

# Sisters for Yah

## Comfortable in their Bondage?

(Author unknown, submitted anonymously)

In Exodus 5:21, we read, *And they said to them, "Let Yahweh look on you and judge, because you have made us abhorrent in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants, to put a sword in their hands to kill us."*



It is possible for people to become so accustomed to their bondage that they resist the efforts of Yahweh or others to free them. Imagine: The Hebrews had been slaves in Egypt for four hundred years. Their bondage

meant that they were not free to to Yahweh's will or to go where they wanted. Moses had come to tell the Israelites how they could experience freedom, yet they were more concerned about the reaction of their taskmasters than they were about pleasing Yahweh. For them to be free meant that Pharaoh whom they were forced to serve, would be angry! It would mean that the Egyptians they had served all their lives might attack them. Freedom from bondage did not seem to be worth the hardships they would inevitably endure.

When Yahweh sets out to free us, there will often be a price we will have to pay. Fear can be a terrible form of bondage, yet we can become comfortable with it. We can grow so comfortable with fear that we don't know how to live without it. As destructive as our sinful habits and lifestyle might be, we may prefer living with the familiar, rather than being freed to experience the unknown. We may recognize the harmful influence of a friend, but choose to reject Yahweh's will rather than offend our friend.

As incredible as it seems, the Israelites were angry with Moses for disrupting the life of bondage to which they had grown accustomed. Have you been lulled into a comfortable relationship with your bondage? Do you fear change more than you fear Yahweh? Are you willing to allow Yahweh to do what is necessary in order to free you?

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## Go Up and Possess It

We find a really interesting Scripture in Deuteronomy 1:21: *Look, Yahweh your Elohim has set the land before you; go up and possess it, as Yahweh Elohim of your fathers has spoken to you; do not fear or be discouraged.*

One of the paradoxes of a Believer's life is that Yahweh's gifts often require us to labor. I had a disturbing conversation with a friend many years ago. We had a disagreement on a portion of Scripture. I told him, "Yahweh sets parameters for our own good." My friend replied, "True. But we don't have to accept "Yahweh's best." I retorted with, "Why wouldn't you want "Yahweh's best"? Why would you settle for mediocrity? Does substandard living truly make you happy?" He finally said, "No, a substandard life doesn't make me happy, but I'm too lazy to strive for the best that Yahweh offers us. I'm willing to stay stuck in my laziness, just to avoid hard work." Our conversation ended at that point.

Yahweh brought the Israelites to the promised land and told them he was going to "give" it to them. (See Numbers 13:2.) The "gift" of the promised land sounded great to the Israelites until they realized that, with the gift, came battles against giants and fortified cities. Perhaps they assumed that Yahweh was going to obliterate the inhabitants of the land before they entered. Ideally for the Israelites, they could then have entered a vacant land with houses and cities already built and ready to inhabit.

Instead, Yahweh said they would have to fight for it. They would not have to fight in their own strength. Yahweh would be present to fight for them. Yahweh would bring down the walls of cities, give them strategies to defeat their enemies, and empower their warriors to fight. If the Israelites had kept their minds and hearts on Yahweh, they would have a divine advantage over anyone they fought. But they would still have to fight.

It would be wonderful if, when we became believers, Yahweh would fill our minds with a memorized knowledge of the Bible. It would be easy if Yahweh would instill in a us a delight in spending hours in prayer each day and a fearless desire to share our faith with others. But Yahweh doesn't relate to us that way. Instead, He gives us the free gift of His salvation and then tells us to "work out" our salvation with fear and trembling. Are you discouraged because your life in Yahshua is more difficult than you ever expected? Don't be. Yahweh's gifts to you are perfect because through them, Yahweh makes you perfect as well. See Matthew 5:48 and James 1:17.

## Anxiety?

There seems to be an epidemic of anxiety these days. Natural remedies are worth looking into. Chamomile tea, lemon balm tea, Gaba supplements, and green tea are all shown to be "relaxing." Deep breathing exercises can also work wonders. Prayer should be your first line of defense. Pour your troubles out to Yahweh. Sunshine is also good as it promotes Vitamin D. Exercising outdoors is a good idea. Put on some praise and worship music too!



## *The Secret, or Selfishness?*

There is a disturbing worldly trend with which some believers have, regrettably, become involved. Some authors call it “The Secret;” others, “The Law of Attraction” or even “Manifestation.” According to these proponents, these so-called “laws” state that we can have anything we want — fancy cars, mansions, unlimited money, etc., if we just continually think about the things we want and believe that these things will obtain them. Also, according to these authors, people attract good things if they think positively, and bad things if they think negatively.

One “believer” told me (about fifteen years ago), that he was trying to “manifest” a big house. I asked for clarification, “You mean you don’t have to work for it? It’s going to just appear one day out of nowhere?”

“Yes,” he enthusiastically replied. “I’m reading about how we can get anything we want by just really believing we’re going to get it, because the “universe” wants to provide good things to us.”

To this day, his fancy house has not “manifested,” and this person is still stuck in poverty through having made bad choices.

The first thing that comes to my mind is that this is just another New Age concept. New age concepts are against Yahweh’s Word because they empower the individual and promote self-worship. New age advocates say that humans already have a higher power in them. Even more disturbing, some authors of these books claim that so-called “angels appeared and revealed this knowledge to them.” Brethren, we are warned that Satan can appear as an angel of light! Do not open yourselves up to demonic oppression.



Selfishness is strongly condemned in Yahweh’s Word. His Word should be a powerful motivator to avoid focusing on worldly gain which is encouraged by the authors of these New Age books. Yahweh wants to give us good things, of course, but we are also told we will have tribulation in the world! There is nothing in Scripture that tells us that if we focus on positive thinking, nothing bad will ever happen to us. This is foolish thinking!

Yahweh promised to meet our needs if we pray according to His will. But according to the “law of attraction,” people don’t need to pray for

their needs. They just need to imagine the life they want and it will “happen.” But what if it’s not Yahweh’s will to give a person fancy cars and mansions? We need to accept Yahweh’s will for our lives.

Sadly, these New Age authors have made millions of dollars on their books. They prey on weak-minded, sad, and gullible people.

Another component of the “law of attraction” I find offensive, is that negative thinking causes bad events to occur. Yahweh allows bad things because humanity as a whole has walked its own way. And, yes, free will can produce suffering.

I am not against positive thinking at all. We are told in Scripture to think good things (Phil. 4:8). So, I encourage all believers to reject New Age nonsense. Put your trust in Yahweh alone. And Let Scripture alone be your guide to truth and right-living.

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## Southern-style Green Beans

- 4 cans green beans, drained
- 3 t. sugar
- 6 slices turkey bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 1/2 cup sliced almonds
- 1/4 cup onions
- 4 T. butter

Heat the butter and sauté the onion till caramelized. Add all the rest of ingredients and heat through.



## Spring Forward Veggies and Pasta

- 2 T. olive oil (or butter)
- 1 pound asparagus, cut in thin slices
- 1 pound dry pasta, any shape
- 8 ounces sugar snap peas, sliced
- 2 carrots, shaved into tiny slivers
- 1/2 cup dry white wine (or chicken broth)
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 t. dried thyme leaves
- 1 T. grated lemon zest (the outermost yellow rind of a lemon)
- Kosher salt and black pepper, to taste

Bring a large pot of salted water to boil. Add the pasta and cook about ten minutes. Drain well. Set aside. Heat the oil or butter in a large skillet. Add all the veggies, and cook till crisp tender, about 5 to 7 minutes. Add the white wine (or chicken broth) and simmer a few more minutes. Add the heavy cream, lemon zest, thyme leaves, and pasta. Heat through. Season with salt and pepper.

