

TIKKUN AMERICA

restore

Issue 12 | Av | August 2022

REBUILDING LOVE AND UNITY IN THE CHURCH, PT. 1

For the Messianic Side of the Family

HEART CHECK

Watching the Condition of our Lives

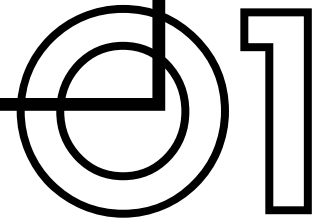
PROCESSING THE PROPHETIC

A Journey He Desires to Take with Us

LISTENING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Living Vessels for Adonai

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The Power of Blessing Pt.2

BENJAMIN JUSTER

In the last article, I expressed how blessing is God's primary mechanism of imparting to a person His image (thoughts, feelings, and purpose) of identity (Who am I?) and destiny (Why am I here?). One's vision for life, physical and emotional health, financial prosperity, and family relational dynamics are all directly linked to images of God, self, and others imprinted in the inner man (heart) of every person. "As a man thinks in his heart, so is he." (Proverbs 23:7)

So what's the problem? Why is it still so hard for us to walk in that continued place of blessing and assurance?

Due to past experiences, trauma, or even the lack of blessing from people in our lives (parents, teachers, bosses, kids, spiritual leaders), we have bought into the lie that we won't amount to much or that we are irreparably flawed in some way. Our pain and tainted identity leads us to either withdraw from loving relationships or to lash out in hurtful ways to others.



Don't believe me? Think about the people that have hurt you and said cruel and inconsiderate things to you. Chances are they are hurting as well. We find it easy to complain about others and to curse them when they do things that inconvenience or hurt us.

In families, it is all too common for the primary words children hear from their parents to be that of correction and criticism. Sometimes the words that parents speak actually impart Satan's destructive vision and image rather than God's. Most parents are blind to the power that their words and actions have to bless or curse the lives of their children. For example, a father may say to his 15-year-old daughter, "You're not going out of the house in those clothes. You look like a prostitute! If you keep dressing like that, and hanging around with your current friends you'll probably be pregnant within a year." But what impact do corrections such as these have on the image of the young person?

The desire for righteousness may be encased in words that diminish the value and image of the other. It is important that our mouths be used as conduits of blessing, even within the context of bringing correction or redirection. Children who were blessed by their parents tend to prosper in their adult lives, and children who were never blessed by their parents tend to languish and not prosper. Why is this?



Because when we are in tune with the Spirit of God to speak His words of blessing, we impart His identity, purpose, and power to them!

James 3:9-10 says, "With [the tongue] we bless Adonai, and with it we curse people who are made in the image of God. Out of the same mouth comes blessing and cursing! Brothers, it isn't right for things to be this way."

Here are a few critical steps to take in reestablishing a pattern of blessing in your life:

BELIEVE GOD

We need to reclaim God's identity (His thoughts about us, His unique calling for us, and our distinct gifts and abilities). Diligently seek Adonai to have Him speak His blessing over you and ask Him to equip and release you to successfully fulfill His plan for you. Bless the Lord by humbling yourself so as to bring God honor and to thank Him for his goodness, provision, and life (Psalm 103:1-13).

BE FILLED

Seek to continually be filled with the Holy Spirit and acquire God's love and compassion for others. In Romans 5:5-6, Paul encourages that "hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Messiah died for the ungodly." In Jude 1:20-23 we are equally exhorted,

"But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah that leads to eternal life. And have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh."





BESTOW BLESSING ON OTHERS

Become agents of blessing to others to speak forth God's true identity and purpose for that person. The primary spiritual connotation of blessing is "to empower and to prosper." So when you bless someone, you kneel before them in humility and literally empower that person to prosper.

"Blessing is not reporting to God the way things/people are, but declaring the way that God intends them to be." - Kerry Kirkwood

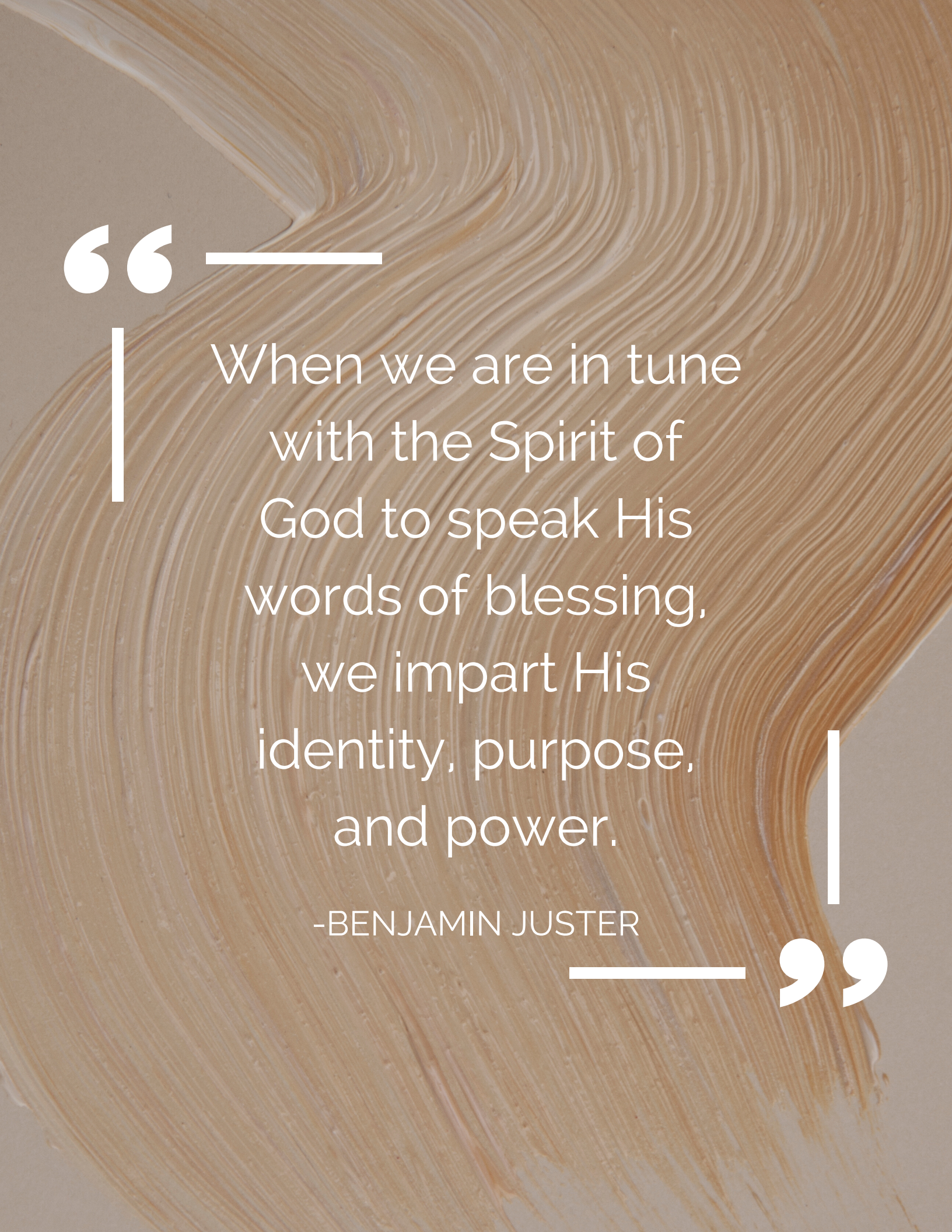
Blessing is not only applied to finances. If you bless your son, you empower him to prosper in every area of his life; his spiritual life with God, his physical health, his emotional well-being, his marriage, his children, his finances, his career, and his ministry. When you bless others sincerely, you will start to feel the very pleasure of God! Your whole attitude will be transformed!

"Finally, all of you, be one in mind and feeling; love as brothers; and be compassionate and humble-minded, not repaying evil with evil or insult with insult, but on the contrary, with blessing. For it is to this that you have been called, so that you may receive a blessing." (1 Peter 3:8-9).

You see that! By becoming compassionate to the pain of others and becoming a prophetic voice of blessing over them to reclaim their God-ordained destiny, we actually receive a blessing as well!

Remember that the source of any blessing should be our Father and Creator and that a supernatural power is released when we bless others through His Holy Name.

Benjamin Juster
Editor in Chief

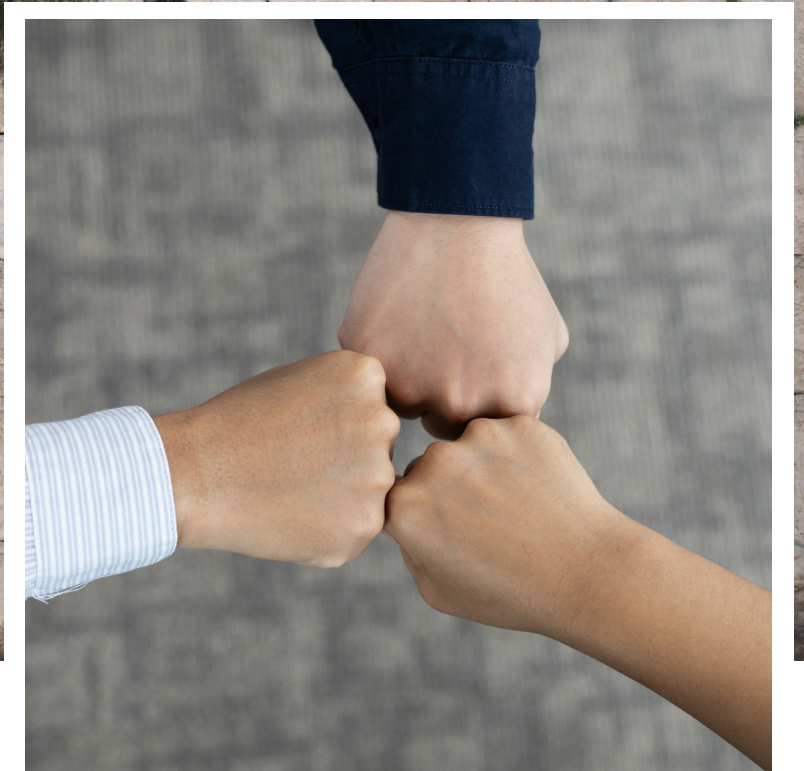


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— BENJAMIN JUSTER

”



REBUILDING LOVE & UNITY IN THE CHURCH

GRANT BERRY

Pt. 1

*"Build up, Build up, Prepare the road!
Remove the Obstacles Out of the Way of
my People." Isaiah*

For many years I have lead ministerially in our calling, specifically to both a Reconnection and our Alignment as part of the One New Man (TONM) in Yeshua our Messiah.

As I wrote in my previous article (March 2022) and the following article that will appear in a later edition, my thoughts were drawn to the months of Av and Tishri on the Hebrew calendar, with reflection on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur and how these Feast Days call us to help bring greater love and reconciliation in God's family between the Messianic body and the Gentile Church.

It's also interesting to note that during the month of Av, we remember the destruction of both Solomon's and Herod's Temple's, and how during the month of Tishri we are called to come into repentance.

I truly believe in this day that out of the judgments, come His heart to restore His body (His Holy Temple – 1 Cor. 3:16-17) and make us ready for all that is coming.

Beloved, those of us who believe know the end of the story. Those of us who tarry with Him until the end, will be victorious. The great questions now are, ‘how do we get there?’, ‘what will it take?’, and ‘what has to happen between now and then for it to transpire?’ I have been convinced that there must be a shift in how we interact with one another in the Church to bring an end to the separation and division which exists between us. Likewise, we are called to expose the enemy in this area, and take back the power he has stolen from us.

But the question I have for all those reading this article is, ‘do you believe this to be true?’ Is what I am saying about a pathway to the glory in John 17 going to come about through us helping Him to restore that ONENESS between us, so that He can release the greater power and the end-time revival?

We know up to this point, the Church has not adequately understood us (Messianic Jewish believers), and in the past, this has given us reason to be separate from them. However, this is beginning to change, as God’s children from the nations look deeper into their understanding of Jewish roots, heritage, and an even greater hunger for more.

This is not just about Jewish roots, or an issue of heritage, instead, it is a deeper connection to the Spirit, which the Father is now drawing our attention to at this time.

There is a greater balance here between our relationships with each other in TONM, and Jewish roots; and love must pave the way!





Many of us have tended to focus simply on the topic of Jewish roots and biblical calendars, more than the heart of this connection that Yeshua introduced at the cross and the resurrection in TONM (Eph. 2:11-22). This is a love and servitude that our founding Emissaries carried along with so many Jewish believers that established the early Messianic community. Additionally, some of us can be critical of the Gentile Church who does not recognize their own roots and heritage.

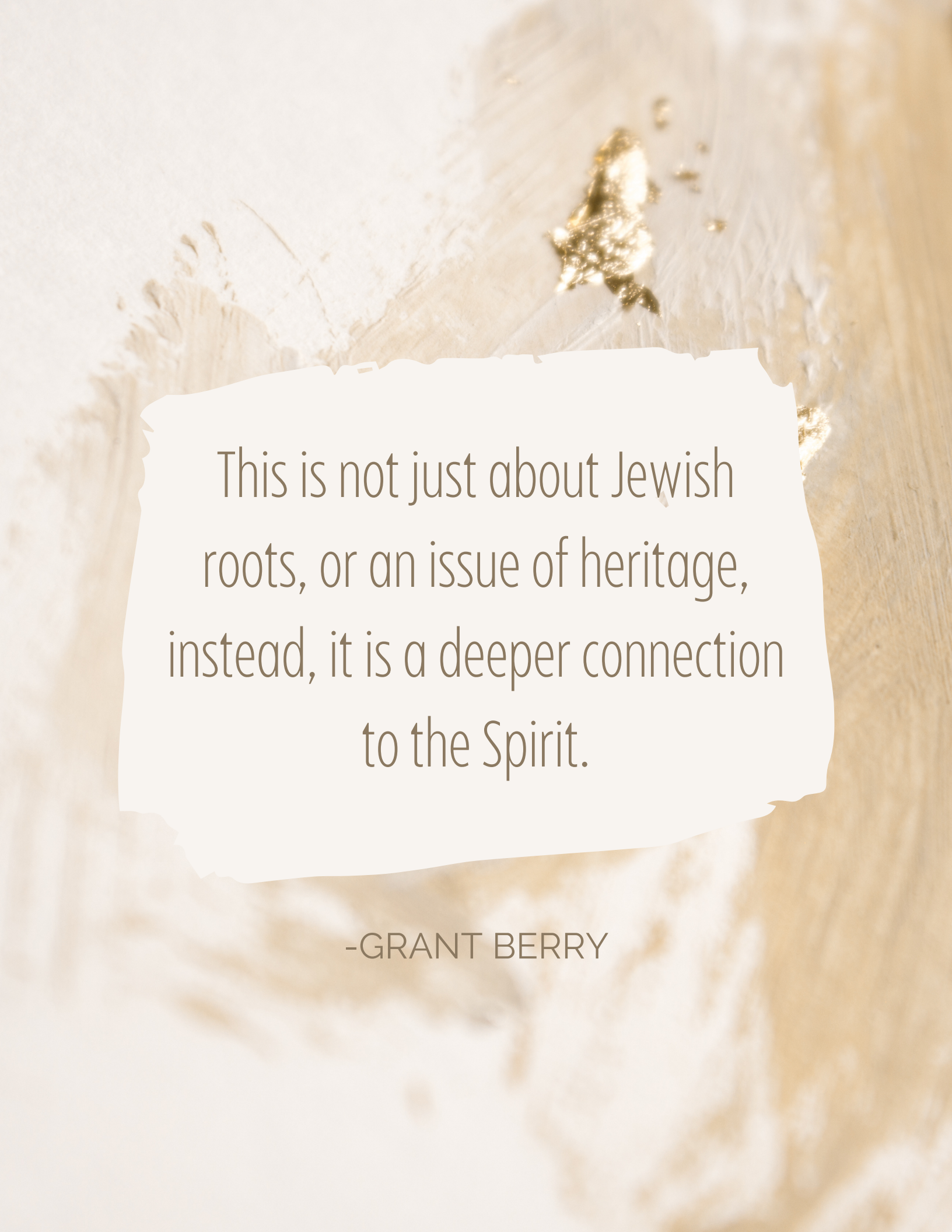
Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying that Jewish roots and heritage, biblical calendars, and our re-associations to the Feasts are not good or wonderful things. However, if this becomes the heart of our focus instead of love and reconciliation in God's family to restore unity between us to release the greater power for Israel's salvation and the end-time harvest, then we have **MISSED THE MARK!**

This Reconnection is motivated by the Father's love for Yeshua, Yeshua's love for the Father, their love for us, and our love for one another (John 17). Of this the prophet Isaiah cries out, "Build up, build up!" (Isa. 57:14). And this is how we must rebuild, with love and forgiveness blazing the trail.

So what about us on the Messianic side of the family? What prevents us from developing greater love and unity with our Christian family and the Gentile Church?

Furthermore, such a position can cause many of us to become critical and judgmental of the Gentile Church, instead of beginning to recognize how the blindness they suffer from was brought about, and in turn for us, beginning to learn how to pray that the Lord would remove their blindness and bring healing, so that the Church might be able to see more clearly.



A piece of torn white paper with gold leaf flakes, resting on a wooden surface. The paper has a rough, deckled edge and is covered with small, shimmering gold flakes. The background is a warm, light brown wooden surface with visible grain patterns.

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to the Spirit.

-GRANT BERRY



REBECCA COWEN-RIKHI

HEART CHECK

After we receive salvation, the most critical aspect of our walk as believers is the condition of our heart. Have we recently given ourselves a heart check? As followers of Yeshua, are we actively tending to the garden of our heart. These are vital questions to ask ourselves. For as water reflects the face, so one's life reflects the heart (Prov. 27:19) and from the overflow of the

heart, the mouth speaks (Luke 6:45). Everything we say and do, how we behave, and how we relate to others is all a reflection of our heart. We must consistently be aware of the condition of our heart, not only for the sake of our personal relationship with God, but also for the sake of how we represent Him. God looks at our heart. He searches and knows our heart (Jer. 17:10, 1 Sam. 16:7, 1 King 8:39) and calls us to be set apart, holy, pure and to have a soft heart. The psalms and prayers of David exemplifies how his heart was after God while acknowledging his own human failings. This prods us to pray in the same manner, Create in me a pure and undivided heart (Psalm 51:10; 86:11). Search me and know my heart ... see if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting (Psalm 139:23-24).



So how do we maintain a soft heart and keep our way pure? We live according to His Word and seek Him with our whole heart. We meditate on His precepts and consider His ways (Psalm 119). We offer our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God while not conforming to the pattern of this world. Instead we must be transformed by the renewing of our mind (Rom. 12:1-2). We ponder all that is excellent and praiseworthy – that which is true, right, pure, lovely, and admirable (Phil 4:8), and we surround ourselves with people who edify and uplift us, and hold us accountable to God's Word.

But we must also guard our hearts, whereas Proverbs 4:23 exhorts that above all else we must guard your heart in that everything we do flows from it. But what are we guarding our heart from?

The first is obvious for us as believers, that we guard ourselves from sin and that which contaminates our heart, and we are called to be in the world, yet not of it. Is this to communicate that we are called to isolate ourselves? No! However, it is important that we fill ourselves up with God's Word and His Spirit in order to be able to face the world. If we are not strong enough in our faith, we may begin to compromise, to doubt, or even question God. This can open the door for sin that slowly pollutes our lives if we do not actively pay attention to the condition of our heart.

Secondly, we must guard our hearts from becoming like many of the Pharisees'. They were stubborn, hard-hearted, self-righteous, condemning, unloving, and constantly looking for the fault in others. Sadly, because of this they missed the greatest move of history in the coming of their Messiah. It is a sobering question for us to consider whether we are being legalistic. Yeshua berated many of the Pharisees of His day for their hard hearts and hypocrisy. He said to them, "... you have neglected the more important matters of the law – justice, mercy, and faithfulness" (Matt. 23:23). Are we also neglecting these important matters in your walk with the Lord? Of this, John writes, "God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world but to save the world through Him." (John 3:17) Are we condemning the world or are we pointing them to a Savior? We are to be a light to the world, but if we do not have love, we gain nothing.

The hard truth is that if we do not guard our heart from both sin and self-righteousness, we run the risk of creating a barrier between us and God. No good thing can come from having a wall in between us and Him. We can begin to inaccurately hear God's voice, have a distorted view of who He is, of His Word or justify wrongful behavior. Such brings the most grievous consequences where we can even misrepresent Himself.

So, what does a heart after God, that is soft and guarded look like? It would reflect the character and nature of God. If God is holy, then we must strive for holiness. If God is love, then we must emulate His love because love is patient and kind and does not envy or boast. It would not be proud, dishonor others, nor be self-seeking. Love would not be easily angered or keep a record of wrongs (1 Cor. 13:4-5). If our heart is in the right place, we must also bear the Fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

Yeshua said blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, blessed are the merciful, blessed are the pure in heart, blessed are the peacemakers, blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness (Matthew 5).

If we want to further the Kingdom of God, we must first get our hearts right with Him.

Are you in need of a heart check?



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aware of the condition
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—REBECCA COWEN RIKHI

Processing the Prophetic

JO MILLER

A Journey He Desires to Take with Us

The prophetic can be somewhat of a mystery to many believers and there has been much misunderstanding, abuse, and wrong teaching about the prophetic over the years. But now many believers in the Body of Messiah are crying out for God to pour out His Spirit and are earnestly seeking more manifestations of signs, wonders, and spiritual gifts.

1 Corinthians 14:1 says, “Pursue love and desire all the spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.”

The Lord desires that we all prophecy and He has equipped us through His Spirit to walk in all His

gifts, to hear His voice, and to communicate with Him. Many want to step out in prophecy but don't because they either don't know how to hear from God, question if He even speaks today, or are afraid that what they are hearing is not from God but their own thoughts ... so they say nothing!

How do we begin the process of understanding prophecy?

First, it's important to note that all ministry begins with our intimacy with God. Prophecy and all the gifts stem from our relationship with the Lord. When we make Him a priority in our lives, such as

setting time aside every day to spend with Him, seeking and acknowledging His presence in all circumstances, praying, and worshiping throughout the day, and inviting Him to partner with us in all we do, we are connecting in a deeper way with His Spirit. As we walk in closer intimacy with Yeshua, we find we are beginning to think, speak, and act more like Him. Yeshua lived in total intimacy with the Father, and from this intimacy, He only spoke what His Father was speaking.

We also grow in intimacy with the Father by setting aside time in silent worship before Him. There are so many distractions and noise in this world that it is hard to maintain our focus on Him and hear Him clearly. Our senses get so overwhelmed with the stimulation of this culture, it can pull us away from that “still, small voice” and can actually block out our awareness and sensitivity to the spiritual realm.

How does God speak to us?

When we quiet ourselves and get in a place to listen carefully, He usually speaks gently. He might begin with pictures or a Scripture in our minds. Often, He will speak one word or phrase and wait to see if we will search for deeper meaning through the Scriptures or prayer. As we trust Him and follow His lead, He will give us more of the message. Don't be afraid to ask Him for more or to clarify



something. He really enjoys our exploring and seeking out deeper meaning in what he says. One of my favorite Scriptures is Proverbs 25:2: *“It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of His royal children to search out the matter.”*

He speaks to us in many ways. His Spirit uses all our senses. He is very creative and may use direct, figurative, or poetic language or He might address issues specifically or give a general description. He will use songs, colors, fragrances, or He may speak to you or through you concerning the beauty of His creation. He speaks to us through His Word, numbers, dreams, visions, gold dust, and more. He may even arrange circumstances to confirm what He is saying.

It's also important to understand that the *Lord is speaking continually* but it's up to us to have spiritual ears to

hear and eyes to see what He is communicating. Scripture tells us if we seek Him, we will find Him. He is not hiding Himself from us. He wants us to find Him. He is totally available to us at all times.

Prophecy will often confirm what God has already been speaking to our hearts.

God hears our every prayer, and He wants us to pray continually to Him about everything in our lives. When we pray, He answers us, but the answer doesn't always come immediately or in

the way we might want or expect. For example, if we are praying for direction or a possible change, we might sense His leading in a particular way but we're not sure. Often the Lord will wait for His perfect timing to reveal what He intends to do, and He will use a prophetic word to confirm what we have already been sensing.

Prophecy speaks God's heart to His children.

He sees us complete and at our fullness in Messiah and He longs for us to see ourselves and others as he sees. In his eyes we are *gifted, empowered, loved, and valued* and he uses prophecy to communicate this. He doesn't focus on our outward appearance, sin, mistakes, or behavior but instead He sees our hearts. Yes, He points out sin and expects a response and repentance, but never through condemnation. We are called to be like Yeshua, desiring for everyone to know and experience God's love and to see His Kingdom manifest "on earth as it is in heaven." When we pray over people or speak a Word to them, we are to treat everyone as Yeshua treats them, with respect, love, and value.

Prophecy displays God's love and communicates that He sees us and desires to connect with us.

This is so needed today. Look at the culture around us now.



People are filled with anger, judgment, and a spirit of criticism. They are becoming more isolated, hopeless, uncaring, fearful, distrusting, and suicidal, feeling they have no future or direction for their lives. So many feel invisible, totally cut off, rejected, and abandoned by a God whom they believe doesn't care about them or doesn't even exist.

God wants to counter these negative messages by communicating His heart of love to all and He will use the prophetic to touch the lives of those who are hurting. Recently the Lord said to me,

I have given you my breath to breathe life into lost circumstances and dreams. Communicate the beliefs and principles of your faith into situations from the past to point others forward into fulfilling their destinies. Positive approaches are needed to fulfill lost dreams.

We are all called to bring light into this dark world and there is no more effective way to do this than through the gifts the Holy Spirit gives us. Let us earnestly seek to demonstrate His love by stepping out to speak His heart to others through prophecy. As we step out in faith, He will meet us and gently lead us step by step. He is a good and patient teacher, and we can trust Him.

This is a journey that Yeshua eagerly desires to take with us, and for us, the reward is great!



A close-up photograph of a person's hand reaching out and touching a dark, layered rock face. The hand is positioned on the left side of the frame, with fingers spread against the rock. The rock has a textured, stratified appearance with various shades of grey and brown. The background shows a cloudy sky, suggesting an outdoor setting like a cliff or mountain peak.

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—JO MILLER



Listening to the Holy Spirit

JULEON AKANA

In Luke's gospel, we read about Yeshua sending us what our Father promised, the Ruach HaKodesh. He exhorted the emissaries to wait in Yerushalayim until they were clothed with the Spirit's power. In fact, it was to our advantage that He left, for if He did not go away, the Helper would not be sent to us (John 16:7).

The Holy Spirit dwells in every believer, directs, and empowers those who receive Him to hear His voice in ministry:

"...I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever – the Spirit of Truth ... He dwells with you..." (John 14:16-17).

The Ruach lives perpetually throughout the generations and confirms God's Word! This is why Yeshua told His disciples that He was sending them the Helper.

There are many disagreements about the person and work of the Spirit. He is alive, and His role hasn't changed. If we are to identify as followers of Yeshua, we need to be so close to our Savior

that we overflow with living water (John 4:10). We need to undergo a transformation to offer our bodies as living sacrifices before the Lord on His altar.

We are living vessels. Vessels hold liquid. They are poured into and emptied out as the contents are taken into a body. We contain living water and the dunamis (power) of the Spirit for others to drink. The work we are called to do requires that we are not afraid to shine the light of Messiah into a lost and dying world. "... Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation... And these signs will accompany those who believe ..." (Mark 16:15, 17-18). This is a great responsibility for sure; but we are assured that the Lord equips those whom He calls and we should not forget that we can never do this in our own wisdom or strength.



When I was immersed into the Holy Spirit, I felt the fire of God surge through my whole body and afterwards it seemed as if fire rested at the top of my head. To this day, I feel the warmth of anointing oil running down my face when I speak about Yeshua. The Ruach cloaks us with His presence as we minister. Some feel or sense His presence, while others feel an urge to speak or pray over the sick. He is the one who inspires some to open their homes, and moves ordinary men and women to offer their hard-earned money for the advancement of God's Kingdom. We must learn to hear His voice to walk in His anointing and cooperate with Him for empowered acts of ministry.

Have you ever passed by a person in a store and sensed that something was wrong? Or felt the presence of God in a sanctuary? Have you ever wondered what the will of God is in showing you those things? These are called impressions. We need to know what these are and why we have such a great urge to pray over the cashier at the local grocery store. Rav Sha'ul speaks of the supernatural gifts of the Ruach in 1 Cor. 12:4, 7 stating,

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit...To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

We hear His voice as He reveals His power and to each one, He speaks in ways that are familiar to our characters.

The first manifestation is having a picture in your mind of how the Lord wants to manifest His presence to others. The second type are emotional stimulations, such as feeling extreme joy, sadness, sympathy, or heaviness. The third way is called an unction. This is the most common of the three, and usually starts with an inspiration to speak about the Lord, pray for the sick or serve the community through hospitality.

The presence of the Holy Spirit could be any of these three, showing up as heat, wind, or even electricity. We demonstrate His power through expressing the inspiration the Ruach imparts in our bodies. He provides us noticeable signs; however, it is up to us to act and follow His leading. He won't open your mouth for you or force your hands to be placed on someone for prayer. When the Lord spoke to Elijah His voice wasn't in the form of a great torrent or a deafening noise either, instead,

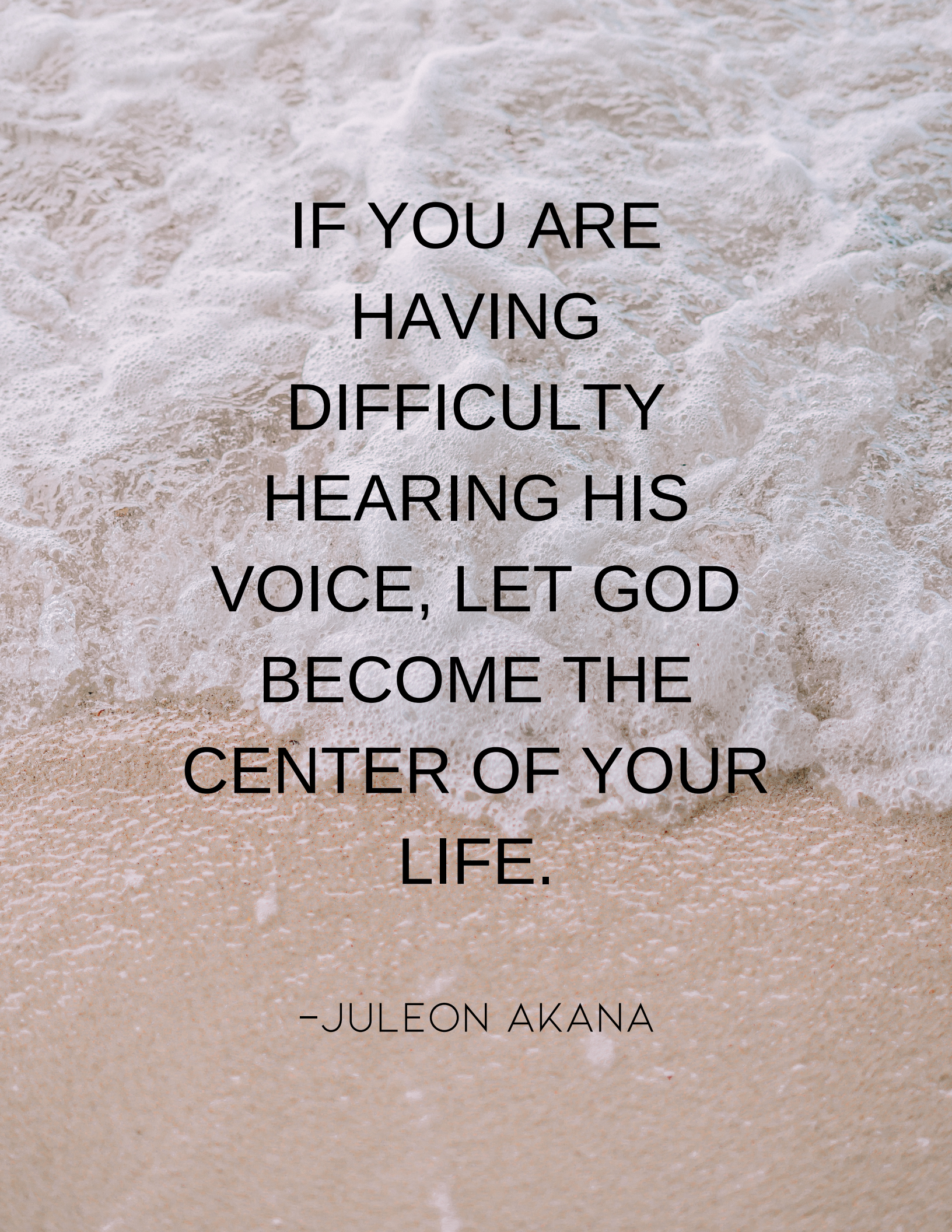
"... After the earthquake, fire broke out; but Adonai was not in the fire. And after the fire came a quiet, subdued voice." (1 Kings 19:11-12).

In a relationship, one person listens to the other and then responds and reacts to what is said.. In the same way the Holy Spirit is calling to us, "Seek my power, earnestly desire my presence among you, in you, and burning in your hearts. I am distributing gifts among mankind. Those who ask will receive. Those who seek will find. Knock on the door, and I will open it for you. I have called you to be a co-creator in building the Kingdom of God. Learn from me. The time is at hand! Let me reveal Yeshua in you! Seek my gifts, and I will fill you to offer yourselves as vessels for the Lord!"

If you are having difficulty hearing His voice, let God become the center of your life. Come back to your first love. For a life that is saved unto good works starts with hearing God and responding to His voice.

Sometimes we need a quiet place - a place where worry doesn't influence our lives and focusing on the Holy Spirit takes authority. In the quiet solitude under the wings of Adonai, even the greatest storm passing over us - the roar of adversity, is not loud enough to drown the voice of our God. Our ears are attuned to a heavenly vibration. When we truly stay in His Word, we know the voice of our Father. Stay in His love. Abide in His Word and know the promise of the Father is for you today.





IF YOU ARE
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VOICE, LET GOD
BECOME THE
CENTER OF YOUR
LIFE.

—JULEON AKANA



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