

Sisters for Yah

Ponderings on Prayer

Since Pentecost is on June 16th, Acts 2:1 comes to mind: *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.*

The thought occurred to most of us that it was a good thing they were still keeping Pentecost and were gathered together in worship. Otherwise, they may have missed the pouring out of the Set-Apart Spirit. It's also been said that Pentecost marked the beginning of the New Covenant Assembly.

This brings me to some ponderings on prayer. Prayer does not necessarily give us spiritual power, but it does align our lives with Yahweh so that He chooses to demonstrate His power through us. The fervent prayer of the people at Pentecost did not induce the Set-Apart Spirit to come upon them. But their prayers did bring them to a place where they were ready to participate in the mighty work that Yahweh had already planned.

In fact, Yahshua told His followers to remain in Jerusalem until the Spirit came upon them. (Read Acts 1:4-5.) The disciples obeyed His command, waiting for Yahweh's next directive. As they prayed, Yahweh prepared them for what He intended to do next. Moreover, as they prayed, a unity developed among them. The day of Pentecost arrived, and the city of Jerusalem was filled with pilgrims from many far locations. When Yahweh poured the Spirit on those gathered, He had already filled the city with messengers who would carry the Good News to every nation. Prayer had prepared the disciples for their obedient response.

Prayer is designed to renew us to do Yahweh's will, not to change Yahweh to respect our will. If Yahweh has not responded to our prayer, we may need to modify our praying to align with Yahweh's purpose. It is completely normal to

focus on what we would like to see happen. But realize Yahweh may be more concerned with what He wants to happen in us. Let us trust Yahweh!



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Have you considered, Life and Light?

I love John 1:4, which says, *In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.*

Yahshua was born into a world that was in bondage to darkness and dead in its sin. He came as light and life. Yahshua's light dispelled sin's darkness wherever He went. The forces of evil could not withstand Him. The life that Yahshua brought was abundant and free. It was available to all who were dead in their trespasses, to those who accepted Yahshua. (Read Ephesians 2:1 and John 10:10.)

As followers of Yahweh, Yahshua lives in us, and His light is within us. We are called to dispel darkness (Eph. 5:11). Yahshua's light ought to shine so brightly through us that those practicing darkness are uncomfortable when they are around us. Our friends, family, and co-workers should know that something is different about us.

The fullness of life found in Messiah dwells within us as believers of His Way. (Read Colossians 1:27.) Eternal life offered by Yahshua is available to all who reach out and submit to Yahweh. And never discount what we have to give to those who are hurting. Yahweh is more than sufficient to meet every human need. We need to remember that when people encounter us, they should also be encountering Yahshua within us.

Of course we don't have all the answers, but we have Someone who does! It won't be easy. As the people rejected Yahshua, they will reject us also (John 1:11). We must be thankful that Yahweh chooses to express Himself through us, giving light and life to those around us.



Thoughts on Happiness

Deuteronomy 30:10: Yahweh your Elohim will delight in you if you obey His voice and keep the commands and laws written in this Book of the Law, and if you turn to Yahweh your Elohim with all your heart and soul.

Psalm 146:5: Happy are those who have the Elohim of Israel as their helper, whose hope is in Yahweh their Elohim.

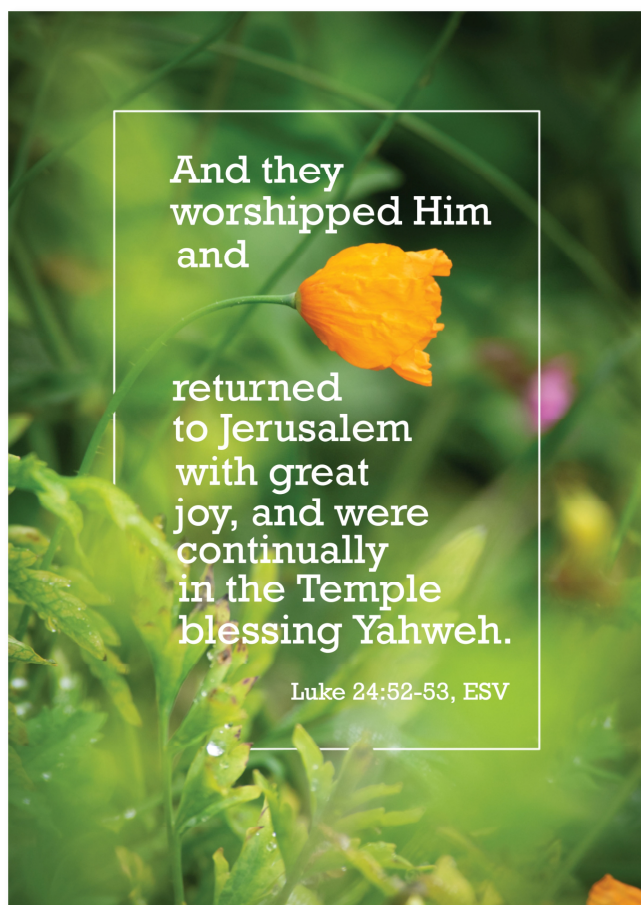
Psalm 86:4: Give me happiness, O Yahweh, for my life depends on You.

Psalm 68:3: Let the righteous rejoice. Let them be glad in Yahweh's presence.

Psalm 40:16: May all who search for You be filled with joy and gladness. May those who love Your salvation repeatedly shout, "Yahweh is great!"

Psalm 18:19: He led me to a place of safety; He rescued me because He delights in me.

Return to Yahweh, for He loves you



And they
worshipped Him
and
returned
to Jerusalem
with great
joy, and were
continually
in the Temple
blessing Yahweh.

Luke 24:52-53, ESV

One of my favorite Scriptures is found in Zechariah 1:3, which tells us, *Thus says Yahweh of Hosts: "Return to Me," says Yahweh of Hosts, "and I will return to you."*

I've been in this Way a long time. Over the many years, I have seen many people walk away from Yahweh. It's always heartbreaking to watch once-faithful brethren turn and go back to the world. Yahweh places much of the burden of what we will become on our response to Him. If we have drifted from Him, He calls us to return to Him. Yahweh promises that if we will return, He will immediately renew His relationship with us. In James 4:8, we have a promise that if we draw near to Yahweh, He will draw near to us. And Matthew 7:7 guarantees that if we seek Messiah, we will find Him. Much of our walk with Yahshua rests upon our response and our desire to experience Yahweh to the fullest.

Why is it that some believers seem to go so much deeper in their walk with Yahweh than others? It is most likely because these individuals have committed themselves to pursue Yahweh. They had decided to settle for nothing less. They jumped in with both feet. They strived to give up anything that was contrary to Him. Their faith and commitment was not shallow. And most importantly, they didn't allow themselves to become

complacent to the economies of Yahweh. Do not be satisfied with a mediocrity in relationship with Yahweh that is broken by sin and void of the power of Yahweh's Spirit. Return to Him! He awaits your response.

Praise before Victory

Praise greatly honors Yahweh! Do you remember the account of King Jehoshaphat? Yahweh's people faced a seemingly insurmountable enemy who was determined to destroy them. Yet, Yahweh assured them that if they would stand still, they would see the salvation of Yahweh. (Read 2 Chronicles 20:17.) The people of Judah believed Yahweh. Their army was led by singers, offering praises to Yahweh for their promised victory, and the victory came. We read in 2 Samuel 6:12-13, that when King David led the procession bringing the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem, he praised Yahweh with all of his strength. David's praise was pleasing to Yahweh. Yahweh's powerful presence remained in David's kingdom to give him victory against every enemy.

When Yahshua and His disciples proceeded to Gethsemane, He led His disciples to sing a hymn. The disciples were all about to fail him, and Yahshua was about to be cruelly executed, yet Yahshua led them in praise to Yahweh. Their praise looked beyond the pain and suffering to ultimate victory. Praise is not rooted in circumstances, but in the nature and trustworthiness of Yahweh. Let's rejoice when Yahweh asks us to proceed to the work of His kingdom. We know that victory is certainly secured. Don't focus on the problems and failures. Keep praising Yahweh.

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BBQ Chicken sandwiches

3 pounds chicken breast
1 bottle BBQ sauce (use your favorite, 18 ounces)
1 can cola
Hamburger buns



Lightly grease your crockpot. Place all the ingredients in it, and cook on high for eight to ten hours. With two forks, shred the chicken. Serve on buns. Tastes great with a side of coleslaw or potato salad, and buttered corn.



Crockpot Baked Potato Soup



4 pounds potatoes, cubed
1 small onion, chopped
2 cans chicken broth
2 t. salt
1/2 t. pepper
1 pint whole milk or half and half
Shredded cheese, to garnish: optional
Cooked crumbled turkey bacon, to garnish: optional
Sliced green onions, to garnish: optional
Top with sour cream, optional

Place the first six ingredients in a lightly greased crockpot. Cook on high for three to five hours. Ladle into bowls. If desired, top with cheese, turkey bacon, green onions, and sour cream.

Garlic chicken pizza

1 loaf deli garlic bread
1/2 cup pizza sauce
1 cup leftover chicken, cubed or shredded
1 cup Italian cheese blend
2 t. dried basil.



Heat oven to 400 degrees. Cook the bread, butter side up, for 9 minutes. Top with the rest and cook an additional 10 minutes until cheese is bubbly.