

# Sisters for Yah

## TRUSTING YAHWEH

The Israelites of Jeremiah's day believed they could trust their army, the diplomacy of their king, and their foreign alliances to protect them from their enemies. Sound familiar? Our current world situation is almost identical. Most countries today don't even think to seek Yahweh, but rather they build up their own power through weapons and promises they can't keep. Take a look at Jeremiah 17:5: *Thus says Yahweh, "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from Yahweh."*

Some world leaders give lip service to their trust in Yahweh, but their actions show where their faith really is: in their military and financial might. The Almighty spoke through Jeremiah to warn them that He would not bless those who trusted in anyone or anything instead of Him.

Placing our ultimate trust in anything other than Yahweh is idolatry. How can we know if our faith is not truly in Yahweh? We can ask ourselves some

hard questions: Where do I turn when I am hurting and afraid? How do I react in a crisis? Do I stop and pray for guidance, or do I "handle" things my own way? When I have a financial problem, whom do I want to tell first? And where do I seek comfort when I am under stress or discouraged? Do I go straight to Yahweh, or do I automatically choose to "self-medicate" with alcohol, or drugs? There's no doubt these questions might be very painful to answer! But they are crucial to your spiritual growth and survival. Sometimes we say we trust Yahweh, but our actions indicate otherwise. Sometimes Yahweh uses other people to provide for your needs, but beware that you don't misdirect your faith toward His provision instead of to the Provider. Sure, Yahweh may meet

your needs through the brethren at your assembly, but ultimately your trust must be in Yahweh.

The Israelites were so stubbornly committed to trusting human strength instead of Yahweh. They realized too late that they had neglected to trust the only One who could deliver them. Don't make the same mistake as the Israelites. Go straight to Yahweh when you have a need. He is the **ONLY ONE** who can truly provide for you.

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O Yahweh of hosts,  
blessed  
is the one who  
trusts in You.  
Psalm 84:12, ESV

## Is asking for miracles a sin?

In Mathew 16:4 we read, “*A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.*” *And He left them and departed.*

This is truly a troubling scripture to those of the “Signs and Wonders” persuasion. Yes, there are organizations who focus on the miraculous. But asking Yahweh for a miracle may, in many cases, indicate a lack of faith. Some feel that they demonstrate great faith by continually asking for miracles. They assume that in every situation Yahweh wants to do the spectacular. They presume, for example, that Yahweh wants to heal anyone who is sick, or provide a miraculous escape from every difficulty they face. Yahshua condemned those who insisted that He perform miracles, because He knew their hearts. He recognized that they could not believe in Him without

constantly undergirding their faith with signs. Their faith was not strong enough to survive without a regular supply of the miraculous. Yahshua condemned this lack of true faith and left them.

Lets be frank: Sometimes people prefer the miracle over the Miracle Worker. Yahweh calls this idolatry, and He discourages it by refusing to provide ‘miracles on demand’. Sometimes, the greatest act of faith is to NOT ask for a miracle. Sometimes the greatest act of faith is to say, “Not my will, but Thine be done.” One of the most amazing statements of faith came from Hananiah (Shadrach), Mishael (Meshach), and Azariah (Abednego) as they faced the fiery furnace because of their obedience

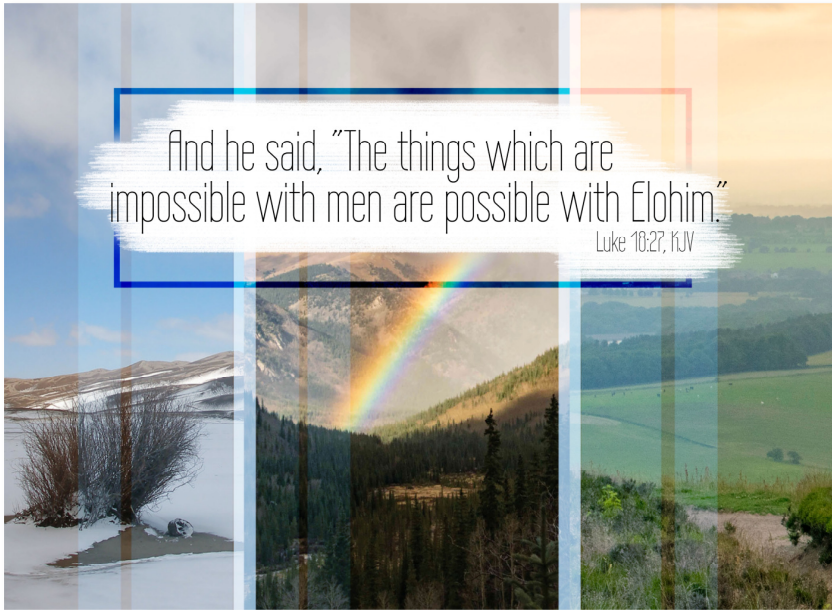
to Yahweh. They expressed true faith when they assured King Nebuchadnezzar: *Our Elohim Whom we serve is able to deliver us from the fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your deities, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up,* Daniel 3:17-18. Did you catch that? The three young men acknowledged that Yahweh may not answer their prayers to save them from the fires, but that they would trust His decision either way. They were confident in Yahweh’s ability to deliver them, but they trusted Him so completely that they did not ask to be spared.

Does our faith need miracles to sustain it? Or do we trust Yahweh so totally that we can say, “But if not, I will still trust Yahweh!?”

## *For Yahweh, not Men*

Colossians 3:23 tells us: *And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to Yahweh and not to men.*

There is an important difference between doing something for people and doing something for Yahweh. Yahweh, of course always deserves our best effort. People will disappoint us, betray us, neglect us, and mistreat us. Some will take advantage of us, always asking us for help while offering nothing in return. From our human perspective, these people deserve our minimal effort at best. Yet we have a higher calling and mission from Yahweh. We are to treat everyone the way we want to be treated, whether they deserve our good treatment or not. Even our harsh employers are to be treated the way Yahweh treats us. Ultimately, Yahweh is the One we serve. See Ephesians 6:5. This may be the most difficult assignment we will face, but let us do it mightily!



## **A STRONG WOMAN** vs. *A Woman of Strength*

(Author unknown)

A strong woman works out every day to keep her body in shape,  
but a woman of strength kneels in prayer every day to keep her soul in shape.

A strong woman isn't afraid of anything,  
But a woman of strength shows courage in the midst of fear.

A strong woman won't let anyone get the best of her,  
but a woman of strength gives her best to everyone.

A strong woman makes mistakes and avoids the same in the future,  
but a woman of strength realizes life's mistakes can also be Yahweh's blessings  
and capitalizes on them.

A strong woman walks sure-footedly,  
but a woman of strength knows Yahweh will catch her when she falls.

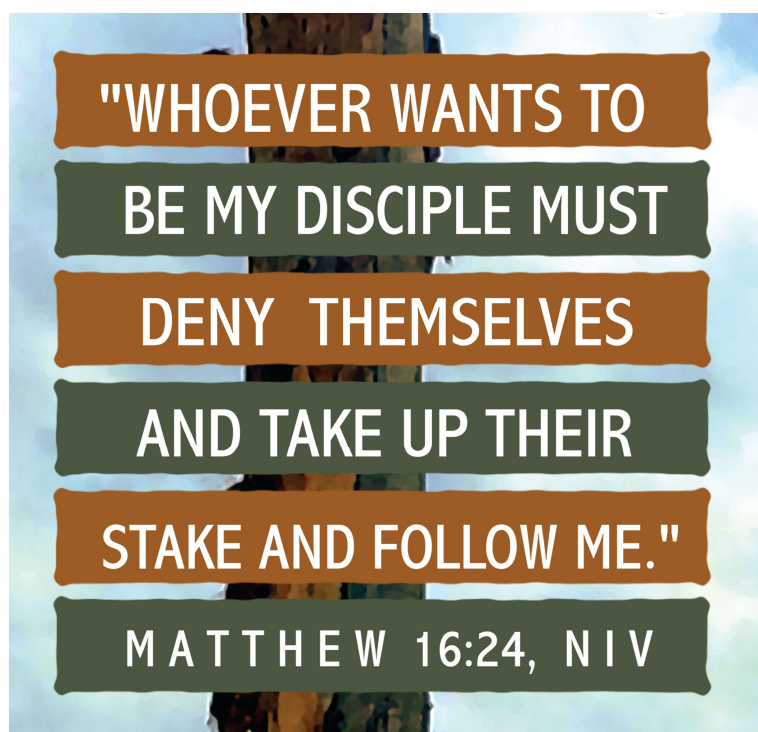
A strong woman wears the look of confidence on her face,  
But a woman of strength wears grace.

A strong woman has faith that she is strong enough for the journey,  
but a woman of strength has faith that it is in the journey that she will become strong.

### **The Cost to Others**

We cannot be a disciple of Yahshua without taking up our stake. Stakes are painful and they forever change our lives, but sometimes the greatest cost will not be to us, but to those we love. We may be prepared to obey Yahweh's commands, whatever they are, because we've walked with Him and know that His way is best. Yet, there will be those close to us who have not related to Yahshua in the same way and have not heard His voice as clearly. Remember Yahweh is not calling everyone at this time.

We may lose friends and relatives because of our faith. We must not refuse to obey what we know Yahweh is asking of us because we fear the cost to our loved ones will be too great. Don't ever try to protect those you love by disobeying Yahweh. Rather, look to Yahshua, our model, and see what it cost those around Him for His obedience to Yahweh. Yahshua's mother had to watch in agony as her Son was publicly humiliated, tortured, and murdered. His closest friends, too, would witness His excruciating death. The disciples would be scattered in terror and confusion in what would be the longest, darkest night of their lives. Yahshua knew His mother and disciples would be permanently affected by what they witnessed, but still, Yahshua chose obedience. We must go and do likewise.





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## Crockpot Corn Chili Soup

- 2 onions, diced
- 1 clove garlic
- 1 bell pepper, any color
- 2 T. chili powder
- 2 t. ground cumin
- 2 cups corn
- 1 jar salsa, your favorite
- 2 can black beans, undrained
- 1 cup Monterey Jack cheese, to garnish
- Sour cream, to garnish
- Extra salsa, to garnish



Spray crockpot with cooking spray. Place the first 8 ingredients in the crockpot. Cook on low for 4 to 6 hours. Place in bowls and garnish with your toppings.

## Slow-cooked Chai Tea

- 6 cups water
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup nonfat dry milk powder
- 6 black tea bags
- 1 t. ground ginger
- 1 t. ground cinnamon
- 1/2 t. black pepper
- 1/2 t. ground cardamom
- 1/2 t. ground cloves
- 1/2 t. vanilla extract



Place all the ingredients in a 3 or 4 quart slow cooker. Put the lid on and cook on high about 3 to 4 hours. Discard the tea bags. Serve warm.



## Butterscotch Hot Cocoa

- 4 cups milk
- 3/4 cup half and half
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup baking cocoa
- 1/2 cup butterscotch ice cream topping
- 1 t. vanilla extract

Heat in a medium saucepan. Whisk till smooth. Top with kosher marshmallows, if desired.