

Sisters for Yah

Making a Difference

Have you ever purposed in your heart to not participate in a certain activity that you knew was against Yahweh's ways? Then you can relate to Daniel! In Daniel 1:8, we read, *But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies.*

Would any of us dare to believe that Yahweh, who called us to Himself and equipped us with His Spirit, could work mightily through us? Have you made the connection between the time and place in which you live and Yahweh's call upon you? World events never catch Yahweh by surprise. He placed us precisely where we are for a purpose.



Daniel did not let the temptations of his day interfere with his relationship with Yahweh. He knew that to make his life useful to Elohim he must be obedient in all things. Regardless of what the most powerful king in the world commanded, Daniel refused to compromise what he knew Yahweh required of him.

History is replete with examples of Believers who believed that Yahweh would work through them to make a significant difference for His Kingdom. We have Esther (Hadassah in Hebrew) as a prime example. Yahweh placed her strategically in the king's court at a crucial time when she could save the lives of Yahweh's people. See Esther 4:14.

Look at Joseph also. He was placed strategically to become the most powerful adviser to the Pharaoh in Egypt to save Jacob and his family from a devastating drought (Gen. 41:39-40).

Don't allow your surroundings to determine how you invest your life. Let Yahweh use you in a powerful way to make a difference in the time and place you find yourself. Ask Yahweh to reveal His purposes for you and His will for your life today.

Yahweh can see the end from the beginning. Yahweh may be using you to plant "seeds" in those around you, even though you may not see it now. Don't get discouraged. Keep serving Yahweh, and we will see His purposes in the Kingdom.

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Trembling at Yahweh's Word

Read Isaiah 66:2, which tells us, *“But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My Word.”*

Do you tremble when Yahweh speaks to us through His Word? I have seen some physically affected by the reality of Yahweh's Word. I think of John in Revelation 1:17. He lost all physical strength when Yahshua spoke to him. Likewise, Paul fell to the ground when he encountered Messiah on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:4). Moses trembled when Yahweh spoke to him (Acts 7:32). And also Peter, when he realized who Yahshua was, “fell down at Yahshua's knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, oh Master!” (Luke 5:8).

These accounts are written for our benefit. The first time we read the Bible, we are often filled with a sense of awe. We need to read the Bible with expectation, believing that the life-changing words were meant for all Believers throughout the ages. Proverbs 9:10 says that the fear of Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom. There are things we will see and hear out of our fear and reverence for Yahweh that we will not experience in any other way.

As we do our Bible study, we may sense that Yahweh is saying something to us through the verses we are reading. Take a moment to consider the awesome reality that the Elohim who spoke and created the universe is now speaking to us! If Yahshua could speak and raise the dead, calm a storm, cast out demons, and heal the incurable, then what effect might a Word from Him have upon our lives? The possibilities should cause us to tremble. The next time you open Yahweh's word, do it with expectation. Never take it for granted. Bible study is never something we should just “get out of the way so we can get on with our day.”



Tremble,
O EARTH,
AT THE PRESENCE OF YAHWEH ...

PSALM 114:7, NRSV

What about Temptation?

In Hebrews 2:18, it says *“For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.”*

Temptation is all around us. But one thing we can be certain of is this: We will never face a temptation so strong that Elohim has not made complete provision for us to overcome it. Yahweh, out of His love, has done everything necessary for us to be victorious whenever we face temptation. He has clearly revealed His will to us in Scripture so that we will not be confused about the right thing to do. He has given us the Set-apart Spirit to help guide us in our decisions and to convict us when we make harmful choices. With every temptation Yahweh also provides a way of escape. See 1 Corinthians 10:13. Everything is in place for us to experience victory.

Yahshua was born into this world facing the same temptations we face. He knew what it was like to be hungry, tired, sad, and to be abused by people He was trying to help. We can turn to a very sympathetic Messiah when we face these same things! We can approach with confidence that we are understood. He knows our plight. And He will help us get through it.

As for me and my house



Joshua lived in a very tumultuous time in Israel's history. Serving Yahweh, at the time, was most likely not Joshua's only option. He could have adopted the pagan religious ideas and practices of his family heritage in the land of Egypt. He could have accepted the idolatrous religion of his neighbors in the region he lived. These options probably looked like much easier choices than worshiping Yahweh. But Joshua had witnessed Yahweh's faithfulness (Joshua 23:14). He was convinced that Yahweh was the only true Elohim and that serving Him would bring victory and blessing. So Joshua decided that he would serve Yahweh alone. He was determined to teach his entire household to honor Yahweh as well. Joshua had trusted Yahweh for victory on the battlefield, and he knew that He could also bless him in his own home too.

Joshua's famous words are in Joshua 24:15, *And if it seems evil to you to serve Yahweh, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the river, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house we will serve Yahweh.*

We, too, face the same thing. We must decide Whom we will serve. An assortment of popular options clamors for our allegiance. Some may choose to adopt the faith that their parents and grandparents practiced. Others may take the easy way out and choose not to believe in anything at all. But we can reject our past religious heritage and embrace the truth! Read the Bible for what it really says. Get rid of anything in your life that doesn't line up with it. If you set your mind wholeheartedly to serving Yahweh, your example just might bring a tremendous blessing to your family. If you place your confidence in Yahweh, those around you will witness your faith, and they just might decide to trust Him too. Choose, as Joshua did, to serve Yahweh unashamedly with all your heart, and then watch to see His blessings.

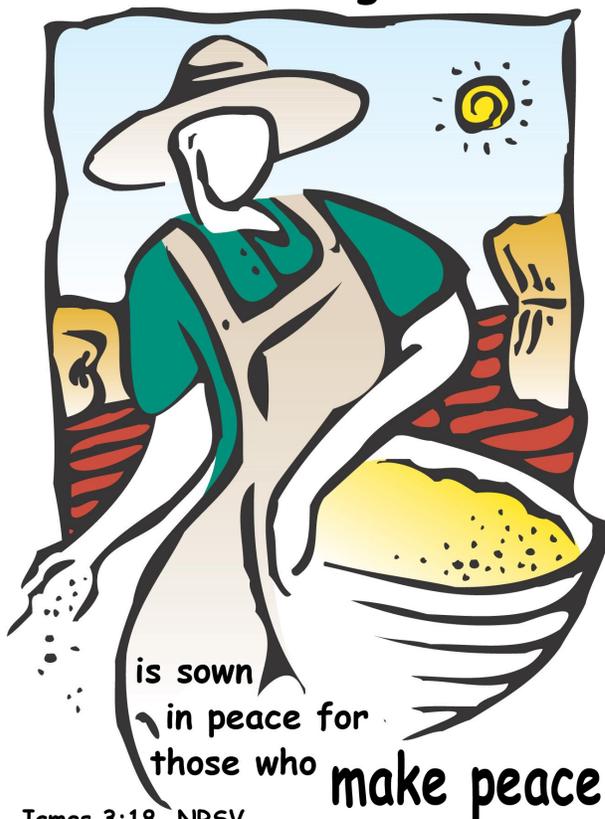
Sowing Seeds of Righteousness

"But he who sows righteousness will have a sure reward." (Prov. 11:18b).

There are many ways to invest our lives, but none offers greater reward than devoting ourselves to the pursuit of righteousness. Every area of our lives should reflect the set-apartness of Elohim, that is ours by salvation: our thoughts, so that nothing we think about would be inappropriate; our actions, so that our lives demonstrate that we serve a Set-apart Elohim; our integrity, so that we are above reproach in all our relationships.

Lets never take this for granted. Make no mistake. Are we entertaining evil and sinful thoughts, allowing them to go unchecked? Take every thought into captivity. We must seek first Yahweh and His righteousness, then everything else will follow. Matthew 6:33. Plant good seeds in your life now, if you want a good harvest later.

A harvest of righteousness



James 3:18, NRSV

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Granny's old-fashioned cherry salad

2 cans cherry pie filling (21 ounces each)
2 cans fruit cocktail (15 ounces each), drained
6 bananas, sliced



Grab a large mixing bowl, and dump everything in. Fold together gently. Kids love this salad! And it's a much healthier option than candy. Some people also add other fruits to the mix to give some variety. You can take it to a potluck, or enjoy it at a summer picnic in the park.



Creamy Broccoli Salad

Someone brought this on Sabbath for our fellowship meal. Everyone wanted the recipe! Note that the broccoli is supposed to remain raw. However, for those who hate raw vegetables, you can probably lightly steam the broccoli just until crisp-tender. But be sure it's completely cooled before mixing it with the rest of the ingredients.

8 cups raw broccoli florets, finely chopped
1 lb. turkey bacon, chopped up and cooked until crisp
1/2 cup finely minced red onions
1/2 cup sunflower seeds
1 cup raisins
1 1/2 cups mayonnaise
1/3 cup sugar
3 T. lemon juice
3 T. apple cider vinegar
1/2 t. salt

Mix the first five ingredients in a large bowl. Next, mix the rest of ingredients in a separate bowl until well blended. Fold the dressing into the large bowl of broccoli salad. Cover with plastic wrap and chill at least one hour before eating. It's the perfect side dish to summer meals.

