear was silence.

The more I struggled to get loose, the tighter the darkness enclosed my soul.

I felt that somebody was choking me, and I was starting to lose my breath.

*At the moment, all I could see was death trying to snatch me from where I stood.* 

I was so desperate I did not know what to do.

When I attempted to move forward, I stumbled and fell.

My knees were so weak to stand, my body was in deep pain. I was trembling.

It seemed that the whole world was crushing down at me. I had no one, but myself, the pain was so intense I couldn't take it anymore, it is better for me let go.

Almost all hopes were gone. My final word was: Dear God please forgive me for I have sinned. I surrender my life to you, be pleased to take full control of me.

The moment I fully surrendered my life to God Father Yahweh, the place where I stood was shaking, and I could feel that something was breaking apart deep inside me.

Later I noticed that there was a light burning deep inside me.

The light kept on shinning from within until it finally conquered the darkness and set me free.

As I paused to recall what had happened before the bright light appeared and saved me, I remembered that the moment I fully surrendered my life to Yahweh Almighty through His Son Yahshua the Messiah, He quickly saved me from death and destruction.

Tears kept flowing from my eyes as I thank God for the great and mighty things He has done for me and the blessing to live with Him eternally.

I know the light I possess only covers a few paths, the road ahead is still dark.

The light needs to be nourished for it not to falter nor fade.

I continued my journey and I noticed that there were people along the road who tried to snatch the light away from me. Some others were taking the benefit of walking along with me towards the ultimate source of light.

I was happy to know that more and more people were coming out of the dark and started to join me in my search for the truth about Yahweh Almighty and His Son Yahshua the Messiah.

In the process new lights were added, but sad to say others fade away. They fail to keep their lights shinning all the way.

But, HalleluYah! Others are growing brighter together with me everyday.

*Life is full of temptations, and it usually catch you off hand.* 

Be sensitive and alert at all times.

Never let the forces of darkness see you off guard. Rather, be strong and always ready to strike the enemy down for God's glory!

## God's Beautiful Creation

How wonderful it is to be a part of Yahweh's marvelous creation.

I stand in awe of the wonderful things He has done!

A real beauty that surpasses man's mere imagination with a unique and distinct presentation of touch – simplified in shape, size and form.

*Everything is in accordance with Yahweh's plans and purposes.* 

One has to be small the other needs to be big.

I may not fully know its importance, but I am convinced that all was created with a purpose like me.

Because of man's sin the creation is in darkness and chaos.

Everything falls apart from the grace of Almighty Yahweh and the purpose was distorted, each one is taking advantage over the other.

I could not imagine such wonderful beauty turned out to be ugly.

Yahweh's purpose is for his creation to glorify Him and praise Him, but instead, in some ways everybody does a disgraceful thing day by day.

*I believe the world is getting worse everyday.* 

But Yahweh Almighty is making all things work for good to them who hold him dear sincerely.

He is determined to fulfill His promises to you and me, and the prophecies spoken by the holy prophets with much devotion and humility.

## God's Special Purpose

Before I was born you knew me completely.

Deep inside my mother's womb you delicately molded me, for me to resemble exactly like thee.

On the day you created me, I know you had put in me the knowledge that I am yours and for you alone.

You created me with a very special purpose.

As for me, to accomplish your will is my heart's desire dear Father Yahweh Almighty.

So, help me I pray.

You have made known to my beloved parents Your plans for me.

You revealed to them how important I am in the building of your Kingdom here on earth.

You guided them well on how I should grow to know and learn your precious words,

How to live a humble, faithful and honest life.

When I was wrong you diligently corrected me.

I am truly grateful and humbled by your goodness and mercy.

Out of Your goodness and great love You disciplined me gently. Day after day You abide with me, to nurture, nourish and develop my full potential and ability.

You have sent the Holy Spirit to be my counselor and to help me in times of crises.

To watch over me, that I may never be lost in the path You have prepared for me.

You have sent holy Angels to guard and protect me,

To fight the good fight of faith with me, to pave the way for me, and to help me conquer the forces of evil for Your glory.

You had blessed me with education that only few people had achieved.

Even more, because you are filling me with precious things that others could only dream of having.

You have inspired people in different walks of life to be good, kind and considerate with me.

They served as my mentors, teachers, helpers, and friends.

They all did their part and I am truly grateful to thee for them and may You grant them favor in my behalf.

You touched the lives of many to serve as my inspiration in the pursuit of my aspiration in life.

Their lives have taught me many lessons.

They suffered and died, they gave up everything; they gave their all to accomplish Your will in earth.

Through their lives You have given me clear illustration of faith and trust, determination and humble obedience.

Dear Father in heaven Yahweh Almighty, You have done everything for me to attain all that I need to have in order to accomplish Your will.

Thank You for all Your blessings!

Father, in the Name of Your Son Yahshua the Messiah, I declare that everything I touched is blessed, and all that surrounds me, with me and for me are also blessed through me. My life is a miracle, a blessing in itself, and will always be a blessing for God's glory.

Father, with all the many blessings You have bestowed upon me, I cannot thank You enough,

But I will live to glorify and praise You forever.

Help me I pray.

I am Yours, let thy perfect will be done in my life dear Father, let thy perfect will be done. I pray in the Name of Your Son Yahshua the Messiah. HalleluYah!

### Pride and Destruction

Walk steadfastly and do what is right in the eyes of God Almighty, a pure and holy life is what He asks of us.

Be careful not to be a victim of pride and arrogance.

Be on guard and watchful never to fall into the devil's trap.

Once beaten, its poison can hardly be contained from spreading and affecting all other areas of your life.

*Pride is so cunning and deceptive, it can lead man to its greatest downfall.* 

It ruins the character, it corrupts sound judgments, it blinds the mind from the truth, and it destroys who you are.

Pride blocks the heart and devours justice and mercy, while the mind is set on self preservation and self adoration.

Pride creates barrier between man and God.

*It is like a huge stonewall separating man from God.* 

Pride starts to creep subtly and slowly when one is materially comfortable and forget to sincerely give thanks, honor, and glory to God.

Pride makes a person stubborn and hard headed.

He thinks that he is always right even when he is wrong.

It is too difficult to correct a person swollen with pride.

*He rejects advices and insists on doing things that benefit himself without regards to others' right.* 

Pride treats others inferior.

It doesn't respect the right of others.

All it sees is his own selfish right.

Pride is selfish and conceited!

It keeps a person from learning new, great, and wonderful things.

Pride goes before destruction of the body, soul and spirit.

It ruins all that is good and pure. Pride is a hindrance to God's blessings. Pride keeps us away from God.

### Patience

The Psalmist said: "Wait on the Lord, be of good courage and he shall strengthen thine heart."

One of the most essential virtues a child of God needs to develop is the art of patience while waiting for God's signal to move with his blessings.

Patience is one of the outward manifestations of faith, and full surrender which could flourish into a magnificent beauty of trust and confidence.

Waiting upon the Lord's direction is not an ordinary and easy task. Many prominent Bible characters have failed to wait upon the Lord, made efforts to help God move faster, which only led to more delays and troubles, and worst, fall into sin by disobeying His command and instruction.

Man has the inherent tendency to be impatient, easily bored and depressed. Impatience will eventually show itself in murmuring, grumbling, complaining and to do exactly the opposite of God's will and purpose.

Due to such mistake many of God's people had suffered the pain supposedly intended to their enemies. They suffered the painful consequence of their actions.

In difficult times and situations, God wants his people to stay focus and patiently wait for his directions, guidance, and be always ready to act upon the Lord's command.

God knows best in everything!

He knows the perfect time for us to act and topple down the enemy in a single strike, and bless many of his people if not all.

Often man reacts to circumstances without proper planning, so he is caught fighting the wrong battle, and without his knowing he has been tricked by the enemy.

The Bible says: "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not be weary, they will walk and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31).

*The instruction is quite simple, just patiently wait and let God take control.* 

But why can't people wait? What is there in the waiting process that many people failed to comply? Waiting upon the Lord's will is very crucial because during this period satan is also waiting a chance to snatch you away from the Lord.

> Most often satan gets the chance when we create a shortcut.

Always beware of shortcuts.

They are often temptations! Satan whispers, "You deserve it! You should have it now!

It will be comforting or makes you feel better."

But after you commit yourself to satan's evil schemes, that will be the start of your downfall and the beginning of your destruction.

It is hard to wait upon the Lord especially when you have many dependents and survival is the primal concern.

It is more so when you're seeing your friends and neighbors already enjoying the luxury of things, and you are stuck in the sideline surrendering yourself to the Lord, waiting for His guidance what to do with your life.

> According to Rick Warren in his book: The Purpose Driven Life

*"Surrendering to God is not passive resignation, fatalism, or an excuse for laziness.* 

"It is not accepting the status quo. "It may mean the exact opposite: sacrificing in order to change what needs to be changed.

"God often calls surrendered people to do battle on his behalf."

Surrendering is best demonstrated in obedience.

*Obeying God's word, even if it seems it doesn't make sense.* 

You let go and let God work. You don't always have to be "in charge".

The Bible says, "Surrender yourself to the Lord, and wait patiently for Him."

Surely it is hard to wait, but remember the greater the sacrifice the better is the reward, and obedience always beget success.

> Take courage, take the first step and let God take care of the rest.

For He promised that "He will never leave us, nor forsake us."

Refuse to give up.

Be patient, persistent, and consistent in your commitment to do the Lord's will.

The Bible says "Let the process go on until your endurance is fully developed, and you will find that you have become men of mature character.... with no weak spots."

Waiting upon the Lord is part of his discipline.

He wants us to develop our faith in Him, our trust, and confidence that no matter what happens, he is in control.

It is a kind of tool to test our character, composure, endurance, stability, attitude, obedience, and courage.

Waiting upon the Lord involves a lot of time and energy, since we need more time to learn.

"We are slow learners.

*"We often have to relearn a lesson forty or fifty times to really get it."* 

"The problem kept on recurring, and we think, 'Not again! I've already learned that!' – but God knows better.

"The history of Israel illustrates how quickly we forget the lessons God teaches us and how soon we revert to our old patterns of behavior.

> "We need repeated exposure to fully internalize our learning."

Man can gain a lot if he takes time to wait upon the Lord.

In the process he may learn things far beyond his imagination.

He may be able to create wonderful ideas never expected.

Most of all, it is during this time that you can take the pleasure to commune with God and listen to His words without any pressure or interruption.

"Be patient with God and with yourself.

"One of life's frustrations is that God's timetable is rarely the same as ours.

"We are often in a hurry, when God isn't. You may feel frustrated with the seemingly slow progress you're making in life.

"Remember that God is never in a hurry, but he is always on time."

*Apostle James advised, "Don't try to get out of anything prematurely.* 

Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed.

Don't get discourage."

When Habakkuk became depressed because he didn't think God was acting quickly

enough, God had this to say: "These things won't happen right away.

"Slowly, steadily, surely, the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled.

*"If it seems slow, do not despair, for these things will surely come to pass.* 

"Just be patient! They will not be overdue a single day!"

Everlasting



Be determined and confident, for you will be the leader of these people as they occupy this land which I promised their ancestors. Just be determined, be confident; and make sure that you obey the whole Law that my servant Moses gave you. Do not neglect any part of it and you will succeed wherever you go.

Joshua 1: 1-9

## Courage

Courage is the ability and willingness to stand firm when confronted by danger, fear, or peer pressure. Courage is closely related to faith. As children of God Almighty Yahweh through faith in His begotten Son Yahshua the Messiah who bravely conquered the world alone (with few frightened disciples), we should have the courage to do God's will.

Other best examples of courage are the people who came from situation where someone knows the right thing to do and does it, despite all odds and dangers. Some of these examples are Prophets Joshua, Daniel, and Queen Esther. They had the courage to do what Almighty Yahweh wanted and commanded them to do no matter what the cost because they believe in God and in the power of God's word.

When Almighty Yahweh commanded Joshua to march around the city of Jericho for seven (7) days

and on the seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) day, to march around the city seven times with the priests blowing the trumpets, and the people to give a loud shout at the end in order for the city wall to collapse, without question and hesitation Joshua carefully carried out Almighty Yahweh's order. By faith he took courage to command the army and the people to do exactly what Almighty Yahweh commanded them to do as Moses also instructed Joshua earlier saying, "Do not add what I commanded you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of Yahweh Almighty that I give you..."

Indeed, by doing so, when the trumpets sounded and the people shouted – at the sound of the trumpets and the people's loud shout, the city wall of Jericho miraculously collapsed.

Be strong! Be courageous! Do not be afraid of them! For the Lord your God will be with you. He will never fail you nor forsake you. Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love. (Deuteronomy 31: 6; I Corinthians 16: 13-74)

Daniel is a man of great Personal Courage. He is a model of how to live with and serve people who do not share or respect our beliefs. Through Daniel's ability and Almighty Yahweh's blessings he rose to the post of Prime Minister of Babylon. The higher he rose in power, the more prominent target he became by his enemies. The enemies' plot put Daniel under great pressure to compromise his faith to fit in, to bend his principles, and follow their ways. Daniel's life was always at risk, yet, he never compromised his faith, he would not bend to their wishes even when threatened with death. As Daniel put His hope in Almighty Yahweh, let us have the courage to completely put our trust and hope in Him who is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble.

Esther: When Haman planned and proposed to the King of Babylon to kill and annihilate all the Jews – young and old, women and children, Queen Esther took courage and approached the King courageously and presented her case to save her people even if she would lose her life in an instant if the King won't spare her life for approaching him without being summoned.

Esther declared: "I will go to the King, even though it is against the law. If I must die for doing it, I will die." (Esther 3: 16) Courageous Esther stood up for her people, convinced the King to spare them, and brought destruction on the evil Haman.

My brethren, do we have the faith and courage of Joshua, Daniel, and Esther? Do we have the faith and courage to save and lead our people to victory for God's glory?

Help carry one another's burdens, and in this way you will obey the law of Christ.

The man who is being taught the Christian message should share all the good things he has with his teacher.

So let us not become tired of doing good; for if we do not give up, the time will come when we will reap the harvest.

So then, as often as we have the chance, we should do good to everyone, and especially to those who belong to our family in the faith.

Galatians 6: 1-10

# **Opportunities**

Have we noticed that our lives are composed of series of opportunities? Opportunities to do good for ourselves and for others for Almighty Yahweh's glory and honor, and opportunities that may lead to please man's sinful nature, and consequently reap the harvest of destruction and eternal condemnation?

Apostle Paul said to the Galatians, "Do not be deceived: for a man will certainly reap what he sows. The one who sows to please the Holy Spirit, from the Spirit will he reap eternal life. The one who sows evil, from evil will he reap the harvest of death and eternal destruction."

In this life's journey we certainly encounter lots of opportunities. Let us say good and fruitful opportunities as sons and daughters of Almighty Yahweh through Yahshua the Messiah. Even so, let us be reminded that not all these good opportunities that come at our doorsteps are worth venturing or applicable to us. We need to take time to pray, ask the Holy Spirit for guidance, we need to develop the gift of discerning. All our thoughts and plans may be good but God's plan for us His children is the best, and for the best of all His people.

Each of us is made for a very special purpose. Learn to know your purpose in life, and align yourself to God's purpose. Seek or chose those opportunities that will lead towards the fulfillment of God's plan and purpose for your life. The Philosopher and writer of Proverbs says; "There are many plans in a man's heart. But it is Almighty Yahweh's purpose that should prevail."

There is however an opportunity in life that we should not neglect or hesitate to respond. This opportunity is to do good, to help, to serve and to give what we have especially to those who belong to the household of faith.

Let us take every opportunity to be a blessing to others, most especially in the basic needs of life, like food, clothing, shelter... If we can give more than these basic needs, the better for God's glory!

Remember Yahshua the Messiah said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." St. Peter also said: "Charity covers a multitude of sin." Never miss the opportunity to do good to Almighty Yahweh's faithful people. If we miss the opportunity Almighty Yahweh opened for us to do good to others, we will also miss the opportunity to receive His wonderful blessing. "Give what you have and Almighty Yahweh will give you more."

Let us not be weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a bountiful harvest if we do not give up, as the scripture says. So, take courage, be strong in the faith and take every opportunity to be a blessing, especially to God's people who are in need. "Blessed are the merciful to others; God will be merciful to them."

Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Read Hebrews 11: 1-40

## Keepers of the Faith

Faith is the act of believing the words of Almighty Yahweh and His Son Yahshua the Messiah and on the things that He has revealed and by acting on those beliefs. Apostle Paul clearly put faith as the confident assurance that something we want is going to happen. It is the certainty that what we hope for we will receive, even though we cannot see it up ahead.

Faith comes from hearing the word or message and the message is heard through the preaching about Yahshua the Messiah. "For it is by our faith that we are put right with God; it is by our confession that we are saved. And, whoever believes in him will not be disappointed."

What is true Faith? The acts of these men profess and confirm what true faith is: Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Jephthah, David, Samuel... and a lot more. These men were known for their great faith because they refused to give-up believing on what Yahweh Almighty promised to them. They committed themselves to God's Will and believe that Yahweh Almighty will never fail them nor forsake them. They all patiently waited in faith. God says through Prophet Isaiah: "Faith that is firm is also patient."

Faith can grow deeper and stronger through difficulties and fierce opposition. God at certain times will test our faith in Him. So, He allows some odd things to happen or provide opportunities to strengthen our faith in Him. Our response then, towards these tough times can strongly affect the condition of our spiritual life.

Apostle Paul wrote: "In every battle you will need faith as your shield to stop the fiery arrows aimed at you by satan."

Yahshua the Messiah said: "I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, be thou remove and cast to the sea and it shall obey. Nothing will be impossible for you."

Let us fight the good fight of faith!

Shadrach, Meschach and Abednego declared: "If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and He will rescue us from your hands, but even if he does not, we want you to know, O King Nebuchadnezzar that we will not serve your god or worship the image of gold you have set up." The God whom the Keepers of the faith served and worshiped is the same God we serve and worship, so there is no reason why we cannot do what they had done.

Let us therefore keep the faith as our ancestors did, fight the good fight for the fulfillment of God's will on earth!

You were taught, with regards to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians 4: 22-24

The attitude you should have is the one that Christ Jesus had.

Philippians 2: 5

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Hebrews 4: 12

## Right Choice and Right Attitude

There is no such thing as ultimate or absolutely bad situation. I believe there is always something good in every bad situation and vice versa or somehow, there is something bad in a very good situation. It is just a matter of right decision and action or right choice and how we handle those choices. Choices that may make us or break us. Some of those choices affect us for a day or week but there are choices that affect our lives forever. One thing I know and I can tell you is this: opportunities for good will most likely turn to bad or even worst with a bad attitude.

God wants his people to have an attitude that is right with Him. Having a right attitude in every situation helps man see the light in every dark path. A right attitude empowers man's will and determination to grab the light in every situation that can lead him out of darkness or nurture that pin of light to create a torch to conquer darkness.

According to J. Sidlow Baxter in his book, Awake My Heart "The difference between an obstacle and an opportunity is our attitude towards it. Every opportunity has a difficulty and every difficulty has an opportunity."

A person could be wrong with his choices in life, but it does not mean that you need to dwell with it the rest of your life. We need to be brave and strong, we need to strive hard and turn adverse condition because of wrong choices into a blessing with the help of God. We need to make a stand and face our trial head on and make the best out of it. I know this is not easy but we need to make a try because we will never know until we have tried it.

In attitude 101 by John C. Maxwell, he wrote: "When confronted with a difficult situation a person with an outstanding attitude makes the best of it. Life can be likened to grindstone. Whether it grinds you down or polishes you, it depends upon what you are made of."

Attitude 98 by Charles Swindoll said: "Our attitude determines what we see and how we handle our feelings.

"Our expectations have a great deal to do with our attitude. And these expectations may be totally false, but they will determine our attitude."

There are lots of factors that affect man's attitude, it could be environmental, sociological, spiritual, and a lot more. Considering the world we live in which is full of crime and violence, corruption and sin, these dominating factors around affect people negatively. God Almighty Yahweh wants us to be different, He wants us to be the light; He wants us to represent Him. He wants us to be agents or instruments of change for good and for His glory and honor.

God wants to shape our lives according to His plans and purpose. God wants us to conform to His will and to lead others to change for the better. Generally change is not an easy thing. It takes a lot of time and energy. It requires diligent discipline of ourselves.

As children of the Almighty Father Yahweh through faith in His Son Yahshua the Messiah, that is what God our Father is doing to us. Everyday of our lives, He is changing us from glory to glory. The big part in the changing process is obedience and waiting. That is why the Psalmist admonished us saying, "Wait on the Lord, be of good courage and He shall strengthen thine heart. I say, wait on the Lord."

Do not be tired of waiting upon the Lord; He knows when the time is right, and while we are waiting, the Lord our God is working to polish our ways and attitudes.

Another big and important factor in the changing process of our character and attitudes, is problem or trouble. God our Father does not give us problem and although He loves us, He allows it to happen in order to test our character and attitude.

Our attitudes towards people, work, things, money, circumstances; our attitude towards God Almighty most of all, matter so much in all that we do and our future.

Our day to day happiness and our future success greatly depend on our attitudes!

As long as you live, you and your descendants are to have reverence for the LORD your God and obey all his laws that I am giving you, so that you may live in that land a long time. Listen to them! Then all will go well with you, and you will become a mighty nation and live in that rich and fertile land, just as the LORD, the God of our ancestors, has promised.

Deuteronomy 6: 2-3

Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make our home with him."

John 14: 23

### Humble Obedience

Obedience means doing what we were instructed to do or asked to do; to yield to someone's commands or wishes. As followers of Yahshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ), we are commanded to be obedient to Yahweh Almighty's laws and commands in every way, and to do as told without questions because we believe that God knows what is best for us, and because He is our Creator and Master, our God and Father. In order to live in obedience to God our Father, live a life that honors Him, our priorities in life should be in line with His will. We need to put God first in everything, in all our thoughts and actions. This may sound simple, as the saying goes: "Things are easier said than done."

Indeed, it sounds simple but to do it needs a lot of sacrifice. We sacrifice our own personal desires and wishes in order to conform to the will of God our Father and Savior. We sacrifice even in the way we live and our status in the society. We need to learn to give up worldly things, worldly passion, and live a surrendered life to God our Father through His Son Yahshua the Messiah our Lord and Savior regardless of how the world or people looks at us. We need to let go of our old self, and start a new life in union with Yahshua the Messiah.

Let me say it again, God our Father in heaven wants us to be different – different in the way we handle life, our family, our children, and the things around us and other resources. He wants us to show to all peoples that life is not made up of the things we have no matter how rich we may be. He wants us to put on His righteousness upon ourselves and to show to the world His virtues; to prove to the world that "we live and move and have our being by His grace" not by the things we possess.

Yahshua the Messiah said: "Take heed and beware of covetousness for a man's life consists not of the

things which he possesses no matter how rich he may be." (Luke 12:15)

"As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you live in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do, for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy'" (I Peter 1: 14-16).

When confronted with opposition and torn between following what we believe which is right and in accordance to God's laws and commands and to please others, we must be like Peter and the other apostles who boldly replied: "We must obey God rather than man!" Be strong in the faith, we would rather lose the world and all that is in the world than lose the love and care of our Father and Savior, and the blessing of abundant and eternal life.

When King Saul disobeyed God's command, Prophet Samuel said: "Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king." Disobedience begets sin and sin when fully mature begets death and destruction. Get wisdom and insights! Do not forget or ignore what I say. Do not abandon wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will keep you safe. Getting wisdom is the most important thing you can do. Whatever else you get, get insight. Love wisdom, and she will make you great. Embrace her, and she will bring you honor. She will be your crowning glory.

Proverb 4: 5-9

If anyone lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who give generously to all without finding faults, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

James 1: 5-6

### Getting Wisdom & Insights

How do we become wise persons? Listening is the first and foremost in the process of attaining wisdom. By listening and paying careful attention to what experienced and godly people say, you will learn a lot of good things far beyond what you can think of or imagine. You will save more time and energy by just listening to other people's life experiences. By understanding and learning from their failures and successes you will be equipped with precious knowledge of how to live a better life. Listening for an hour to a righteous man or to a well experienced and godly person will make you far better than what you can achieve within a year of hard work or study. "He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harms." "Iron sharpens iron", which also means people learn from other people.

To attain wisdom also means to be humble and willing to be taught and to learn, willing to accept and endure discipline.

Above all, wisdom is available to all who humbly and sincerely seek it through the words of God. It starts to work in our lives the moment we pay full attention to God and his commandments, to our godly parents, to wise counselors and elders, and to those whom God has chosen to lead and guide his people.

Anybody can become wise. The writer of Proverbs said: "Everyman who listens to me and obeys my instruction will be given wisdom and good sense. Yes, if you want better insights and discernment, and are searching for them as you would for lost money or hidden treasures, then wisdom will be given you, and knowledge of God himself."

Ultimately, wisdom is knowing Almighty Yahweh who is the source of it and living in reverence for Him; knowing His laws and commandments and obeying them. Apostle James writes, "If you want to know what God wants you to do, ask him, and he will gladly tell you, for he is always ready to give a bountiful supply of wisdom to all who ask..."

The best example we can see in the Holy Bible in getting wisdom is King Solomon. "When the Lord appeared to him in a dream and told him to ask for anything he wanted, and it would be given to him!" Solomon replied, "Give me an understanding mind so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between what is right and what is wrong. For who by himself is able to carry such a heavy responsibility?"

The Lord was pleased with his reply and was glad that Solomon had asked for wisdom. The Lord replied by saying: "Yes, I'll give you what you asked for! I will give you a wiser mind than anyone else has ever had or ever will have! And I will also give you what you didn't ask-riches and honor! And no one in the world will be as rich and famous as you for the rest of your life! Sing to the Lord, O earth, declare each day that he is the one who saves! Show his glory to the nations! Tell everyone about his miracles. For the Lord is great, and should be highly praised; He is to be held in awe above all gods.

I Chronicles 16: 23-25

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are his, we are his people.

Psalm 100: 1-3

## "Offer to God A Sacrifice of Praise"

Praise means to glorify, to give honor, to express a favorable judgment, or an expression of approval. Praise can be made through words and actions that show appreciation and high regards to someone in power or to one who embodied dignity and honor.

We often praise someone based on physical appearance or what we call good looks, based on talents and skills. We often praise someone on what our eyes can see and our ears can hear, but we seldom hear praises rendered based on good behavior and holy living. In the eyes of God the most acceptable offering of praise are the ones that come from the heart, because heartfelt praises are pure and holy without blemish or defects, and because praises from the heart never lie. Praises and thanksgiving that come from the heart are as sweet incense in the presence of Yahweh Almighty, holy and acceptable to Him.

Yahweh Almighty abhors the praises of men whose hearts are far away from Him. Yahshua the Messiah said: 'These people, says God, honor me, (praise me) with their words but their heart is far away from me. It is no use for them to worship me' Matthew 15:8. This kind of praise is full of contradictions. Even the way these people live their lives contradicts what their mouths speaketh. Not a resemblance of praise can be seen in them and in their families.

When we sing our praises and thanksgiving to Yahweh Almighty, let us first rid ourselves of all kinds of evil influence in our hearts and mind. Let us clear our thoughts and empty our hearts of anything unpleasant in the sight of our Father and Savior. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide us and teach us the right form of praise and let the Holy Spirit take full control of us and go with the flow of the Holy Spirit.

We can sing, dance, gladly shout for joy or just simply utter our praise to the Lord depending upon the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit. What is most important is not the way we deliver our praise but the quality, the purity and sincerity of our praise to God Almighty.

Moses' song of praise before his death declares: "I will proclaim the name of the Lord. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he."

Jehoshaphat King of Judah during their battle against Moab and Ammon, appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: "Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever."

Apostle Paul in his letter to the Hebrew people says: "Through Jesus Christ, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that confess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifice God is pleased."

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves."

Philippians 2: 3

### **Consider Others Better**

Humility is the quality or state of being humble. Being humble on the other hand means not proud or haughty: not arrogant or wrongly assertive. Humility is closely associated with meekness, and modesty: lacking all signs of false pride, aggressiveness, or selfassertiveness.

Considering others better than yourself, is one hard task for a man of great stature and dignity and for a man of well known and high standing in society. Usually, man takes pride in their high position and riches. Many people even do all sort of things just to be among the crowd of the rich and famous and hopefully receive praise and honor from men.

Perhaps, some people also think that humility is to let others see you as lowly as they think you are, putting you down as if you amount to nothing, your presence and your words are not as worthy as theirs. But, that is not the way things should be. Rather, we should behave in a manner that people should see that in spite of our high standing in society we show respect to whom respect is due. We give to each one what is due to each one person. We do simple things that are commonly done by non-professionals because we love the people and we are eager to help them grow. "To consider others better than ourselves" is to give example of the right way of life in everything. However, this may not be easy but, if we love God with all our heart we must do what pleases him.

It really takes great inner strength and determination to consider others better than yourself in spite the fact that you know you are definitely far better in many ways. But, the Holy Bible tells us to imitate Jesus Christ humility, and as children, we must be obedient as Christ obeyed even to death on the cross.

Philippians 2:6-10 says: "Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on the cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Christ every knee should bow."

Let us ponder more on what the Holy Scriptures tell us about humility:

*II Chronicles 7:14.* "If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and

seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways: then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

*Proverbs* 11:2. "When pride comes, then comes disgrace. But with humility comes wisdom."

*Matthew* 23:12. "Whoever makes himself great will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be made great."

*Romans* 12:3. "Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith Almighty Yahweh has given you."

May Yahweh Almighty grant us all the spirit of humility; the spirit that helps us consider others better than ourselves. The spirit of humility that He has given to His Son Yahshua the Messiah or Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5: 16

The LORD is my light and my salvation whom shall I fear?

Psalm 27:1

## The Light of Life

The light was among the first of God's creation as recorded in Genesis 1: 3. It says, Then God commanded, "Let there be light", and light appeared. Amazingly, God was pleased in what He saw.

What makes light so important? A light is an agent of illumination that stimulates the sense of sight; a light speaks of goodness, holiness, openness and love; a light also represents knowledge or something that enlightens or informs.

The Holy Bible speaks of light to describe holiness, goodness, righteousness and love. Yahshua the Messiah speaks of himself as the light of the world, "I am the light of the world," "Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness." Yahshua the Messiah is indeed the source of light, the truth, the giver and sustainer of life, and only through Yahshua the Messiah that we can come near our Father in heaven Yahweh.

We live in a world of darkness, a world where evil dominates. Evil minds dream up every kind of wickedness and destruction where eternal death is the sure consequence. But Yahweh Almighty so love the world that He gave up His only begotten Son Yahshua the Messiah to give light to this dark world and for our salvation.

Darkness reigned and still reigns in this world, but Yahshua the Messiah willingly made Himself a sacrificial offering to the Father so that whosoever follows him will not stumble but have the light of life and enjoy life in its fullness forever.

"Whosoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whosoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Corinthian 9: 6-7

### Sowing Generously

As we journey in this life with the love of Yahshua the Messiah, let us make it our joy to reach out to others in compassion and demonstrate the spiritual gifs that the Holy Spirit has given us especially the gift of giving. Let us be grateful for every opportunity to share, to give, to help, to be a blessing to others, and to put to heart that it is a great privilege and honor to give in the name of Yahshua the Messiah our Lord and Savior because God loves a cheerful giver.

The secret of giving lies in the heart of the giver. Let us take note that we can give without loving but we cannot love without giving. Giving is very essential in loving because giving is the outward expression of love. Yahshua the Messiah is our best example in loving and giving. In spite of everything – His being the Son of God the Father, His being holy, and the unspeakable suffering, He willingly gave up His own life because of love. Because, He loves the Almighty Father Yahweh and, He loves us. To love Almighty Yahweh our Father in heaven is to give to Him the best of everything, even as Yahshua the Messiah gave Himself a sacrificial offering to the Father for our sake. To give Him first place in our hearts; to give Him our loyal devotion. To give Him our heart's adoration. To give Him the strength of our youth; to give Him first place in our service. And to give Him the highest honor and glory for all that we have and we will have. Then we will be fulfilling Yahshua the Messiah's commandment: "Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and strength. Love your neighbor as you love yourself" (Matthew 22: 37-39).

In loving and giving, the Holy Scriptures warns us by saying: "Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven." "When you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father in heaven, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you" (Matthew 6: 1-4).

Apostle Paul charge the younger apostle Timothy by saying: "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy. That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to share" (I Timothy 6: 17-18).

Apostle Paul also encouraged the Corinthians by saying: "As you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us – see that you also excel in this grace of giving (II Corinthians 8: 7).

In another instance Apostle Paul said: "In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord himself who said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Finally, my brethren, let us make it our aim to give cheerfully and gladly sow good seeds today so that we will have a good and bountiful harvest someday.

"Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee in the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk."

Acts 3: 6

## Healing

One of Yahshua the Messiah's great ministries while he was here on earth was the Ministry of Healing. The Ministry of Healing played a key part in the gospel of the Kingdom. Whenever Yahshua the Messiah was not teaching the people about salvation and redemption, we find Him healing the sick and afflicted as recorded in the Holy Bible.

One of the many miraculous healing that Yahshua the Messiah performed was when He healed Jairus daughter who was dying. Yahshua said to Jairus "Don't be afraid, just believe, and she will be healed" (Luke 8: 50). When Yahshua arrived at the house of Jairus, He took the girl by the hand and said, "My child, get up! Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up."

In Matthew 9: 20-25. A woman who had been bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. She said to herself "If only I touch his cloak, I will be healed." Fortunately, she had touched the cloak of the Messiah according to her wish. Yahshua the Messiah turned and saw her and said, "Take heart, daughter, your faith has healed you." At that very moment she became well.

Accounts recorded in the Holy Bible tell us that many people had been healed in the power of the Name of Yahshua the Messiah. When Peter and John, the disciples of Yahshua the Messiah, were going up to the Temple to pray, a crippled man from birth saw them and beg them for money.

Peter said, "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee, in the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." He took him up by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bone received strength.

Leaping, he stood up and walked. Walking and leaping, and praising God. This miracle performed by Peter to the lame man from birth in the Name of Yahshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) showed the great healing and miracles, done in the precious Name of the begotten Son of the Almighty Father.

There are many causes of sickness and diseases. Some of the causes illustrated in the Holy Scriptures are:

**Sickness** as part of the curse due to Adam & Eve's disobedience to God Almighty. Therefore, directly or indirectly, sin is the root cause of all sickness.

**Sin** is basically the rejection of God's rule, which consequently isolates man from God and makes man vulnerable to sickness and demonic attack.

**Demonic Power**: Evil spirits can sometimes be the direct cause of sickness and affliction. In Mark 9: 17-27, the story is told of a young man who was brought to Yahshua the Messiah, having a dumb spirit. This spirit was the very cause of the deafness and dumbness that the man suffered. Yahshua the Messiah cast out the deaf and dumb spirit, and the young man was delivered.

In Matthew 9: 32-33, we can also read about a "dumb man possessed with a demon." When Yahshua the Messiah cast out the dumb spirit, the man was immediately able to speak.

Matthew 8: 16 informs us that Yahshua the Messiah came into Peter's home and when evening came, many who were demon possessed were brought to him, and He drove out the evil spirits with the word of truth and healed them.

**Neglect of Health**: Health can greatly suffer if man is not careful, and neglect various basic factors of health and vitality. In fact, the Holy Bible deals a lot with food laws – telling us what is good for our health and what is not. Read (Leviticus 11-1-47; Deuteronomy 14: 3-21).

Sadly, mankind has been sick spiritually and physically in various ways and forms. And, only through Yahshua the Messiah, the Lord and Savior, the greatest Healer can men obtain complete and perfect healing of the body, soul, and spirit. Prophet Isaiah strongly confirmed this when he boldly declared: "He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases."

As our forefathers Peter and John healed the lame man in the Name of Yahshua the Messiah, we can also do it in our own time. For, Yahshua the Messiah said: "The things that I do, you shall do also and even greater things..." "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer and supplication."

At all times carry faith as a shield; for with it you will be able to put out all the burning arrows shot by the evil one.

Ephesians 6: 16

Each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

James 1: 14-15

## Be On Guard Against Temptations

The evil one can disguise itself in many forms, and it can present himself in any possible way imaginable in order to achieve its main objective, that is, to destroy the children of God-Almighty Yahweh. One of satan's weapons of destruction is temptation. Temptations first come by using man's own abilities & desires. Satan will create means to legitimize man's desires regardless of its intentions. The evil one or satan will make things as easy as possible to satisfy man's desires that often lead to satan's trap for man's destruction.

If the first wave of attack will not work, satan will move on to the next phase using doubts & fears. The moment your heart questions God's plans and purposes of your life, the moment your mind tries to reason out God's doing in your life, be careful because that is satan's way of tempting you to disobey God and do things your own way. Satan will instill in your heart that your way of doing things is a lot better than what God wants of you. The evil one will provide all means to justify your cause as he did to Eve in the garden of Eden.

The next wave of satan's weapon of temptation is through lies & deception. Be reminded that satan is "the father of all lies" (John 8: 44). When satan tempted Adam & Eve, he deceived them by saying that if they would disobey God's words or instruction, they would not die, instead, they will become wise like their Creator. Eve believed that lie; a lie that inevitably caused mankind's terrible suffering.

Being vulnerable to satan's deceptive acts, we should keep ourselves guarded against all forms of temptations no matter how little it may seem. We should not allow ourselves to be exposed to any forms of temptations no matter how small it may appear, remembering that it is the granules that can get into man's eyes and make man blind, not the big stone or rock.

Apostle Paul addressed the Ephesians by instructing them to put on the full armor of God so that they can take their stand against the devil's scheme. Paul continued by saying: "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark

95

world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

Apostle Paul listed five armors for defense against the enemy's scheme and one weapon for offense. The armors for defense are: **belt of truth** buckled around your waist, with the **breastplate of righteousness** in place, and with your **feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace**, the **shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one, and the **helmet of salvation**. Paul's weapon for offense is the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God.

Let us fight the good fight of faith, stay alert at all times because our enemy never sleeps. Keep watch and let us all pray continually. Never put out the spirit's fire, keep it burning and finish the race. The LORD says that you must not be discouraged or afraid to face this large army. The battle depends on God, not on you.

You will not have to fight this battle. Just take up your positions and wait; you will see the LORD give you victory.

II Chronicles 20: 15 & 17

### Victory In Battle

Given a situation where you found yourself facing an opponent much larger and stronger than you or being put in an unimaginable situation where winning is next to impossible, is what exactly happened to King Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah & Jerusalem, when the army of the attacking forces composed of Moabites, Ammonites and some Meunites was so huge, that defending themselves successfully was next to impossible.

When King Jehoshaphat was told about the situation, he immediately gathered the people and stood up in the assembly at the Temple of the Lord and prayed to Yahweh Almighty by saying: "O Lord, God of our Fathers. You rule over all the Kingdoms or nations in the world. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you. Here are men from Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, they come to drive us out of the possessions you gave us as an

inheritance. O our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you."

In response to King Jehoshaphat's prayer, the spirit of the Lord came upon Prophet Jahaziel and said: "This is what Yahweh Almighty says to you: 'Do not be afraid or discourage because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's. You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the Lord will be with you.""

On the day of battle King Jehoshaphat addressed the people by saying: "Listen to me, Judah and people of Jerusalem! Have faith in the Lord your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful."

The King ordered some musicians to march ahead of the army, singing: "Praise the Lord! His love is eternal!" When they began to sing, Yahweh Almighty threw the invading armies into panic.

In His loving-kindness to His faithful people, Yahweh Almighty answered the prayer of King Jehoshaphat by causing the invading army to be confused. In confusion, they turned on each other in savage fighting. When the Judean army reached the battle ground they saw all their enemies lying on the ground dead. King Jehoshaphat and his troop went home and praised Yahweh Almighty for all He had done. They went home victorious because Yahweh Almighty fought in their behalf and defeated their enemies. Every nation then that heard how Yahweh Almighty defeated Israel's enemies was terrified.

This is just one of the many miracles that Almighty Yahweh did for the Israelites when they put their hope and trust in Him firmly. The time when they lived a life in accordance to Yahweh's will; the time when they worshiped Him in spirit and in truth faithfully under the leadership of King Jehoshaphat.

We can also be heirs of this kind of blessings as children of Yahweh Almighty through Yahshua the Messiah our Savior and King. The miraculous doing of Yahweh Almighty and His abundant blessings are not only for the Israelites but for us also because we are His children through our faith in His begotten Son Yahshua the Messiah who said: "I will never fail you nor forsake you. The things that I do, you shall do also and even greater things..."

Being sons and daughters of Yahweh Almighty through faith in His Son, we are heirs of all that He has and it is His pleasure to uphold us and give us victory in every battle.

Hence, in time we find ourselves in trouble, facing an opponent far stronger and larger than us, let us stand firm, keep the faith and put our trust in Yahweh Almighty and His Son Yahshua the Messiah who is always true to His promises.

We need not fight the battle ourselves. All we have to do is to take up our position and stand firm. We will see the deliverance of the LORD who is eager to save us and to show His greatness and power to the whole world through us.

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."

Galatians 2: 20

"Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

Colossians 3: 13

## Forgiveness

It is important that we learn to forgive each other. For, this is the will of God our Father and Savior. Forgiveness is the act of pardon; no longer to be angry with someone who had done wrong. I believe the meaning of forgiveness is quite simple and selfexplanatory, it does not require much labor to execute it, but why is it so difficult to forgive?

To accept undeserved suffering – suffering that rightfully belongs to the offender, is one of the hardest choices a person can make. Anyone can attest to the fact that, it is not easy to be in pain, hence, it is not easy to forgive.

It was neither easy for Yahshua the Messiah to die on the cross, shed His blood to pay the penalty of our sins so that Yahweh Almighty could forgive us. Yahshua the Messiah did not deserve the suffering He went through because He was pure, spotless and blameless but He gave Himself a sacrificial offering to the Almighty Father for our sake. Let us also remember what Yahshua the Messiah taught His disciples when He said: "For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you" (Matthew 6: 14). Bitterness in our hearts toward someone who has wronged us, or we think had wronged us can be a cause of unanswered prayers. If we do not forgive others, Yahweh Almighty cannot freely forgive us nor hear our prayers.

Mark 11: 25 states that, "When you stand and pray, forgive anything you may have against anyone, so that your Father in heaven will forgive the wrongs you have done." This particular verse follows His promise which said; "...When you pray and ask for something, believe that you have received it, and you will be given whatever you ask for." While John 9: 31 also tells us this: "We know that God does not listen to sinners; he does listen to people who respect him and do what he wants them to do."

The crown of life belongs to the conquerors and we conquer hatred and bitterness when we forgive. It has been said that inflicting an injury puts you below your enemy, revenge makes you even with him, but forgiving - it sets you above him. Forgiveness frees both the forgiver and the forgiven.

Let us live in love; a loving way of life because love is forgiving. When Peter asked Yahshua the Messiah, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times? "Yahshua the Messiah answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy times seven." Yahshua the Messiah wants Peter to realize that to forgive should be a way of life.

Forgive as soon as possible. I know this is hard but with God nothing is impossible; with the help of the Holy Spirit we can do the will of God. Let us bear in mind that Yahshua the Messiah forgave us even before we realized that we have sinned.

Time is precious; we can't afford to let it slip by in useless pain. It is far cheaper to pardon than to resent – anger has a high cost; hatred is an extravagant expense; grudge bear unreasonable interest. Let us open our hearts to one another in love which is willing to get hurt as it reaches out to help, lift and change others' lives. Be willing to share with all people the full freedom of forgiveness as we have freely received from the Lord.

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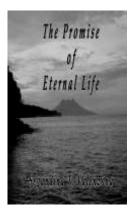
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