

Sisters for Yah

Stay calm and carry on

Of all the pagan holidays Yahweh's people don't celebrate, Christmas is the one that seems to be attached to much emotional turmoil. Much of the problem is that our unbelieving friends and family members just don't understand why we are convicted to avoid participating in it! I mean, after all, they reason, isn't Christmas a good thing? This might be the first year you are not celebrating Christmas. If so, you might be feeling a bit confused or depressed. You may have even tried to share your newfound knowledge with people, expecting them to be just as excited as you were, but getting the opposite reaction. We hope this article will comfort you as you embark on the exciting journey that is living Yahweh's way. Remember, that out of over seven billion people on this earth, Yahweh has chosen to reveal His truth to YOU! Let that sink in for a moment.

One of the most comforting things I have learned in my walk with Yahshua, is that Yahweh is not calling everyone at this time. He simply is not revealing His truth to all people. If you are understanding what He is revealing to you, count yourself among the very few and rejoice! Don't get discouraged when your unbelieving friends and family members don't agree with you. But a word of caution, avoid getting into arguments with them at all costs. Stay calm even if they are not able to be. Speak gently and respectably as much as possible. Most of their fears are because they think they are losing you. Assure them that you still love them. It's okay to share your faith, but don't force your new beliefs on others.

At the other end of the spectrum, you may be feeling a sense of loss, now that you decided not to participate in the gift-giving and tree-trimming rituals. Indeed, it will take you time to adjust, but don't get discouraged. It's normal to feel a bit out of sorts. Any new situation takes time to accept. Those of us who have been in the faith for a long time can assure you that once you are well established in Yahweh's Way, your life will be even more joyful than before because of accepting His truth! Yahweh's real Holy Days will have a greater impact on you than any pagan holiday ever did. You will still have trials and difficulties, of course, but you may see them in a new light. You will realize that you cannot convert anyone by your own efforts and good arguments. If Yahweh is not calling a person, you may have very little impact. However, you may be planting a seed in the person's mind which will yield a later harvest. May you stay true to Yahweh and overcome any difficulties during the world's holiday season. May the truth set you free.



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Do you fear **failure**?

Have you ever wondered how Moses must have felt after he fled for his life following the murder of an Egyptian? Surely he must have been plagued by a host of condemning voices in his head. So when Yahweh appeared to him in a burning bush, Moses was probably struggling with an identity crisis. Just look at his response when Yahweh told him he would lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Moses made excuses not to do it. But Yahweh indeed used Moses to accomplish His perfect purpose.

Many people in the Bible failed Yahweh miserably. And we will too. Even if we've been in the faith for a really long time. Humans can be very frail creatures. At times we feel like giving up. Repentance after sinning can make all the difference in restoring your relationship with Yahweh.

A soft heart is what Yahweh is looking for. He can work with that. He is more concerned that we look to Him for all things, instead of wanting our own way. If you are a parent, you probably have seen your children fail many times. But you still love them, don't you? Yahweh feels the same about us. So if you stumble and fall, dust yourself off and keep walking. You do not need to fear failure if you keep your eyes on your Father.

A happy home begins with you!

I saw a bumper sticker recently which read, "If mama ain't happy, ain't nobody happy." I laughed at it at first, but began to ponder the idea. I don't think a mother is solely responsible for the happiness of a home. I believe any member of the family can lead by setting a good example. It doesn't matter if you are a mother, father, daughter, sister, aunt, or grandparent. What matters is that you try your best to show Yahshua's love to others. We know that every family has problems, even the best ones. But your response to problems can make a huge difference. For instance, if a husband comes home from work in a bad mood, a wife can either be a safe haven of calm, or a further irritant. Which response would reflect Yahweh's love more?

I read a true story once about a husband and wife who argued constantly. The wife was ready to file for divorce. Thankfully, she sought the advice of a counselor. The wise counselor advised her to go home and do the opposite of what she normally did. Speak softly to her husband instead of verbally attacking him when he would pick a fight. It wasn't easy, but the wife persevered in remaining calm. At first, the husband still tried to pick fights. But when he saw that his wife was not responding as typical, he began to calm down too. Eventually, they learned to have a very peaceful satisfying relationship. No wonder we read in Scripture that a "soft answer turns away wrath." (see Proverbs 15:1).



Consider going on a digital detox

People are spending way too much time on their cell-phones, social media, and email! Many people are actually in a very real addiction comparable to drug use. Teenagers, in particular, are burning themselves out. Experts are encouraging people to take a break now and then. Families need to reconnect with each other. Consider having supper together with no phones at the table. Try it and see if your family doesn't become closer!

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Easy Russian tea mix

1 -1 1/2 cups sugar or less, to taste
2 cups instant Tang orange drink mix
1/2 cup sweetened iced tea mix powder
1 pkg unsweetened lemonade mix
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 teaspoon ground allspice
1/2 t. ground cloves

Mix all the above ingredients.
Store in a jar. Use 2 to 3 t. per cup.
Add hot water.



Spicy winter tomato soup

3 T. olive oil
2 carrots, diced
1 onion, diced
1 clove garlic, minced
1 jar marinara sauce (26 ounces)
2 cans chicken broth
1 can (15 ounce) cannellini beans, drained and rinsed
1/2 t. red pepper flakes
1/2 cup small pasta
1/2 t. salt
1/2 t. Pepper

In a large soup pot, cook the vegetables in oil until soft. Add the rest and simmer gently until pasta is cooked. Serve with warm bread, crackers or rolls. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

