

Sisters for Yah

Poor in Spirit

I love Matthew 5:3, which tells us, *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

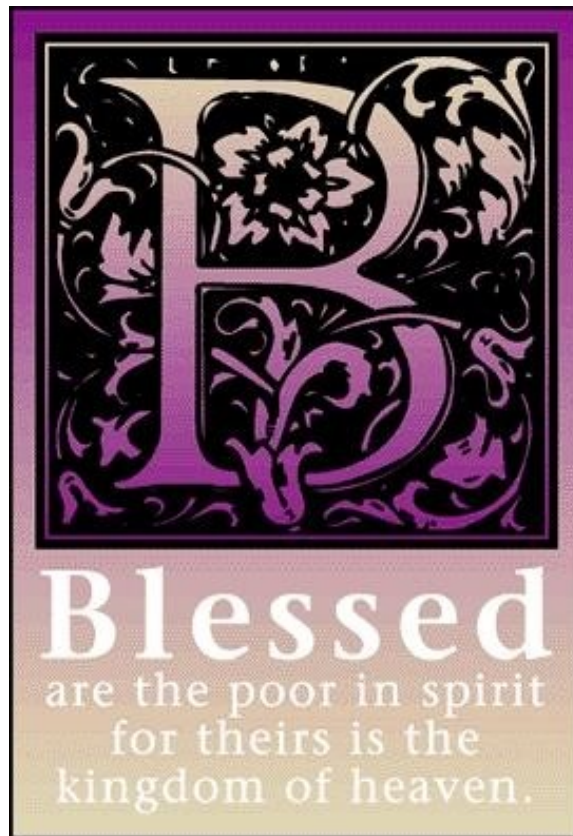
The Scriptures present many paradoxes that challenge our human way of thinking. We think of the poor as possessing very little, yet Yahshua said the riches of the kingdom belong to the poor in spirit. Self-reliance can be a bad thing which robs us of Yahweh's good gifts.

In fact, Yahshua insisted that in order to follow Him, we must deny the self. When we rely on our own resources, we will never place our trust in Him. As we acknowledge the poverty of our souls, we realize how desperately we need a savior. Yahshua declared: "Repent! For the kingdom of heaven is near you" (Matt. 4:17). Yahweh has so much to give the one who recognizes his need and will call upon the Name of Yahweh.

Yahshua also said it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than it is for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. He had just encountered the rich young ruler, who valued his possessions so much that he could not give them up to follow Yahshua. (See Luke

18:18-24.) Yahshua later encountered Zacchaeus, a wealthy but notorious sinner (Luke 19:1-10).

Despite Zacchaeus' material wealth, he recognized his spiritual poverty and found salvation. Yahshua taught the disciples that true wealth is found in a relationship with Yahweh. Those who realize their inherent spiritual poverty apart from Yahweh will trust Him, and He will enrich their lives immeasurably. Do not allow your resources, wisdom, talent, or abilities to prevent you from trusting the Person who can bring you abundant life.



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COMPLETE PROTECTION

In John 17:12, we find, *While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your Name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.*

Fear is a natural part of human life. Indeed fear can have a good purpose. For instance, fear of heights can prevent us from jumping off a cliff and getting injured or worse. Yahshua chose the twelve disciples the Father had given Him and then jealously guarded them from the evil one. Yahshua sent His disciples into the world where they experienced difficult and dangerous circumstances, but He interceded on their behalf with His Father that they would have His strong protection from the evil one. See John 17:15.

In the same way, Yahshua said that we, as His sheep, are held securely in the Father's strong Hand (John 10:28). There is no better place to be than safely in the Hand of Yahweh. Do we believe this? Or do we fear all the bad things people can do us? The apostle John encourages us that we do not need to fear: He Who is in you is greater than he who is in world" (1 John 4:4). This is not merely a "theological" concept but a profound reality in which you can have absolute confidence. It is not just a truth for meditation in the security of your home; it is a promise we can cling to in the midst of a hostile and scary world.

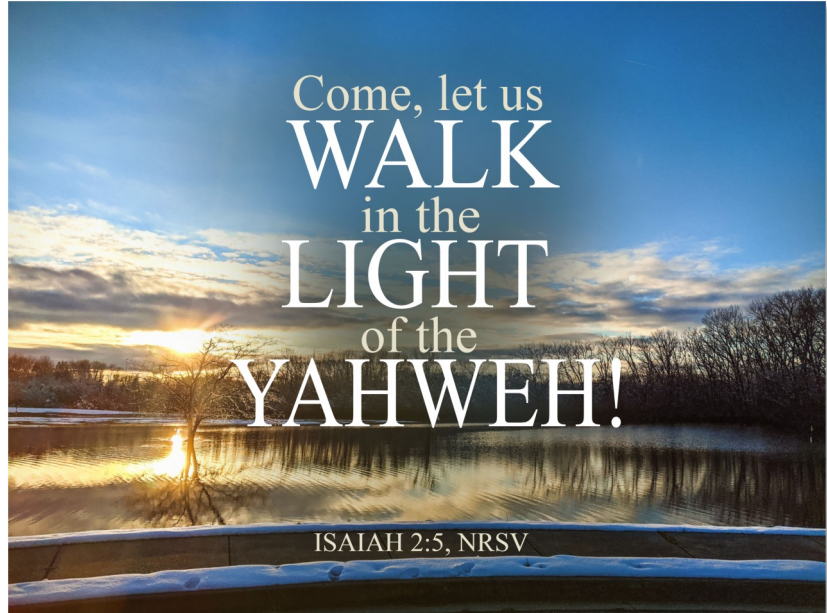
What we do reveals what we believe. Yahweh does not want us to live fearful, anxiety-ridden lives. We must believe in Yahweh's protection. We must live our lives with confidence that Yahshua is continually interceding with the Father on our behalf. In reality, we don't have to fear those who can destroy our bodies. We must fear Him who can destroy us if we don't submit to Him (Matt. 10:28).

Joy in Messiah

If there is anything that ought to characterize the life of a Believer, it is joy! Yahshua spoke many times to His disciples about His joy being complete and full in them. Indeed, His disciples were filled with joy as they realized who they were: His children and joint heirs with Messiah (Rom. 8:16-17).

They had been dead in their sins but were now made alive in Messiah (Rom. 6:4). They, like we all, have once been helpless victims of death, but now death had no hold over them (1 Cor. 15:55-58). With such marvelous salvation, how can we be anything less than joyful?

Let's not deny ourselves that which is our birthright as a child of Yahweh. Let's never be satisfied with a joyless life. In Galatians 5:22, we see that joy is one of the fruits of the spirit. Yahshua did not pray that we would merely be happy or escape grief. He prayed that we would have the same joy that the Father had given Him: a divine joy that comes from a deep and unwavering relationship with the Father.



Clearer View

(Author unknown. Submitted by Sister Michelle Love, now deceased)

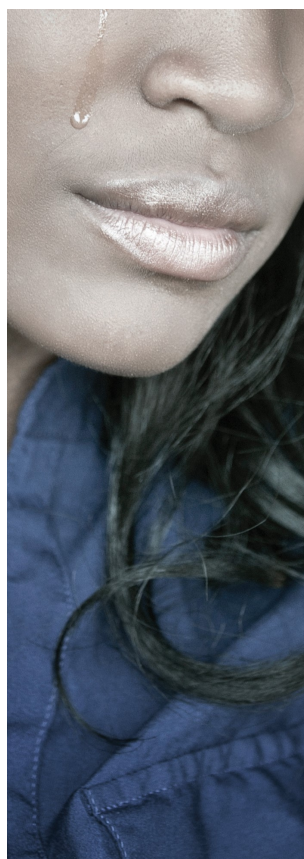
Today, I looked in the mirror and saw a spot that made me gasp.
 I'd never seen the spot before but I knew the spot wasn't on the glass.
 I thought at least this side was clean but now tears fall with woe.
 Several spots I'd seen most clean now one unknown has begun to show
 You're such an ugly, wicked spot, though, for years you've gone unseen.
 For all my trying I cannot remove what's inside of the spaces in between.
 Shaking again my garment, oh yes, the spot is surely there.
 Taking again the mirror in my hand the spot becomes clearer as I stare.
 My heart is deeply saddened to see there, that I didn't know.
 How terrible and frustrating to see a spot where you thought only brightness would show.
 With bowed head, I must acknowledge the things I now have seen.
 I will not turn away in my sorrow, attempting to ignore the image on the pure mirror screen.
 Without my mirror I would not have known what was hidden from vain thinking eyes.
 No, I prize my mirror more than before because now in this there will be no surprise.
 Happy now I call myself to have such a mirror that has power to show.
 Grateful to be aware that without seeing and knowing my garments,
 beauty would not continue to grow.

Praying with tears

Yahshua's life provides the model for our prayer lives. Yahweh is seeking to mold us into the image of His Son (Rom. 8:29). If we are to act like Yahshua, our prayer lives must be conformed to His. Many people claim to follow Yahshua, but not many are willing to pray as He did with vehement cries and tears. He was heard by the Father!

The type of prayer the Father hears is when we are willing to deny ourselves and conform ourselves to His Will. Even in the midst of our deepest pain and tears, we must say, like Yahshua did, "Not my will, but Yours be done" (Luke 22:42). we must learn obedience through suffering, just as Messiah did.

Some would ask, "Why did Yahweh allow Yahshua to suffer?" Yahshua did not sin, and it was not because the Father did not love Him. Yahweh had sent His Son to this earth for a specific purpose. Without Yahshua's death and sacrifice, you and I would have had no hope. Indeed, this world would have perished. Yahweh allowed Yahshua to die on our behalf for His redemptive purposes. Likewise, Yahweh will not always remove our suffering and pain, but instead will bring us through it for His righteous purposes! We can trust Yahweh's plan!



WEEPING may
endure for a night, but
JOY
comes in the
MORNING.

Psalm 30:5, NKJV

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Crockpot Roast

- 1 3 pound chuck roast
- 1 (6 ounce) jar pepperoncini peppers with juice
- 1 packet Au Jus gravy mix
- 1 packet buttermilk ranch dressing mix
- Salt and pepper to taste

Put all the ingredients in a crockpot. Cook on low for about 8 hours. Shred the meat with a fork. It should fall apart easily.



Garlic Pasta with Veggies

- 1 package pasta (12 ounces)
- 6 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1/4 t. crushed red pepper flakes
- 2 T. olive oil
- 1 can chickpeas (15 ounces), rinsed and drained
- 2 medium tomatoes, cut into small pieces
- 1 package baby spinach (9 ounces)
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1/4 cup grated parmesan cheese



Cook pasta until tender, then drain. Sauté the garlic and pepper flakes in the olive oil for about a minute. Add the garbanzo beans, tomatoes, and spinach and cook just until spinach is wilted. Mix the pasta in with the veggie mixture. Sprinkle with parmesan and toss to coat. This is great served with a crusty bread.

Onion Chicken

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 T. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 t. ground mustard
- 1 can French fried onions (2.8 ounces), crushed
- 4 boneless chicken breast halves

Mix butter, Worcestershire sauce, and mustard in a shallow bowl. Put the crushed onions on a plate. Dip the chicken in the butter mixture then the onions. Place on baking pan and bake at 400 degrees about 25 minutes or until juices run clean.

