

TIKKUN AMERICA

restore

Issue 36 | Tamuz | July 2024

A photograph of a person's legs from the knees down, wearing white trousers, standing barefoot in a field of dense green plants. The person's feet are partially obscured by the foliage. The background is a soft-focus field of similar green plants.

ONE PHONE CALL

A Rude but Necessary Awakening

WALKING IN GOD'S TRUST

A New Outpouring of the Ruach

NEW MODELS IN AN AGE OF CHANGE

Responding to the Challenge of Exile before Yeshua Returns

STANDING WITH THE JEWISH PEOPLE TO BREAK THE CURSE OF GENOCIDE

Conversation, Communications, and Gaining the Father's Heart

CONTRIBUTORS

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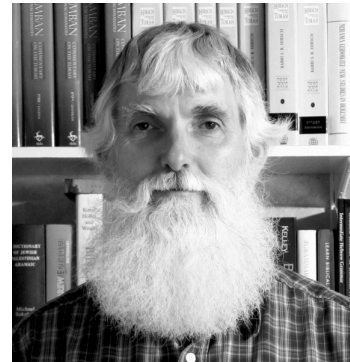


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As a pastor, the Lord called Dr. Hepfner to break down the walls of misunderstanding between the Christian Churches and the Messianic Jewish Communities. After having successfully planted 5 Christian Churches in the Phoenix Valley and assisted them in training their leadership teams, Dr. H is now – more than ever – thoroughly convinced that the Lord is equipping him to raise up leaders in the Messianic community, while financially assisting them in opening their own Messianic congregations. William has a lovely and Godly wife, Regina (Gina), six grown children, and 13 grandchildren.

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Benjamin, his wife Lorena, and three children live in Jacksonville, Florida.

THE HIGHWAY TO

Holiness

IS THE LOW-WAY OF HUMILITY

BENJAMIN JUSTER

Milemarker 2: Humility Toward Others

Authentic humility is the character trait that perhaps most emanates the fragrance of Yeshua—a humble person reflects and radiates the glory of Yeshua.

Last month's article (June 2024-Sivan) addressed how pride was the root of all kinds of sin. One can only aspire to a life of holiness if they have repented of pride against God, enabling Him to cleanse and renew our minds from unhealthy independence and attachment to the patterns of worldly thinking. So, it can be said that the highway to holiness is the low way of humility. When entering the Kingdom, making Yeshua the Lord of one's life means that we now commit to do things His way. The first mile marker on the highway to holiness is thus developing humility toward God.

The second mile marker on the road to holiness is humility toward others. This goes far beyond showing respect to those around us and being “nice.” It is a posture of listening and learning toward others and seeing them through the eyes of Yeshua. True humility is tested and exposed when others mistreat us.

I want you to get a vivid picture of what Yeshua went through during his time on the earth. Though it is impossible for us to completely understand how he felt and the strength from which he acted, imagining it will nevertheless heighten our awareness of the call on our own lives.



God sends Yeshua, His only son and essence of His being into the world. Yeshua is nurtured and disciplined over the course of 30 years before starting His ministry. His purpose—to reveal the Father and restore relationship to His own people, Israel. He travels throughout Israel on foot, hiking on rocky, dusty roads in scorching heat, all to proclaim to Israel that God's Kingdom has come and is available for all now!

For three years, he pours out everything He has and everything He is for the sake of revealing God's love for them and the path of redemption. He heals the sick, gives sight to the blind, inspires the hopeless, and comforts the needy.

And what is His reward? His own family starts to question if he is crazy. His hometown labels him a false prophet, and his closest disciples cower away from him in His darkest hours. The leaders of Israel accuse and judge him falsely. He is spat upon, hit, mocked, brutally whipped and mistreated by His own people. Finally, after carrying a cumbersome crossbeam for His own crucifixion, He was nailed to the wood, bloody and disfigured, raised up for everyone to gasp and gawk – shamed, dejected, and pitiful. He didn't deserve any of this.

What is His response? "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do!" Really? The King of the World doesn't call down angels from heaven nor scorch them to a crisp with fire from His mouth?

Yeshua knew he could have! Remember that Yeshua told Peter after He cut off the centurion's ear, "Don't you know that I can ask my Father, and He will instantly provide more than a dozen armies of angels to help me?" (Matt. 26:52). Rather He cries out to His Father in mercy toward them! It is the greatest model of humility and sacrificial love in all of history before or since.

Unless you can gain a picture of what Yeshua endured for us—the rejection, the delayed gratification of justice, the depth of the humiliation—you may seek to justify your lack of humility when others mistreat you. But Yeshua's response after all He suffered was one of love. Can you see the power of humility? For Yeshua, the ultimate Highway to Holiness was the Low-way of Humility. It was only then that He undeniably validated His claim to the title Name Above All Names!

But I would ask you, is humility the character trait you most admire about Yeshua? It may not be the first trait to which we aspire. But this often unappreciated quality became the tectonic and eruptive virtue that sealed Yeshua's atoning work, demolishing the barriers that prevent you and me from entering into paradise with our loving Creator.

Humility is giving up your right to be right!

I used to get in some tremendous fights with my boss back when I worked in a



small aerospace company up in Maryland. There were many times when I felt my knowledge and skills were beyond her, that I could do things more efficiently and effectively. Yet, the more I pushed on issues and fought for my right to be right, the more our relationship was strained. The sour relationship was not something I wanted. We were both frustrated. Eventually, I had a change of heart, intentionally minimizing what I contended for and the tone that I communicated. I didn't continue debating. I respectfully supported her, fully engaging in making the task a success for her, even though I thought it wasn't optimal. Months later, she came to me and told me how much she respected me for supporting her. Not only that, but she admitted that my

recommendations would have been better after all. Because I was able to hold my tongue and show honor and respect toward her position, it led to many more years of a fruitful and mutually rewarding relationship.

Think about an argument you've recently had with a friend, co-worker, or spouse. How hard did you fight to be right? What about those occasions when your intentions were good, but misinterpreted? Or even when you were misjudged?

Humility, as Yeshua modeled it, is giving up our right to demand justice, hold a grudge, or in seeking vengeance against others.

The measure of your humility is not by how others judge what you say or do, but rather your capacity to love them fully despite how they judge you.

In its purest form, it means that we purge reactions of touchiness, temper, irritation, and bitterness toward others. How do we score ourselves? I'm still working on this. But it is a priority of continued discipleship.

The attitude of humility is one that recognizes that without Yeshua, we too would have been condemned. We are then compelled to pray as Yeshua, "Father forgive." We plead for mercy and transformation.

We can be both bold and humble. Humility does not dilute or hide the truth, but acts in love and pure motives.



Humility can be exercised even when we bring correction to someone. This is why Paul instructs how to bring healthy correction,

“Brothers, suppose someone is caught doing something wrong. You who have the Spirit should set him right, but in a spirit of humility, keeping an eye on yourselves so that you won’t be tempted too. Bear one another’s burdens – in this way you will be fulfilling the Torah’s true meaning, which the Messiah upholds.” - Galatians 6:1,2

Paul exhorts believers to “Have this attitude in yourselves, which also was in Messiah Yeshua, who, though existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal to God a thing to be grasped.” Philippians 2:5-6 TLV If anyone had a right to leverage His divine nature for His own purposes, it would have been Yeshua—but He didn’t make this the thrust of His ministry. Some translations say that “... He did not consider equality with God as a thing to be exploited.”

It was with this in mind that Paul exhorts us to:

“Do nothing out of selfishness or conceit, but with humility consider others as more important than yourselves” (2:3)

The ability to gain any knowledge is a gift of God. There will always be things that we do not know or understand. Paul proposes that “knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.”



Seek to build up others with what you know rather than use your knowledge to serve your own selfish interests and desires. When our heart changes to view the people around us as more worthy of honor, love, and concern, we shift our priorities so as to create space for others to grow and thrive. Practice humility toward others as we strive to become more like Yeshua every day.

Next month, we will conclude with the third milestone on the Highway to Holiness.

 Benjamin Juster
Editor in Chief

Practice humility toward
others as we strive to
become more like
Yeshua every day.

BENJAMIN JUSTER

ONE PHONE CALL

eitan shishkoff

A Rude but Necessary Awakening

One phone call changed my life.

The phone call came from my wife, Connie. She fell coming out of a produce market and likely had broken her right arm. I rushed there to find her dazed, sitting on the sidewalk surrounded by concerned bystanders. The first x-ray showed a spiral fracture of the humerus (main bone in the upper arm) requiring a cast. Connie is a right handed artist.

What a blow. But that was only the beginning. It was August 3, 2023.

Countless consultations, x-rays, a plastic brace, pain meds, and more details than you want to hear followed. Weeks grew into months. Finally, an orthopedic specialist told us, "The arm is not healing on its own. I strongly recommend surgery. We will reconnect the bone using a stainless steel plate." Oy!

So, on November 22 the surgery took place. Post-op, the arm had to remain immobilized. She had to sleep sitting up. Even getting dressed and showering were impossible unaided.

I Thought I Knew How to Love

Before that phone call and its aftermath, I thought I knew how to love. I thought I knew how to serve cheerfully. I thought I knew how to respect and to adapt to the wishes of my beloved. I was in for a big surprise.

From August 3rd on, I became my wife's 24/7 caregiver. She was incapacitated. Other pursuits were put aside. My participation in the national youth conference I'd looked forward to was out of the question. At every turn I had to ask myself "Is this what Connie needs? Will this activity / commitment / scheduled event foster her healing? Will I be sufficiently available to meet her needs?"

Quickly and repeatedly I discovered that I was not as loving and selfless as I had thought. I like getting things done. But in this situation I had to slow down. The goal was not "getting it done." Rather, it was patiently serving my dear wife's needs - moment by moment. Being available. Listening, responding with compassion when she was discouraged about the injury and long recovery. Forgetting about all other goals. Now, there was one goal—caring for my dearest.

I learned to take satisfaction from domestic upkeep. Washing clothes, cooking meals, cleaning the kitchen—these became major non-stop responsibilities. But at times her instructions aggravated and insulted me.

Repeatedly I had to swallow my pride and do it "her way." As in a mirror, I saw my reactions of impatience. I can't count how many times I said "Forgive me, dear. I got offended. You're hurting and I need to serve you without complaint, without an attitude."

Journaling Frustration & Learning to Lose My Life

Here, recorded in my journal, are just a few of my "I can't handle this" moments. On the one hand, I was consumed with a desire to be totally available to this woman who'd cared for me for so many decades. And on the other hand, I was experiencing a vacuum from jettisoning my own normal, very full agenda.



August 10

I'm not making it. Feeling out of it. Feeling so isolated. Set aside, uninvolved. Out of touch. Is the message "I must decrease so that He can increase?"

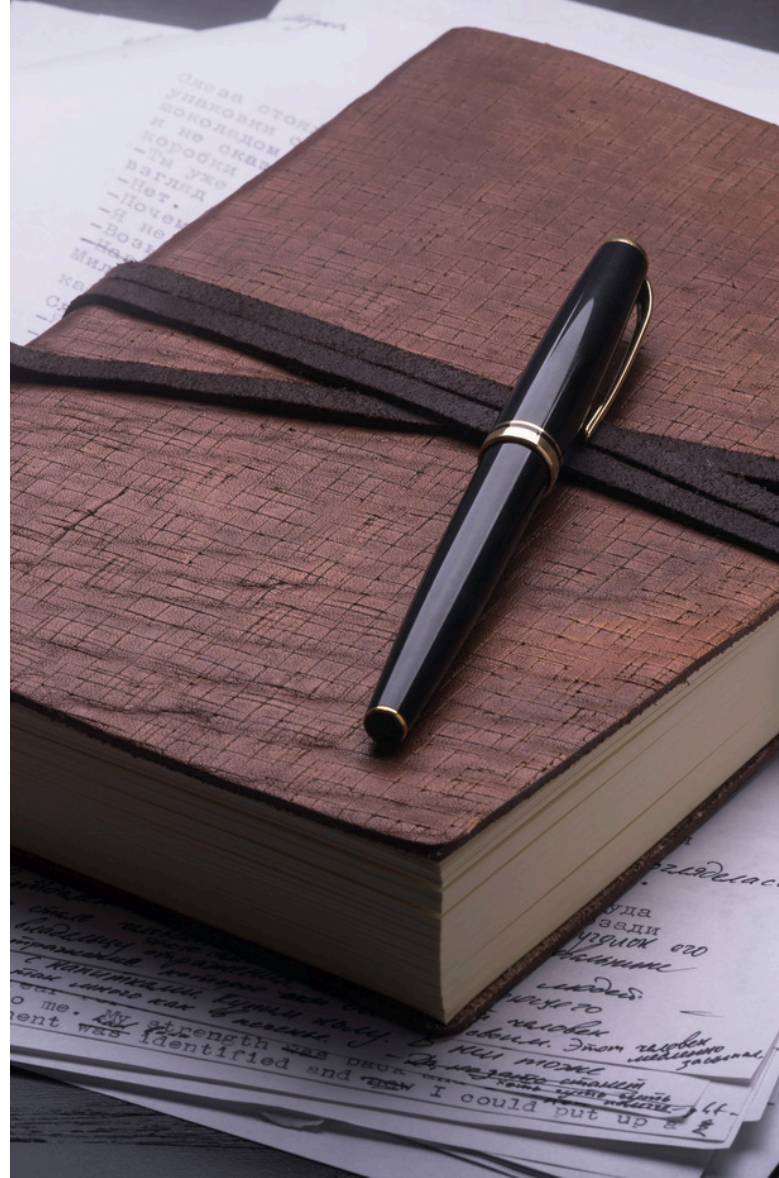
August 21

Self-evaluation during Connie's recovery and my caregiving: Almost never good enough. Angry w/self. Not accessing God's grace. I see a confidence in others I don't have. Another message: "Put no confidence in the flesh."

Yeshua teaches us that if we hold on to our lives, privileges, "rights," and honor, we will lose our life. But if we "lose our life" — becoming one with Him, making the good of others our plumb line— we will be truly alive (my paraphrase of Luke 9:24,17:33; Matthew 16:25, John 12:25).

Our Master, the Shepherd of our souls, commands us to love as He loves us. (John 13:34,35) The Pierced One makes it clear that following Him will require a "death to self," embracing the crucifixion of our fleshly pride.

All of this I had taught, preached, and imparted to others. I thought I "had it down" pretty good. I was wrong. Almost from the first day, despite wanting so much to only serve and be good to Connie, I watched a far less than perfectly loving Eitan fall short again and again. The Lord was showing me that there was more and deeper work to be done on the inside.



What, Then, Can We Do?

I hate failing. Through high school I rarely got less than an A. But failing is not being a failure. We all fail at times. There's no way to do life flawlessly, even with the best intentions. However, I'm not a failure when I'm yielded to God in the midst of my imperfect attempts to love and serve, when I'm longing for more of Him — more of His life in and through me.

Perhaps another journal entry only several days after the accident, provides some clues.



August 7

Peace. Strangely. Plans turned inside out by Connie's broken arm. Suddenly there's time. A lot more of it. Not quite like Corona (COVID), but somehow similar. No need to go anywhere. The pace has slowed way down.

Feels good. Staying with my beloved even though I want so much to be at our youth summer camp. At peace about not going. She's happy, feels preferred. Which is essentially satisfying and fun, even.

A few days later we happened to watch "A Man Called Otto," starring Tom Hanks as a grouchy, angry, disillusioned old man. Soberingly, it reminded me of myself. By the end of the film I had some useful takeaways. (1) Don't sweat the big stuff. Keep extending unseen heart gestures to people in need, for whom it makes a difference. (2) In the end it's not about organization. It's about genuine relationships.

What Surprise Situation Challenges You?

Is someone you love navigating long term disability or illness? Are you, a spouse, or an adult child unemployed? Are there extreme demands placed on your patience, your need to serve selflessly? Are you facing unforeseen circumstances? In many ways this is the condition of humanity.

Yes, we rejoice for the good times, our health, financial blessing, new babies born, open doors of business and ministry. But the expectation that life will be a "bowl of cherries" is unreal and unscriptural. Our biblical heroes ALL faced crises. All felt they were in deep water "over their heads."

I encourage you to call on the One who has suffered more than any of us. He has "borne your griefs and carried your sorrows." He aims to mold you, using situations you can't handle to make you more like Him. **"Cast your burden on the LORD, and He shall sustain you" (Psalm 55:22).** 



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Eitan Shishkoff



NEW MODELS IN AN AGE OF CHANGE

JONATHAN ALLEN

It is good to be thankful – giving thanks to God, our Great Redeemer – and acknowledge, amidst all the mess and wreckage of the broken world around us, the blessings that have been poured out upon us. Though societies may be crumbling, civilization giving way to anarchy and ordinary human decency being eroded, it is still a beautiful world, made and shaped by the hand of God, filled with millions of people made in His image with the potential to know and reveal Him to each other.

We are all aware of the growing darkness in our world: Israel has been in an existential war for more than six months; the increasing collapse and implosion of Christian denominations; the insanity of governments and elected representatives alike; a growing obsession with scandal; etcetera, etcetera. The enemy of the kingdom of God is at work, pulling down and destroying – his last-ditch attempt to frustrate and overthrow the will of God. Sensing the nearness of Yeshua's return, the enemy is thrown into a frenzy of activity, thrashing wildly as he tries to have mankind deny itself.

In the darkness, the light of Messiah, the light of His kingdom, shines ever more brightly. A single candle flame – in absolute darkness – can be seen for miles: a twinkling, blinking flicker of light piercing the gloom, giving hope – despite the grumbling of those who are determined not to see or acknowledge it – that there is someone there, that darkness is not all there is. Messiah's light in us, glowing gently, will not go out and will not be silenced or extinguished by the enemy.

During the last twelve months or more, we have heard the Spirit speaking about the need to prepare for a time of exile, a time of difficulty and trauma as society turns

increasingly against the Gospel, the standards of the kingdom and God's people as the visible expression of the Gospel in this generation.

Already we see the symptoms of exile, characterized of course by those refugees or exiles who have been geographically or politically displaced from their homelands, around us who are not geographically but increasingly socially displaced from our homes. Changes in language and vocabulary, in dress and customs, in morals and mores – these all challenge daily communication and isolate Yeshua's disciples, of whatever age or nationality, from the towns and people where they were born and brought up, even if they are still living on the same street.



That is not to say that we are depressed or downcast. On the contrary, we are encouraged as we recognize the signs of the times, as we see the words of Scripture - which clearly speak of these things - being fulfilled around us. We sense the quickening of the Spirit and the rush of spiritual adrenaline as we appreciate the proximity of Yeshua's return - may it be soon and in our days - and prepare our hearts and the hearts of God's people to welcome Him back to this world.

For too long, it seems, we have been waiting, not paying sufficient attention to what has been happening around us and so not discerning the change in the wind and the onset of breakdown as society caves in to the pressure and deceit of the enemy. Modern-day consumerism, the desire and the opportunity to have and experience, is perhaps the most obvious sign of decay, and more people are increasingly waking up to realize that not only is this not sustainable, but is a fatal illusion that has lulled us into a sleep of mortal self-indulgence.

But no more! The Spirit is speaking clearly in these days to wake God's people up from their slumbers and to prepare them for the intense period of trial - called the tribulation by many - immediately preceding Yeshua's return. We must not only hear the shrill alarm, but ready ourselves for these days which some would say have already started. Now is the time to prefer small meetings to large gatherings, to favor houses to churches or cathedrals, to relish the intimacy of worship and study that usher us into the presence of God and warm our hearts with the truth of His Word.

Neither must we neglect our duty as watchmen for our generation. Many people have never heard the Good News about Yeshua or received His invitation to join His kingdom, to come under His protection and authority, in a way that they can understand and accept as being relevant for them. Not only must we take every opportunity, every conversation, as a potential





opening for meaningful dialogue that could change lives for eternity, but we should be prepared to practically demonstrate the love and goodness of God to all people: the just and the unjust alike, the household of faith and those currently outside.

We must encourage each other daily in our discipleship, in being conformed to the image of Messiah, so that our jars of clay display more clearly the shining light of Messiah living within us and burning in our hearts. We must develop not just weekly but daily habits of prayer and study, meeting when and wherever time and space permit, to fan the flames of our faith and kindle afresh each day the fire on the altar of our lives.

Flexible leaders will be planting and discipling dozens of small groups, meeting at various times of the day throughout the week, from early morning minyans on the way to work, to evening house-groups and everything in between. In time, each group will raise up leaders from within the group, releasing the network leader to start more groups and disciple the group leaders. Once discipleship has taken root and the gifts of the Spirit are welcomed and developed, new groups and ministry opportunities will occur.

Planning and careful design will be essential, under the direction and control of the Spirit. Neighborhoods and subdivisions will be mapped, planting teams drawn from nearly adjacent small groups will regularly walk through the target streets and areas, praying and searching for conversation opportunities, to locate the man of peace and find a venue and host for each new group.

Neighborhood meals and social events will bring people together and start the group formation process as people are drawn by the Spirit and the obvious love and care shown by the planting team. Shared concerns about culture, finance, employment, education and more will provide common ground for conversation and moments for the Spirit to challenge public opinion and assumptions about the kingdom of God.

In the same way youth and young adult teams drawn from the network can work together to reach their own age-groups and social demographics; family groups and teams can interact via school/home-school and work contexts to bring others into contact with their friends. Shared meals will form a big part of outreach and community building and a skillful leader will be at hand to help people navigate issues of faith and belief in natural and positive ways.

Do you have what it takes to be a leader in this age - setting aside the old broken “attraction” model and thinking outside the box? Can you be agile and flexible, adapting and changing to the needs of the Kingdom, letting the wind of the Spirit blow you into new and fresh ways to evangelize and disciple the people of God in a demanding age? Feel the pull of the Spirit, stretching your spiritual muscles, building strength and skills for a rather different expression of the kingdom; something that has not, perhaps, been seen since the days of those who walked with Yeshua? Now, as we walk with Him and hear His voice, He is calling out, raising up, a cadre of leaders and disciples to withstand the last challenges of the enemy and emerge victorious on the day He returns.



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JONATHAN ALLEN

STANDING WITH THE JEWISH PEOPLE TO BREAK THE CURSE OF GENOCIDE

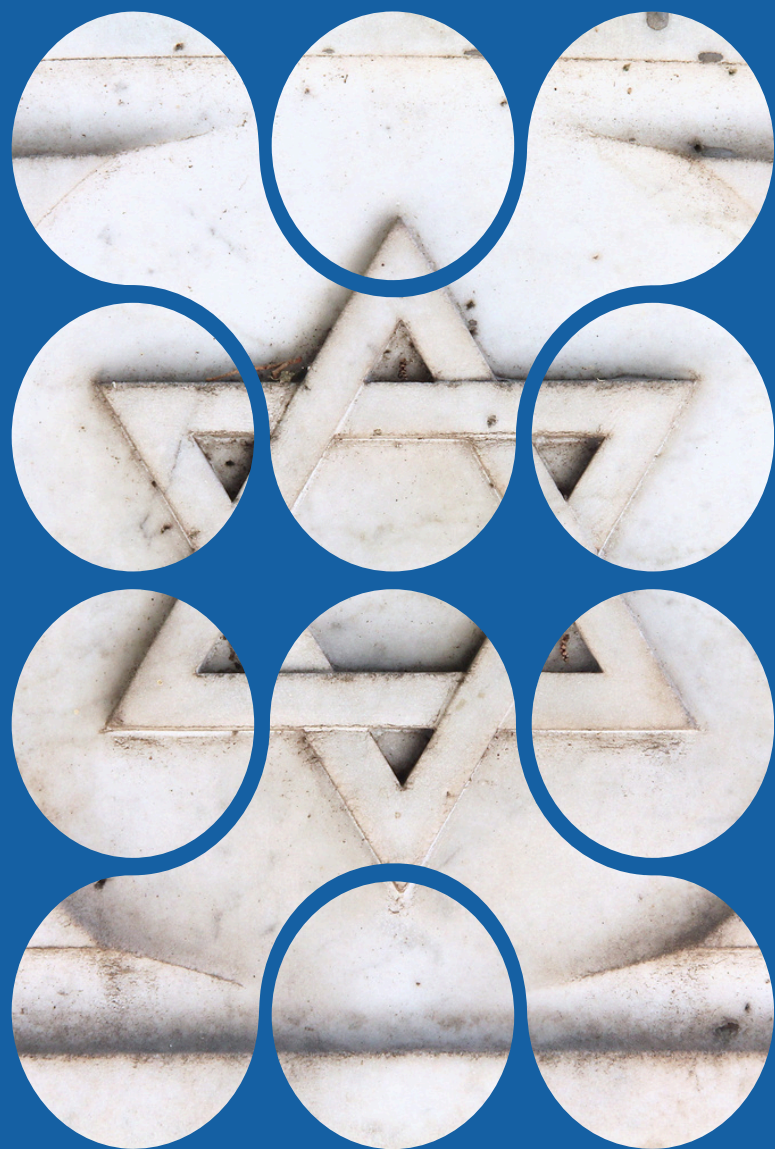
DR. REV. BRAD LONG

Conversation, Communication and Gaining the Father's Heart

The Curse of Genocide Unleashed

In this second decade of the twenty-first century, we are at an unprecedented tipping point in reaching Messiah's conditions for His return in glory: the Jewish people returning to the Land of Israel and to saving faith, and the Gospel of the Kingdom being preached to all nations. God the Father's redemptive plans are being advanced by outpourings of the Holy Spirit and igniting revivals worldwide.

Parallel to this global move of the Holy Spirit, there are ominous stirrings of Satan at work to counter and quench this great revival. The nature of this counterattack against God's Kingdom was exposed and catalyzed in the October 7th, 2023, Hamas Massacre of the Jews. This abhorrent event revealed that at the heart of Satan's plans lies the destruction of Israel and the genocide of the Jewish people. This event unmasks the terrible truth: that in this decade of the 2020s, we are facing the unthinkable – a call for the extermination of Jews and Christians and, indeed, a large portion of humanity!





A Revelatory and Catalytic Event

The October 7th massacre is only one event, among others. But it is significant because history teaches us that when hatred erupts against the Jews, it unleashes a contagion of evil that spreads well beyond them. We now see how Satan is currently working through an unholy alliance of strongholds that are rooted in the antichrist ideologies of Islam and Marxism. Through these, Satan has launched a campaign of Jew-hatred, creating the conditions for fulfilling the curse of genocide against God's people. Through this, the Adversary aims to block this outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the fulfilling of the Great Commission.

We dare not underestimate the severity of the present situation. The plans of Satan and his deceived agents are so horrific, so evil and inhuman, that we are tempted to dismiss them as improbable and impossible. Yet therein lies the danger. A century ago, the world dismissed the warnings about Adolf Hitler's hate-filled genocidal intent towards European Jewry, oblivious to the hellish visions at the heart of his writings and policies.

Anti Semitism, the Harbinger of Demonic Evil

In the era of Hitler, these expressions of demonic evil had their roots in many things, including the destruction of World War I, the rise of the occult, and the deception of anti-messiah ideologies.

But above all, there was the rise of antisemitism. Hatred of Jews and attacks against the Jews are the harbingers and forewarnings of the increase of demonic evil in society and the precursor to genocide that starts with the Jews but rarely ends with them alone.

At this time, we must name the evil of Jewish hatred and warn how, if unchecked in the human and spiritual realms that it will lead to the fulfillment of the curse of genocide. As it was during the 1930s and 40s, so it is again today. Conditions are being put in place to ignite a global disaster that may become a second Holocaust of those of biblical faith and which may lead to World War III.

Today, we are called to expose these evils, to name and break the curse of genocide and to pray for those who are on the frontlines of the Lord's battle. Above all, we must pray for God's redemptive plans to be fulfilled. Adonai desires to provide us with guidance about prophetic declarations and the Lord's prayer tactics/strategies that are necessary to break the curse of Genocide and take part in God's War against the present-day embodiment of Amalek.

1930's Window of Opportunity

The lesson day has for the church in this hour is clear - to not repeat what was done during the 1930s when Jewish hatred was on the rise and as Satan gathered the means to fulfill the curse of genocide against the Jewish people.



During that period, before the Nazis exerted totalitarian control, there was a window of opportunity when the German church could have stood with the Jews but did not. This was especially seen from 1933 to 1935 when the “Aryan Clause” was enforced, removing born-again Jews from the clergy within the church. This evil was opposed by Pastor Deitrich Bonhoeffer and the “confessing church” but not by the whole national German church, which had a major cultural influence at the time and could have altered history.

There was also a window of opportunity when the world church, especially in England and the US could have stood with the Jews and spoken against the Jew-hatred and persecution of them by the Nazis. Again, a few did so, such as Rees Howells, but for the most part, there was silence or, worse still, agreement with the antisemitism of that era. As a result, the Gentile church was often complicit in the fulfillment of the curse of genocide — the Holocaust.

Today’s Window of Opportunity

I am convinced that right now that we are in a similar window of opportunity in which Christians can make a decisive difference in blocking the fulfillment of the curse of genocide against the Jewish people by standing with them through intercession, prophetic declarations, and decisive, supportive actions.



Intercessors and spiritual warriors are vanguards in opposing Satan and advancing the Kingdom of God. But those of us who are Christians and stand with Israel, we are only one small part of the body of Messiah. Behind us must be the rest of the church. This is a call for intercessors to arise and to follow Yeshua as our commander and Savior, and join the battle!

I believe with all my heart that if the church acts now in response to what Messiah has revealed to us and follow His guidance, then, instead of a disaster that could be Holocaust 2.0 and World War III, the Jewish people will continue to flourish in *Eretz Yisrael* and will come to saving faith in their Mashiach, and the proclamation of the gospel of the Kingdom to all the nations.

God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is calling us into intercession and to cooperate with Him in exposing and defeating Satan’s plans for genocide. The purpose in calling us to join Him in this war is to fulfill His Word spoken through Jeremiah (Jeremiah 3:16-18) and Paul (Romans 11:11-15) to the Jewish people and Gentile believers so that the great revival that has already begun will NOT be blocked but will thrive, will continue to go global and will become the Next Great Awakening, ushering in the End Times and the “restoration of all things through, “Yeshua the Messiah.” (Acts 3:21)

If Christians fail to stand with Israel at this time, then the results will be the reign of unfathomable evil!



2024

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REV. BRAD LONG

WALKING IN GOD'S TRUST

WILLIAM HEPFNER

Over the years, people have been challenged in saying, “I believe I could do so much more for the Kingdom, within my congregation, or with friends who are having troubles.” Then they add, “If only I could get over my lack of bashfulness and increase my faith.” I have also heard others use this idea of doing more, but using the excuse that they encounter, a “lack of self-confidence” or they rationalize, “I am just not hearing from God.” When people start talking this way, they begin to doubt, and even begin to walk in fear. They begin speaking about how tough life is, questioning, “God, why did you let that particular accident happen?” Or, they ask other questions thus revealing the slipping trust, stating, “God, if you are there, why didn’t you fix those awful things I was asking for you to do?”



The Bible tells us that in this life we will suffer tribulations and testing. Many often fail their tests by making all kinds of mistakes. When this happens, many, instead of trusting, will gripe, groan, and even mumble. I have seen, while encountering these trials that many lose their temper and as a result, their trust diminishes. However, I have also seen others gloriously overcome these trials and become more assertive in their life of faith as Messianic believers. Assuredly, life has its ups and downs. I can't give you all the solutions, but the Scriptures have some eye-opening answers that will enlighten -and- grow your trust in Yeshua.

Some theologians will introduce Hebrews 11:1 and Hebrews 11:6 as the most used Scriptures, which defines faith and in communicating why it is so essential. Here they are:

11:1 - *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of realities not seen.*

11:6 - *Now without faith, it is impossible to please God. For the one who comes to God must believe that He exists and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.*

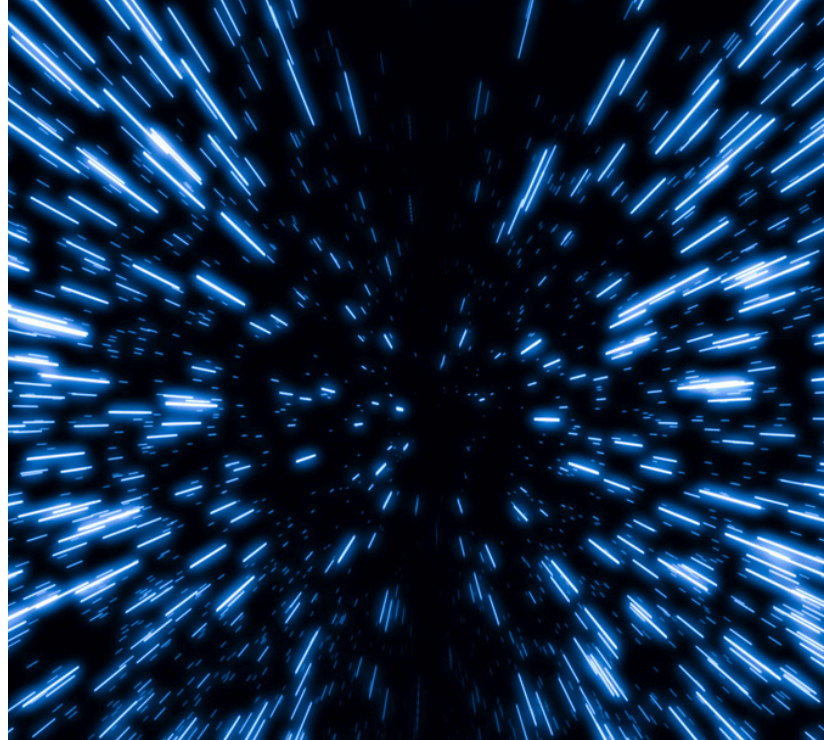
In some translations, Hebrew 11:1, is rendered as, "faith is the assurance of things hoped for" (ESV) or, as seen in the Complete Jewish Bible, "Trusting is the confidence of things hoped for." Here, the writer of Hebrews is seeking to encourage us that we can place our wholehearted trust in Adonai with confidence.



Furthermore, in verse 6, by stating, “without faith, it is impossible to please God,” we are reminded that we cannot please God with anything we do if in fact trusting does not accompany our actions.

From this, we discover that in the Messianic life, we must have the evidence of trusting in our lives, and those actions which come out of an authentic life of faith. While these are manifestations of blessings, God waits to do far greater things within us as we lead lives of complete trust in Him. As we seek to understand this calling, in Romans 12:3-5 Yeshua reminds of the importance of our trusting, “For through the grace given me, I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of yourself than you ought to think - but to use sound judgment, as God has assigned to each person a measure of faith (trust). For just as we have many parts in one body - and all the parts do not have the same function - so we, who are many, are one body in Messiah and everyone parts of one another.”

In this passage, we are told that God has the power to give us a full “measure of faith,” and yet for many, this passage is misunderstood and even slightly misdirected. Concerning verse 3, many will say that, “*God’s power gives us His Grace, Truth, and Promises.*” Although this is true, God provides us with supernatural powers such as miraculous healing, better jobs, increase in wages, and bringing children into the world. Adonai is a God of blessings; yet we must understand that on numerous occasions the



Scriptures reveal for us the most significant truth, that Yeshua is always acting on our behalf, both internally as well as externally. This is best communicated for us at Ephesians 3:20,

Now to Him who is able to do far beyond all that we ask or imagine, by means of His power that works in us, to Him be the glory in the community of believers and in Messiah Yeshua throughout all generations forever and ever! Amen,

When we speak of internal vs. external, we must understand first, that which is internal in our lives is the place where God is at work within us, and also inside of us. God has so much more for us as His children, and He will look at our hearts where His works are developed in us by the power of the *Ruach HaKodesh* (Holy Spirit). When we receive God’s Spirit inside of us, we are given that which brings us even closer to the Father, and being made one with Him and in Him.

This is best seen in Yeshua's High Priestly prayer John 17, where at verse 20 we are exhorted,

"I pray not only for these but also for those who will trust in me because of their word, that they all may be one. Just as you, Father, are united with me and I with you. I pray that they may be united with us, so that the world may believe you sent me." (CJB)

As followers of Yeshua, we are assured that the Spirit of God dwells within us, for as Galatians 5:5 reminds,

"... through the Ruach, by faith we eagerly await the hope of righteousness."

This kind of trust is not something in question or that which might be delayed, for as Messianic believers, it is a reminder that we have no other hope than Yeshua Himself. Continuing, Acts 3:16 exhorts,

Now through faith in the name of Yeshua, His name has strengthened this man whom you see and know. Indeed, the faith through Yeshua has given this man perfect health in front of you all.

When we encounter the Lord's Spirit, we physically and spiritually are with His Spirit, and there we *wait*. We are not sitting and wondering if it will happen, but knowing that it will happen. The term *wait* therefore is active; meaning that through prayer and anticipation, we look ahead,





That measure promises to be enough for every need you may ever have during your life. This Scripture in the Greek says, “Ekte pistis theou.” Here ekte is a command reminding that you need to have a , pistis aith, in theou - faith in God alone, . New meaning comes when we correctly interpret the faith which comes from God instead of our sad, often-used earthly wavering faith. Therefore, let us understand faith accurately as seen in Mark 11:22-24:

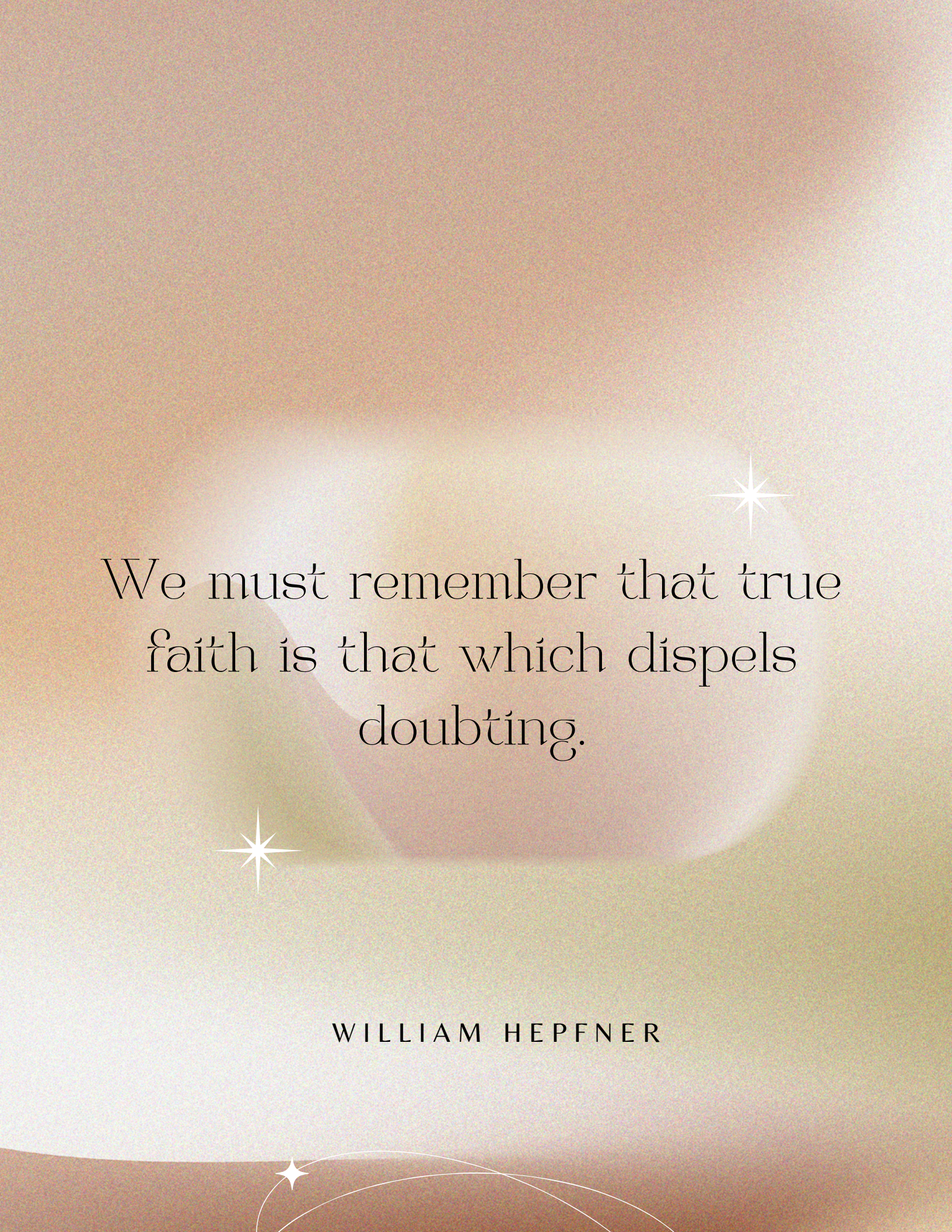
And Yeshua answered, saying to them, “Have faith in God! Amen, I tell you, if someone says to this mountain, “Be taken up and thrown into the sea, and does not doubt in his heart but trusts that what he says is happening, so shall it be for him. For this reason I say to you, whatever you pray and ask, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”

expecting, imagining, and watching for the hope of righteousness that will be revealed in the Lord’s soon return. This righteousness is by faith; “by” meaning from out of.

From this, we understand that our character in fact comes out of, or from our trusting continually in Yeshua, and that the purity of our faith comes out of our covenant relationship with God! We know that God, in Messiah, enables us to walk in the reality of a perfect faith alone found in Him alone. Yeshua is full of grace, truth, and promises. We also know that God has given every believer a *measure of faith*.

Here we must remember that true faith is that which dispels doubting, while believing that we will in fact receive what the Lord has promised. Yet what stands most prominent is the reality that God in Messiah enables us all to walk in the full measure of faith given by Him. May we all be blessed and walk out our life in Yeshua, using this new outpouring of trust given to us by God.





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