



Blessed Assurance

ROBERT BLOCH

For those who remember the old American Express slogan, “Don’t Leave Home Without It” likewise will recall how this company has long been a household name for finance and travel.

This American Express slogan made me do some deeper thinking into our heavenly coverage and whether we know the terms and conditions of our coverage. To illustrate my thought process, I thought of this fictitious story.

There were two cars involved in an auto accident. One had car insurance; and the other was uninsured. In fact, the non insured individual also had an expired license and was unemployed. What a nightmare!

For the insured driver, he had insurance, but he also had two choices after leaving the scene of the accident. He could curse up a storm and allow this accident to haunt him for the rest of his life, or he can realize what he has, which is top notch car insurance, with the promise to repair his car.

All of us come to various crossroads in this life where we either make it or break it.

Why this story? Because it's possible you have been in a similar situation since most of us have been involved in a car accident. Yet more importantly, this is a powerful reminder that everyone makes mistakes in this life in one way or another.

"Since all have sinned and come short of earning God's praise." (Rom. 3:23)

Our heavenly coverage leads us to knowing that,

"If we acknowledge our sins, then, since he is trustworthy and just, he will forgive them and purify us from all wrongdoing." (1 John 1:9)

Just as there are people who are insured and many who are likewise, uninsured, there are those who live with "assurance." Those who have assurance understand that when we sin, we have coverage called "blessed assurance" and in knowing exactly what to do.

Those with blessed assurance are to call upon our Heavenly Assurance Agent - Yeshua the Messiah. His heavenly connection is never busy and is always accessible, and when he answers our call, we know that if we confess our sins, that we will receive full coverage for the sins we have committed.

The unfortunate reality is that most people believe the lie that they can live without "assurance," much like those without car insurance. Spiritually, this means the "unassured." The unassured do not desire Yeshua's "light" coverage which exposes all the sinfulness from the inside out. Since this "light" coverage comes with a high cost, many claim they don't need it.

But there are two sides to the story ...
In 1 John we therefore see,

"If we claim not to have sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. Likewise, if we claim we have not been sinning and that our deeds have been above reproach, we are making God out to be a liar, and his Word is not in us."

Neither one of these claims are covered, in fact they are mere excuses for not letting God judge our inmost heart, in accordance with his Word.

So, if we sin as those "assured" how are we to respond to those who sin against us?

According to our "Biblical Assurance Coverage" -as seen in Matthew 6:14-15,





- Hurt people hurt people.
- Forgiven people should forgive others.

There are no “shortcuts” for those in Messiah, rather inspired instruction to forgive those who have sinned against us. This releases the offender where the offended forgives and moves onward in Messiah.

There is another piece of wisdom that has really helped which says the following –

Forgiveness for the past does not demand trust in the future.

I choose to forgive those who hurt me, as the Lord has forgiven me time and time again, yet that certainly does not mean that I can trust them because trust is established overtime and is tested by proven character.

Deep healing and restoration in a broken relationship is established at the speed of trust. Another important factor to regaining trust in a relationship is the willingness of the offender to “behave themselves out of the patterns they behaved themselves into.”

In the case of Joseph’s brothers – led by Judah, they experienced genuine repentance through admission of guilt, confession and behavioral change.

To learn better behavior, we need to be filled with the right FRUIT – the Fruit of the Spirit.

“For if you forgive others their offenses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others their offenses, your heavenly Father will not forgive yours.”

Many claim to follow Messiah while living by a double standard. They want to be forgiven, yet they do not forgive those who have offended them. Those who live by this double standard should be encouraged to read and meditate on their heavenly policy and stop making up their own.

I share this insight as a person and a leader, basically someone who has been hurt time after time, yet I have learned something that has helped me forgive others regardless of the offense.

Thus, according to Galatians 5:22-23,

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, self control. Nothing in the Torah stands against such things."

Fruit does not come from efforts like legalistic rule-following, or attitudes that exude "do I really have to do this," but instead must grow naturally out of trust.

Forgiveness is very rooted in the reading of Parashah Vayigash – and is seen when [Judah] drew near,

"At last Yosef could no longer control his feelings in front of his attendants and cried, 'Get everybody away from me!' So no one else was with him when Yosef revealed to his brothers who he was. He wept aloud, and the Egyptians heard, and Pharaoh's household heard. Yosef said to his brothers, 'I am Yosef! Is it true that my father is still alive?' His brothers couldn't answer him, they were so dumbfounded at seeing him. Yosef said to his brothers, 'Please! Come closer.' And they came closer. He said, 'I am Yosef, your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. But don't be sad that you sold me into slavery here or angry at yourselves, because it was God who sent me ahead of you to preserve life. The famine has been over the land for the last two years, and for yet another five years there will be neither plowing nor harvest.



God sent me ahead of you to ensure that you will have descendants on earth and to save your lives in a great deliverance.” (Genesis 45:1-4)

As a result, Joseph forgave his brothers, but many years later, after Jacob died, the brothers were not so confident, so they made up a story and came to Joseph fearing that he would now take revenge upon them.

“Realizing that their father was dead, Yosef’s brothers said, ‘Yosef may hate us now and pay us back in full for all the suffering we caused him.’ So they sent a message to Yosef which said, ‘Your father gave this order before he died: ‘Say to Yosef, ‘I beg you now, please forgive your brothers’ crime and wickedness in doing you harm.’ So now, we beg of you, forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.” Yosef wept.” (Genesis 50:15-21)

Some of us live like Joseph’s brothers, meaning unsure about true forgiveness.
– People in this category cannot relate to the “Assurance Policy” that Joseph had, so they lived in the world of “Unresolved Mysteries.” After all, did Joseph really mean it the first time? Can someone really forgive those who sold him into slavery?

Joseph weeps because his brothers haven't really understood that he really forgave them then and now. His forgiving them was not based upon the fact that their father was no longer alive.



This is a timely reminder for the body of Messiah. Are we covered with the "Blessed Assurance" which is our confidence in Yeshua's salvation and love? If so, the natural "fruit" from within our lives should cause us to forgive others, thus leading by example. Yeshua said - *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."* (Matt. 5:16)

Even though the New Year is behind us and we are now entering into our Passover season of redemption, how many people have kept the New Year Resolutions they have made?

Many promised to eat better, feel better, look better, yet in reality - looking better, and feeling better, and digesting our food better are the results of living a life of genuine forgiveness. This means letting the past go to move forward towards a brighter and healthier future.

Harvard Health Publishing released evidence that science is pinpointing how forgiveness also benefits our brains and bodies. The Torah has been the best standard for a healthy living, and we need to learn to live it out, and not just "lip" it!

Here are just a few Biblical Prescriptions that come with our - Heavenly Health Coverage:

"Hate stirs up disputes, but love covers all kinds of transgressions." (Proverbs 10:12)



"A tranquil mind gives health to the body, but envy rots the bones."
(Proverbs 14:30)

"A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones."
(Proverbs 17:22)

As AW Tozer has states, "Always remember that God is easy to get along with, and if your heart is right, he is not too concerned about the formula. God is kind and good and gracious, because there are some of us that are just too hard to get along with. If God were as hard to get along with as we are, there would be one perpetual quarrel between our souls and God."

I encourage you that as we now enter into Passover and the story of our redemption in Yeshua, to review your full coverage and to be thankful that God will not overlook our sins, since those sins can be deadly.

Do you understand your full coverage and its terms?

God deals with us in His love the same way that we should deal with others, after all we are his children, so shouldn't we act accordingly?

Can you remember that God is for you and not against you, and His heavenly policy is for your own good even though it entails his discipline and correction along the way?

All of God's ways and His Word is for your ultimate good, both now and in the world to come.

So be confident, secure and blessed that God's Full coverage through his Son Yeshua results in Blessed Assurance - Don't Leave Earth Without It!

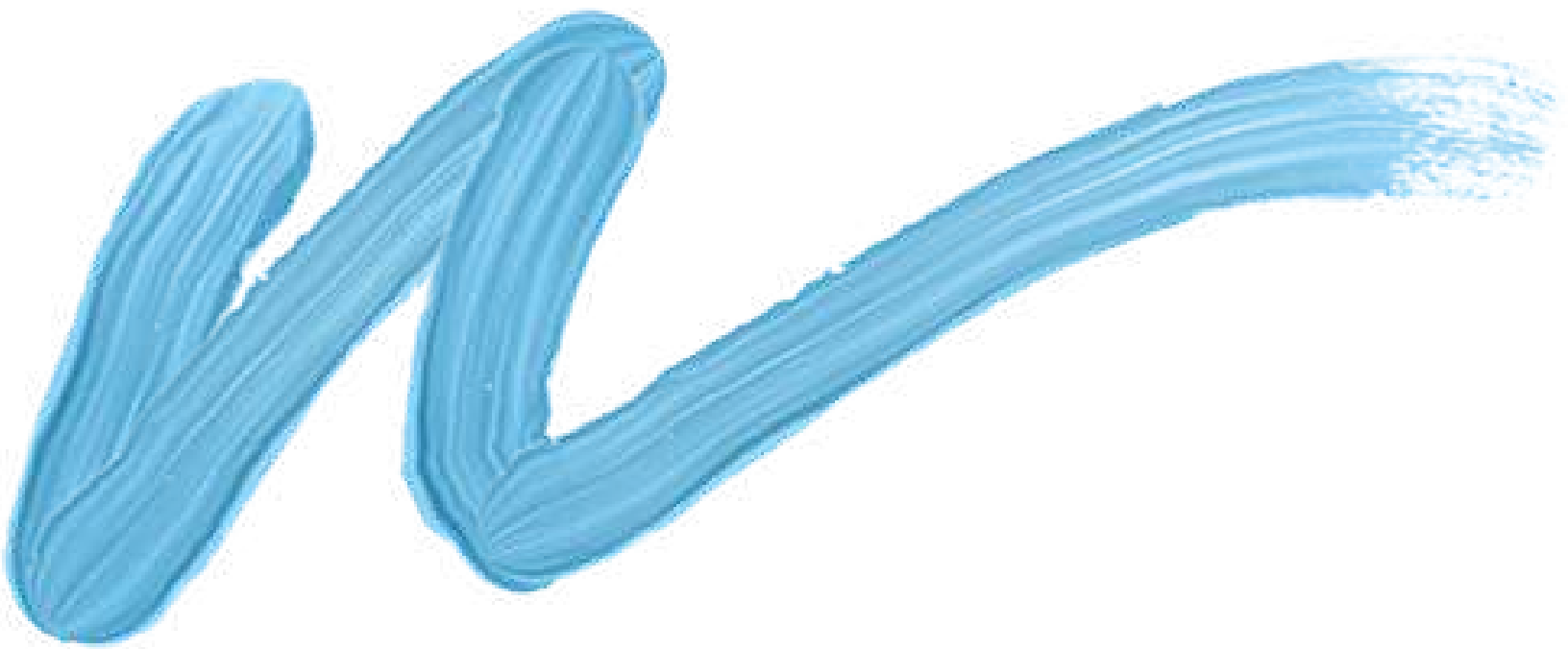


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