

# YAIY NEWS



## Burying Talents and Gifts

Some years ago a member asked about someone who was not in Sabbath attendance anymore, yet lived close by. It was known that he just spent his days on projects during the week, and would evidently just study at home on Sabbath. The comment was made, “Why is he hiding his talents and gifts?”

It is obvious we are expected to join with others in worship. Hebrews 10:25 expressly tells us we should not be “forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as in the manner of some is, but exhorting one another as we see the day approaching.”

Brethren have come to understand the importance of Yahweh’s Name and that of His Son Yahshua. They diligently keep the weekly Sabbath and a vast majority also observe the annual Sabbaths.

Perhaps it is because we have been conditioned to “keep the whole counsel of Yahweh” that we continually seek deeper knowledge and understanding.

Eventually, though, we reach a plateau. Once we comprehend the basic truths, new truth comes less frequently. Now our task turns to applying what we know to our lives and helping others do the same to theirs. To do this, we must encourage fellowship.

All too many, however, seemingly tire of meeting with others who may not have attained their level of comprehension. Or perhaps an intellectual arrogance prompts some to “go it alone.” This is a selfish attitude that has no place in the body of Messiah.

That Yahshua’s Assembly is to meet is clear from Paul who said that Yahshua gave gifts to the body. These include apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (Eph. 4:12). These are *For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry for the edifying of the body of Messiah*, Ephesians 4:12.

Each member of the body of Messiah is important and is given a special talent,

Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 12. These gifts are for the mutual profit of the Assembly. Gifts are manifestations of Yahweh’s Spirit and include the word of wisdom; word of knowledge; faith; gifts of healing; workings of miracles; prophecy; discerning of spirits, languages, and the interpretation of languages (1 Cor. 12:6-11).

Paul continues to emphasize in this chapter that each member is a part of

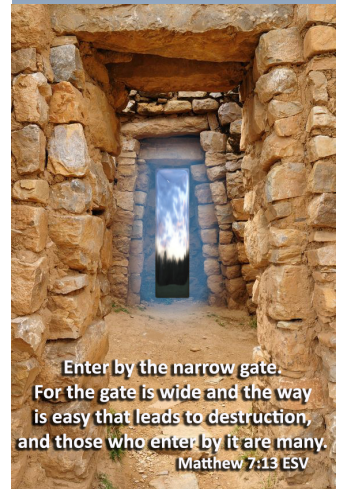


But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Hebrews 3:13 (ESV)

Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.

James 4:17 (NASB)



Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. Matthew 7:13 ESV

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## Burying Talents and Gifts....cont.

the body of Messiah, and has a part to play just as do the various parts and organs of our physical bodies. He designed the body members with their gifts to function together as a unit. *But now Elohim has set the members, each one of them, in the body, even as He pleased.* 1 Corinthians 12:18 TS. Every member of the body if necessary, says Paul, and each member should have the same care for one another (v. 25).

*Now you are Messiah's body, and individually members of it. And Elohim has appointed in the Assembly, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues,* 1 Corinthians 12:27–28 NASB.

The Apostle Peter wrote in 1 Peter 5:1–5 NIV, *To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Messiah's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of Elohim's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as Elohim wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not [domineering] those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "Yahweh opposes the proud, but shows favor to the humble."*

We must assemble with brethren of like faith at every opportunity, helping one another grow spiritually and in proper knowledge. We are to be an encouragement and an example. It is only through gathering and interacting with the body of Messiah that the shaping and polishing of His "living stones" (1 Pet. 2:5) takes place. Neither we nor the brethren can grow when we withdraw, burying our talents and gifts.

## Muslim Visions and Dreams

On Christian Broadcast News (CBN), Pastor Grady Picket of Faith Fellowship in Kurdistan recently said, "Many [former Muslims] are having dreams and visions of Jesus" and "they want to hear something different" speaking of the former ideologies of the Muslim faith.

The problem? Muslims are now turning to something that is also of an anti-Messiah spirit, void of the truth and the spirit. Scripture is very clear saying, *To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this Word, it is because there is no Light in them,* Isaiah 8:20.

What then are these visions and dreams all about? Could we be witnessing the manifestation of demonic forces now at work, specifically preparing for a much greater deception to come? (Matt. 24:24; 1 Tim. 4:1; Rev. 16:13-14).

Both the Christians and the Muslims are looking for a Messiah. We also know a false Messiah comes first (Rev. 6:2). In the meantime, evil is at work we are told, *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places,* Ephesians 6:12.

The Muslims speak of looking for the 12<sup>th</sup> Imam Mahdi which some Iranian leaders believe will come when they create war in the Middle East against Israel. Iranian leaders have said in the past that Israel should be wiped away into the sea. Similar words are found in Scripture of an allusion to end-time events and a ten-nation coalition (Psalm 83), which may be related to the toes found in Daniel (Dan. 2:41-43) showing areas of weakness (clay) and strength (iron) within them.

Significant escalations, of recent, between Iran and Israel in the Syrian territory may bring about more of a united front from other Islamic states. It may also force a peace plan to be worked out among all involved. A leader (a type of Messiah) will eventually come, maybe sooner than later, promising and delivering a solution.



## BCC Coding Error Online

In transferring our websites over to a new server, an error in code occurred causing a problem for those taking the Bible Correspondence Course (BCC). The error did not allow those online to submit their tests for about one month. To the user, it appeared that the tests were submitted but they were actually being deleted. We are very sorry for this regretful mistake.

For those taking the BCC online, we recommend that you retake (and submit) the last test in which you have not yet received a reply. If you have any questions or cannot find the link to the last course lesson you submitted, please contact us directly for assistance.



## Question and Response

**Q:** From a Biblical perspective can one be an organ donor? Life is in the blood; our blood runs through our organs; just want to know if there is Scriptural evidence for or against it. Shalom.

**R:** The Apostle Paul describes putting off the perishable body for one that is imperishable (1 Cor. 15:41-44, 50). Mankind wants to extend their life and are now accepting pig heart valves and other parts from humans who have died. It seems out of step with Yahweh's will to try to extend one's life with questionable means. Anciently, were the people allowed to touch the dead without consequences (Hag. 2:13), let alone accept body parts for the purpose of living longer? In the end, are we not promised something better? (1 Thess. 4:13-14).

As far as accepting physical blood from another, there are alternatives, such as synthetic blood plasma (please note: not yet legalized in the United States as of 2019) along with other mechanical valves, stents, etc. Another option for blood, may be to store one's own blood prior to major surgery. One would need to consider such things before the time when they might be needed.



Accepting mechanical and synthetic things are one thing, but actual blood and body parts from others are something else. While the former can aid us, the latter appears to have Scriptural prohibition against it (Gen. 9:4; Deut. 12:23). In our life, and maybe more so near the end, we are to trust in Yahweh (Ps. 71:9, 14-16, 18).

With all of this said, there are other Scriptures that talk about laying down our own life for others. What about a married couple (who are considered one flesh), in which, one needs a kidney? Can the one give to the other one, saving their life? As the Apostle Paul pointed out, one would need to be fully convinced in their own minds about such things (Rom. 14:5).

Because of the complexities of various surgical procedures, and the continued advancing medical technologies, we at Yahweh's Assembly in Yahshua do not have a blanket doctrinal position covering such things. We rather leave these personal and many times private decisions to the individuals themselves. A living will, however, is recommended.



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*By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures, Proverbs 24:3-4 NIV.*

“All the body is fitted with joints and bands...put together and compacted by that which every joint supplies...having nourishment ministered, and knit together...according to the effectual working and measure of every part, making increase of the body, unto the edifying of itself in love” (Col. 2:19; Eph. 4:16).

Yahweh sets us within the Assembly for it to work properly and function as it should. Nevertheless, it is neither good, nor acceptable, that the house should have more honor than He Who builds the house (Heb. 3:3). For except Yahshua, as a wise Master Builder build the house, whose house we are, and as workers together with Him, we labor in vain (Ps. 27:1; Heb. 3:6; 2 Cor. 6:1).

“Through wisdom is a house built; and by understanding it is established: And by knowledge the chambers will be filled with all pleasant riches” (Pro. 24:3-4). Therefore, “Let every man...as laborers together with Him...take heed how he builds thereon” (1 Cor. 3:10; 9).

### Prayer List

Dolores Parker, Terrell Frasure, David & Barbara Creel, Charlie Pelton, Robert Dorchester, R.C. Fernald Family/Friends, Karen van Schalkwyk, Elder Lionel and Sandra Gets, Diana Murphy, Stella Rogers, Sean Rogers and Family, Loretta Reyes and Family, Michael Hutchinson, Georgiana Greene and Family, Linda Franchino, Al J. Pagano, Lois Firth, Hap Tew, Richard Rodriguez and Family, Kathy English, Jeff Gilman, Arthur Journey, Mark Strahan, Michael Davis, Shirley Morin, Mae Flowers, Alice Goodchild, Merle Tyler, Heidi Fleischmann, Chauncey Hargrove, Dirkie & Francious Swarts, Jordan Vira and Family, Olivier B. Muzima, Esteban Garcia and Family, Winifred Marie, Charles Scott Jr. and Sr., David & Nancy Wilson Family/Friends, Audrey Wilkes, Adeline Black, Audrey Steadman, Adi Stahlin, Mary Giles, Kareem Greene Family/Friends, Ja'Quon & Schosche MucSarney, Rueben & Desire McIntyre, Henry Sunderman and Family, Tisha Palmory, Victor Kiiru, Kenya Evalo Washington, Roger Norman, Ngozi Anyaegbu Ikeogu, Onwuchekwa Veronica Nneamaka, Ememka John Wade, Errol Hunt, Chris and Marisca Barnard, Michael Johnson, Bob Covey, George and Kenya Washington, Terryn Willard, Melodie Illgen, Melanie Marks, Shaun Dampier, Jerry Castle, Leonard & Bertha Sefu, Marilyn Montague, Arturo Ramos, Jephthah Maika, Yvonne (in hospital, no last name given), Rebecca Bautista and Family, Rose Waddy, Individuals seeking Yahweh from within prison facilities and for their families. Overseas brethren and the peace of Jerusalem.

