



#7 VaYetzei – Genesis 28:10-32:2(3)
Torah Study
by Moshe Schwab

Names

Esav – Esau
 Hevron – Hebron
 Ya'akov – Jacob
 Kefa – Peter
 Messiah – English for Mashiach; anointed one; Christ in the Greek means to be smudged – anointed
 Moshe – Moses
 Rivkah – Rebecca
 Shaul – Paul
 Yeshua – Jesus' real name
 Yĕhōvāh – God's real name forever (Exodus 3:15)
 Yitz'chak – Isaac

Yochanan – John

Terms

Cohen – priest
 Haftarah – reading from the prophets
 Tanakh – Old Testament portion of Bible
 Torah – 1st 5 books of the Bible
 Torah portion – there are 54 portions of the Torah
 VaYetzei - 7th Torah portion

VaYetzei means, "and he went out." This portion begins with Ya'akov leaving Be'er-Sheva and his parents in the land of Canaan.

I would like to start out by talking about making yourself into a new person; not by the values of the world and not in superficial ways. We can redefine what kind of person we are and how we will live anytime we choose. What will we choose in life and how will we live?

My personal answer to this question is that I intend to follow God's commandments and do what is "right and good" (see Deuteronomy 6:17-18). I am committed to following God in life and keeping His commandments. Remember, Abraham believed by keeping God's commandments and that is what made him a believer who would receive God's promises.

God tells Yitz'chak in Genesis 26:5 NKJV, "Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws."

That is what makes us believers. Ya'akov uses an example of Abraham believing to make his point. It is not by faith alone; that is false teaching. James 2:22-24 NKJV says, "Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, 'Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.' And he was called the friend of God. You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only."

The "by faith alone doctrine" is a man-made doctrine. They negate the scriptures with their man-made doctrine that is just a made-up theology through a misunderstanding of the Bible. They say that Abraham was made righteous by faith alone. That is not true. Yeshua said in Matthew 15:9 NKJV, "And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments

of men." Their made-up doctrine is an idol that they worship just like man-made idols. Yeshua said their doctrine that negates God's word is worthless and they are teaching lies. Revelation 21:8 NKJV says, "All liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone."

The "by faith alone" man-made theology gives people license to live by their own ideas of life instead of by God's commandments. **Abraham was a friend of God because he kept God's commandments.** Those that say otherwise do not know their Bible. And if you do not keep God's commandments, you are not a friend of God and guess where you are going. So, make yourself into a new person. Do not by make up your own ideas on life but do things the way our all-knowing creator tells us. Do not follow the values of false religion or the hedonistic false values of society. Have a deep commitment to God. Even Shaul says we must change in Ephesians 4:24 NKJV, "And that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness."

We have talked about what it means to be righteous. Righteousness means that we do what is "right" and keep God's commandments (see Deuteronomy 6:17-18). Deuteronomy 16:19 NKJV says, "You shall not pervert justice; you shall not show partiality, nor take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous." The righteous are the ones who do what is right.

The Messiah Yeshua came to help us do what is right, namely to be righteous. Man-made doctrine twists this to their own destruction. 2 Peter 3:15-16 says, "Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures." What are they twisting? There was no New Testament at the time. They are twisting the meaning of the scriptures and God's commandments.

Last week we talked about holiness some. We are to separate our lives from doing evil by doing what is "right and good." When we do not keep God's commandments, we separate ourselves from God. Isaiah 59:2 NKJV, "But your iniquities have separated you from your God." Holiness carries with it the idea that we separate ourselves from sin. Leviticus 20:26 NKJV says, "And you shall be holy to Me, for I the LORD am holy, and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be Mine." People that say they are holy without acting holy are worshipping themselves instead of God. They have made themselves a god of their lives.

Sometimes people will say they believe in the "law of liberty." We have recently found that the Hebrew James says, "the Torah of the Examiner" in James 1:25 instead of the "law of liberty." We will be judged by God it says in the Hebrew. The Roman Empire altered the text at will to create a Roman religion. There is a lot of evidence for this as we now have some 84 New Testament manuscripts in Hebrew. We have inherited a false pagan religion. Some heretics decided to change the manuscripts so we would not have to keep God's commandments.

As a people of God we need to stay connected to the true God and stand strong. Romans

16:19-20 CJB says, "However, I want you to be wise concerning good, but innocent concerning evil. And God, the source of shalom, will soon crush the Adversary under your feet." We are to do what is "good" (see Deuteronomy 6:17-18) and keep God's commandments. We are not to do evil. If you are not following God's commandments you are doing evil. Instead of crushing the devil under your feet, the devil is crushing you under his feet.

Fight spiritually, defend your heart. Deuteronomy 11:1 NKJV says, "Therefore you shall love the LORD your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always." We love God by keeping His commandments. He is like a loving Father who looks out for the best interests of His children. He is looking for good people to follow His words of truth. Jeremiah 17:10 NKJV says, I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings." Fruit is the result of the plant or tree. The fruit of our lives either produces what is "good" or what is evil.

Yeshua taught that those who do not keep God's commandments are worthless. The fruit of their lives is evil.

Matthew 13:24-30 NKJV

Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn."'"

Be diligent too keep God's commandments, keep your heart. Proverbs 4:23 NKJV says, "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life."

Search for the answers and fill in the blanks spiritually. People are searching, but instead of following truth they are following made-up doctrine and commandments of people. If you see scriptures that seem to be saying that you should not follow God's commandments, try to understand what they might otherwise be saying or just wait for a future better understanding. Remember, people who follow made-up theology will try to convince you with their false doctrine. Yeshua will reject those who do not keep the law the Bible says.

Matthew 7:19-23 NKJV

Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them. "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not

prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

Shaul himself says the law is not done away with so watch out for those who are making up doctrine that is contrary to the truth and the keeping of truth. Romans 3:31 NKJV says, "Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law."

Torah Study

VaYetzei means, "and he went out." This portion begins with Ya'akov leaving Be'er-Sheva in the land of Canaan and heading north to the city of Haran which was in our southeastern Turkey near the Syrian border. On his way he came to a place where he had a dream of a ladder that reached from the ground to heaven with the angels of God going up and down it. During the vision, the Lord (Yĕ-hō-váh, יהוה) is suddenly next to him and speaks to him (see the CJB translation). In the New Testament portion, Nathanael had a similar experience. Yeshua says to Nathanael in John 1:51 NKJV, "And He said to him, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'" Yeshua says of Himself that Nathanael will have that experience.

Since Yeshua was the presence of God on earth, we would expect this activity to be occurring wherever Yeshua was. Pagans teach there are special places on earth where spirits will communicate with us. These are just pagan ritualistic places where devil spirits have done something and people make themselves open to devil spirits there.

God does not need a special place to communicate with us or do something because He is God and can speak to us wherever we are; this was the case with believers in the past as well; God doesn't need a special place to communicate to us. There are special places where people have encountered God like Ya'akov did, but God is not limited to a certain place; we do not believe in what the pagans believe. Like Ya'akov, when we experience God, we too may feel a particular encounter was a special place. Ya'akov encountered God numerous times and places; we can encounter God many times and many places as well. We see that believers encountered God in the Bible.

The believers of the Bible heard from God. We should talk about this more. It should be apparent that the Messiah came to connect us more deeply with God by giving us the gift of the Holy Spirit and some associated gifts or evidences of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a powerful work in our lives it says in Acts 1:8 NKJV, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you." Shaul tells us to desire spiritual gifts and this a commandment of God. 1 Corinthians 14:1, 37 NKJV says, "Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts ... the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord."

Shaul in the context therefore tells us that desiring spiritual gifts is a commandment of God. Have you received the Holy Spirit (see Acts 2:38-39)? Are you desiring God's spiritual gifts and evidences? We have a Prayer Class that can help you to develop your spiritual gifts.

Go to this site for our prayer class: <https://www.teshuvahsa.org/prayer-class>

The Holy Spirit is our helper to keep God's commandments. We still must do what is "right and good." Remember, Yeshua will reject those who do not keep the law (see Matthew 7:19-23). The Holy Spirit is an important and powerful part in the life of the believer.

I will attach Part 1 of the Prayer Class to this Study.

It is not a get on your knees and pray class.

Grow more in your walk with God.

Yĕhōvāh promised Ya'akov the land of Canaan and his descendants. God tells him that he will have many descendants; the whole earth will be blessed through his descendants; and God will guard him and bring him back to the land. Ya'akov names the place where he had the vision Beit-El (Bethel which is about 10 miles north of Jerusalem); it was originally called Luz.

Ya'akov then vows that if God will guard him and bring him back in peace that God will be His God. As Ya'akov is traveling, he comes to a well and it happens that Rachel, Lavan's daughter, had just come there with their sheep. He waters her sheep and tells her who he is. Ya'akov stays with Lavan a month helping him with the sheep. Lavan then offers to pay him and Ya'akov offers to work for seven years for Rachel. Lavan tricks Ya'akov and he gets married to Le'ah. He offers to work for another seven years for Rachel. Leah conceives six sons and one daughter: Re'uven [see, a son], Shim'on [hearing], Levi [joining], Y'hudah [praise], Yissakhar [hire, reward], Z'vulun [living together], and Dinah [controversy over rights].

Rachel is jealous of Le'ah and gives Ya'akov her maid Bilhah. Bilhah has two children, Dan [he judged] and Naftali [my wrestling]. Le'ah also gives Ya'akov her maid and Zilpah has two children: Gad [good fortune] and Asher [happy]. Finally, Rachel has two children: Yosef [may he add] and she eventually also gives birth to Binyamin [son of the right hand].¹ The model for marriage is one husband and one wife as seen in Genesis. After Yosef is born, Ya'akov asks Lavan if he can go back home. Lavan offers him the speckled and streaked sheep. The Lord speaks to Ya'akov and Ya'akov puts branches with streaks in front of Lavans sheep so that they have speckled and spotted lambs. Obviously, God is making this happen.

We find out that Lavan changed his agreement with Ya'akov frequently, but God favored Ya'akov and worked things out so that Ya'akov prospered no matter what they agreed to. Ya'akov ends up getting wealthy and Lavan's family is not happy with Ya'akov and they began looking at Ya'akov differently.

Then God speaks to Ya'akov and tells him to return home and he leaves with his family; he had a three day head start. Lavan catches up with them, but God warns Lavan not to meddle with Ya'akov and his family. Ya'akov tells him that if he finds anything that is his that he can take it. Ya'akov said that whoever had taken Lavan's idols would be put to death. Rachel had taken his idols and put them in the saddle under her and she said she was having her issue of blood so Lavan did not look for his idols there. Ya'akov argues that he has served Lavan honestly and faithfully for 20 years and that God has given him favor. Lavan apparently considers everything his anyway, but they end up making peace and Lavan returns home. As the portion ends, Ya'akov meets some angels.

¹ See Strong's Dictionary for the meaning of these names.

In this portion we see the enduring promise of God to Ya'akov. God (Yě-hō-váh, יהוה) meets him as Ya'akov begins his journey. God watches over him and leads him to Lavan and provides work for him and his family. God keeps him safe as he returns to Canaan and God warns Lavan to leave Ya'akov alone. At the end of the portion Ya'akov meets some angels. Ya'akov sees angels a couple of times in this portion. The book of Hebrews tells us that God sends His angels to help those who are called by God. Hebrews 1:14 NKJV says, "Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?" God sends His angels to help us too.

The Haftarah is a relevant teaching from the prophets and writings. They became the primary method of teaching when the Torah was forbidden to be read during the persecution by the Greeks in the 2nd century BC. BC means *Before the Messiah (Christ)*. The abbreviation BCE is used by unbelievers to refer to *Before the Common Era*; in other words, before the Messiah came. If you are believer, it is perfectly fine to use BC.

The Haftarah for VaYetzei is Hosea 12:13-14:9. This portion is a prophecy against the northern tribes for committing idolatry. Hosea 13:2 NKJV, says, "Now they sin more and more, and have made for themselves molded images; ... They say of them, 'Let the men who sacrifice kiss the calves!'" This is terrible; they were kissing idols. Some in Christianity also kiss idols, light candles in front of idols, and kneel and pray to idols.

Northern Israel is promised blessing later in these passages if they will return to God; perhaps we could liken this blessing to how Jacob returned to Canaan safely, or like how Israel was delivered from Egypt to worship the true God.

All sin is very deceitful. We may think at times that we benefit from our sinful desires, but in the end it is just foolishness. God created the world and not mankind; God knows how best we should live. Sadly, Northern Israel's sin led to their complete destruction.

Ya'akov sees Yě-hō-váh and angels going up and down a ladder in a dream. All the patriarchs saw God. This was a special encounter for Ya'akov and he works out an agreement with God. God is with Ya'akov and favors him even though Lavan tries to steal his wealth. Lavan deludes himself into thinking everything was his. God tells Ya'akov to go back to Canaan and he returns with all his belongings and family. God worked out everything for Ya'akov and God can work out things for us because He is God. Trust in God. King David sings a song of praise about trusting in God. Psalm 28:7 NKJV says, "The LORD is my strength and my shield; My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and with my song I will praise Him."

Commandments and Implied Commandments in this Portion.
(We can understand commandments are being implied from other scriptures in the Bible.)

God may intervene in our lives to inform us and direct us. Genesis 28:10-15, 31:11-13

A person can work for an agreed wage. Genesis 30:28

God may act to protect or increase a person's wealth. Genesis 30:43

God may send angels to help us. Genesis 31:11-13

Prayer Class Part 1

Prayer Ministry and Divine Healing Class – Part 1

By Moshe Schwab

There are a lot of things to learn about God and prayer in this important study. We learn that God is involved with and sustains His creation; that God's people experience Him; that God is a loving involved God; that we are to have faith in God; we learn that it helps to have a common-sense model for prayer (not a formula); we learn about types of prayer that we can use; we learn how to respect the people we are praying for and be courteous; we learn to be zealous for the things of God; we find that we can be thrilled by God as we encounter Him in this Messianic age.

Perhaps one of the most significant things overlooked by many believers in the Messiah is the powerful work of God in these Messianic times. When Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah came He often healed everyone that needed healing. Matthew 9:35 CJB, “Yeshua went about all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and weakness.” Isn't that amazing! Also, Yeshua sent out His 12 Rabbis² and He also trained 70 others to go out and pray. It says in Luke that He sent out, “Seventy other talmidim and sent them on ahead in pairs to every town and place where he himself was about to go;” Luke 10:2, CJB. Yeshua told them in verse 9 to, “Heal the sick there, and tell them, ‘The Kingdom of God is near you.’”

Yeshua wasn't training them for nothing. We see people being healed in the book of Acts and God leading and helping believers in Yeshua in the book of Acts. Praying for others and experiencing God's power is part of our messianic heritage! Shaul (Paul) said, “For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of words but of power. 1 Corinthians 4:40 CJB. Yeshua said that we receive power through the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8) and God can use us to accomplish healing and miracles through God.

It is an amazing experience to encounter God.

When we pray, we are asking the God of the universe to do something extra ordinary. We are not praying for coincidences or good feelings, but to a God who can do anything. Israel encountered God at Mount Sinai. It was truly an amazing experience.

Ex 19:16,18-19 NKJV³

There were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, ... the whole mountain quaked greatly. And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice.

The people encountered God and they trembled. There was thunder, lightning, a loud trumpet that got louder and louder, the earth quaked, and they heard God speak (Deut. 4:33). Actually, Israel encountered God every day, didn't they. Maybe in not such a dramatic way as in Exodus 19. A cloud stood over the Tent

² The modern-day word for a Jewish teacher is rabbi. Yeshua was training teachers. Yeshua had a problem with calling people a rabbi in His time because it meant “great one.” No one should be called a great one except for God. Rabbi no longer means “great one,” but better describes the early Jewish teachers of our faith. They were all Jewish.

³ I use a lot of scriptures so I have to use the New King James Version (NKJV) at times because of limitations put on quoting the Complete Jewish Bible (CJB). The CJB sometimes has a better rendering. Hopefully these limitations will change sometime.

of Meeting by day and a fire by night for 40 years not to mention that God gave them food and water every day in the wilderness.

Since the Messiah has come; shouldn't this messianic time be even more dramatic and filled with personal experiences of God. 2 Cor 3:7-8 NKJV, "But if the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away, how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious?"

I had a friend of mine that told me that when he began to go church, he was told that experiencing God was wrong. That's not what I see in the Bible. Some say that experiencing God is not found in the scriptures. Of course, they are wrong; people experience God and we also see that in the scriptures. We have to be careful that we don't limit God; after all, He is the creator. See my article entitled [In Tanakh Times](#) for some references of God at work in the Old Testament portion.

God cares about us and loves us.

Since the inception of time, God has always wanted us to be in relationship with Him and receive His blessings. God placed man in the garden, but man went his own way. God reached out to man and made promises to man and to Israel.

In this messianic scripture we see God's love for those who love Him. "The Lord your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing." Zephaniah 3:17 CJB.

In Ex 15:26 NKJV God tells the people of Israel: "I am the Lord who heals you." In the scriptures we see God healing and also Yeshua healing people miraculously. As I previously stated, at times it says that Yeshua healed all the people! Yeshua cared about people. God cares about us.

Also, as I said, Yeshua sent out 12 Rabbis⁴ and He was also training others to go out and pray. He trained and sent 70 others (Luke 10:1) out too. Rabbi Shaul was not one of the 12 or 70 and he prayed with power. We are also sent out to pray for others. Mark 16:17-18 NKJV, "And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ... they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

A couple of months after my friend Dave came back from doing ministry in India he told me that he prayed for a blind man and all this stuff began oozing out of the man's eyes and the blind man was healed instantly. My friend Larry prayed for a teenage boy in Russia whose one leg was shorter than the other. He put his hand on the boy's leg and while he had his hand on the boy's leg, the leg grew to the same length as the other leg. Larry is a medical professional! My friend Harold prayed for a young man with the same problem and God healed the young man. Only God can do that.

The Bible says that God is the creator; can there be anything too difficult for Him? Adam talked with God, Noah talked with God, Abraham talked with God, and Moses talked with God. I've heard people say that God no longer speaks to us and no longer heals – don't they respect God? Is God anything less now than He was in the Old Testament portion? Malachi 3:6 CJB says, "I, ADONAI, do not change." It says in James 1:17 CJB, "Every good act of giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father who made the heavenly lights; with him there is neither variation nor darkness caused by turning." God is still good and He hasn't changed. The things He did in the Old Testament portion He can still do now and

⁴ The modern-day word for a Jewish teacher is rabbi. Yeshua was training teachers. Yeshua had a problem with calling people a rabbi in His time because it meant "great one." No one should be called a great one except for God. Rabbi no longer means "great one," but better describes the early Jewish teachers of our faith. They were all Jewish.

greater things Yeshua said, “Yes, indeed! I tell you that whoever trusts in me will also do the works I do! Indeed, he will do greater ones, because I am going to the Father;” John 14:12 CJB. The Bible says that Yeshua will not change, “Yeshua the Messiah is the same yesterday, today and forever;” Hebrews 13:8 CJB.

In praying for people God will sometimes answer our prayers. Sometimes the answer is yes, and sometimes it is no. Sometimes the answer is not yet, but no matter what - God loves us. Ultimately, we will be completely whole in the new heaven and earth. Let's now try to understand more about divine healing through the Messiah Yeshua.

Understanding healing through Yeshua

1) Yeshua's ministry began after the Holy Spirit came upon Him.

No doubt Yeshua did many miracles in his youth, but His ministry began when the Holy Spirit fell on Him. Luke 3:16,22 CJB, “So Yochanan answered them all, “I am immersing you in water, but he who is coming is more powerful than I - I'm not worthy to untie his sandals! He will immerse you in the Ruach HaKodesh and in fire.” ... “The Ruach HaKodesh came down on him (Yeshua) in physical form like a dove.” Immediately after that, the Bible says, “Then Yeshua, filled with the Ruach HaKodesh, returned from the Yarden and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness;” Luke 4:1 CJB.

It says that He was being filled with the Holy Spirit in the NKJV. It's also the word used for when they were collecting the fragments of bread and fish in the baskets when Yeshua miraculously created food for the people – they were filling up the baskets. It's the Greek word plērēs (play'-race) – filled as in the sense of being filled up (see Vine's Dictionary). We should receive the Holy Spirit and “be filled” up (be filled over and over) with the Holy Spirit; we receive power through the Holy Spirit the Bible says. Acts 1:8 NKJV, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.”

It's one thing to accept the Messiah and have the Holy Spirit.

It's another thing for the Holy Spirit to be working powerfully in us and through us.

Yeshua was ready because He was being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Are you ready, are you being filled with the Holy Spirit.

I used to go to a church/churches where we had lots of meetings and encouragement, but no power. Kefa (Peter) asked Yeshua the Messiah to come out and walk on the water with him (Matthew 14:23-33). Are you willing to get out of the boat and let the Holy Spirit use you? Or are you just content to sit in the boat?

I heard an example from Dr. Morgan about how the Holy Spirit is like getting on a roller coaster. When we start to go up it is scary, but after we've been on the roller coaster, all those kids' rides down below look like nothing. Some of us have played make believe with dolls or plastic soldiers. Life without the Holy Spirit is like playing make believe.

This is my own experience. I pushed away the Holy Spirit and was scared to encounter God through the prophetic. It probably came out of my own ignorance. I should have understood that God loves me and wants to lead me and speak into my life. I didn't understand that it was biblical for God to act in the present. Sometimes we lack trust in God; a God who is a loving God – perhaps I was afraid that God would make me look foolish and or perhaps I wondered if I was really hearing from God right? We are all fools for something. Why not be a fool for the Messiah?

Part of why I did what I did is because I was taught that my walk/life was pretty much up to me. I understood that the Holy Spirit was working in me, but I still felt that what I did was pretty much my work for God. In other words, God was up in heaven and I was living life pretty much separate from Him. That is

not a biblical viewpoint. God is always at work in His creation and sustains His creation. See my [God and His Creation](#) article.

Since God is available and at work in His creation we can expect miracles and healings. Also, God wants to lead us personally. The Bible says we are to be led by the Holy Spirit, not just the Bible (Romans 8:14) – God is almighty God and is still able to accomplish great miracles and healings and to speak to us today. When we hear from God we are to test what we receive from God with the Bible and with the help of responsible and knowledgeable people. “But do test everything - hold onto what is good;” 1 Thessalonians 5:21 CJB.

If you want to minister effectively, you need the Holy Spirit. I challenge you to step out of the boat and if you’ve stepped out of the boat, start walking on water with Yeshua. What an exciting opportunity we have that Yeshua has invited us into. Ananias was sent to heal Shaul (Paul). “The Lord said to him, “ Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight;” Acts 9:11-12 NKJV. How is that for giving direction? Ananias was an ordinary follower. It doesn’t give him a title or position. He was probably just a believer like you and me.

Yeshua said that we can do great works through Him. John 14:12 NKJV, “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

As I invited the Holy Spirit to work more in me, the Holy Spirit has worked more in me. There needs to be cooperation on our part. We have to decide to cooperate with God. We need to believe that God will not give us a rock instead of bread. Luke 11:11-13 NKJV:

If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!

Jeremiah 17:5 NKJV says, “Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength.” We have learned to trust in ourselves and in others; what about trusting in God? The Bible says that God is love; and He wants to lavish us with His love. For serving others, we need the power of God. We can’t heal anybody, but God can.

2) God wants to heal

Yeshua did many mighty works and tremendous healings. He restored sight to the blind, healed those with leprosy, and even healed all in some towns who needed healing, how amazing. Luke 4:40 CJB, “After sunset, all those who had people sick with various diseases brought them to Yeshua, and he put his hands on each one of them and healed them.” It says that Yeshua healed all who came to Him. It is comforting to know God’s heart for man. We are not God and Yeshua was; so, when He prayed for someone they got healed. That’s a good thing to think of when praying for others. God has compassion and wants to heal.

This also probably tells us that healing does happen contrary to those who say it does not. We should also be expecting healing and asking for things in faith. Don’t give up after a few tries. Pray for a couple hundred people and write down answered prayers. You will see healing and answers to prayer if you begin praying. That is also my experience with prayer. One weekend I experienced 3 healings. I told my wife that I needed healing and she prayed for me. The next day she asked me how I was doing and I said I got healed; this happened three days in a row! You can’t explain that away.

As we saw in the Tanakh, feeling and experiencing God are more the normal in those who are in

relationship with God. When Solomon dedicated the Temple, they experienced God. 2 Chronicles 7:1-2 NKJV, “When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the Lord filled the temple. And the priests could not enter the house of the Lord, because the glory of the Lord had filled the Lord's house.” Wow, what an experience!

When we feel or experience something during prayer we can relate that to God. One time I got prayer for my shoulder. My friend asked me a couple of weeks later how my shoulder was. I realized that I was healed. There were no “bells or whistles;” God healed me in the moment and I forgot all about it. I had been having trouble lifting my arm, so it was a big deal. I have had no more trouble with my shoulder since that healing.

Experiencing something during prayer or afterwards helps us to connect our healing to God. Otherwise, people might feel that it was just a coincidence that they were healed. My friend prayed for a woman who had been in a car accident. She broke her nose in the accident and had terrible headaches for years and her nose was also crooked. My friend prayed for her and she kept feeling the presence of God all that evening and into the night. When she woke up the next day she looked in the mirror and her nose was straight and she stopped having headaches, whew, praise God.

We should think of experiencing God as the normal rather than the abnormal. See my [God Can Do What He Wants](#) article. Healing is a spiritual gift that is listed in the Bible – Shaul says this is a gift to the messianic believers; it is not for just a few; and it is not something that ended in the New Testament or with the apostolic rabbis (Yeshua’s talmidim, disciples).

3) God cares, has compassion, and He loves us.

When we understand that God loves us it will increase our faith. When we know that God has compassion we will want to pray. Luke 12:6-7 NKJV, “Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.” Also, in Matthew 9:35-36 NKJV, “Then Yeshua went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.” All I can say is wow.

We didn’t do anything to deserve God’s love, but after we commit our lives to Him, God wants to help us to live right and live in power through the Holy Spirit. In Romans 5:8 it says, “But God demonstrates his own love for us in that the Messiah died on our behalf while we were still sinners.” That’s compassion. Yeshua has compassion for us – He wants to be our shepherd.

4) Yeshua healed in the presence of faith and expectation

Yeshua loves faith and wonderful things happened in the presence of faith and **expectation**. Expectation is important – it is a component of faith. My experience is that the people who don’t want prayer often don’t believe it will help; their expectation is low. Yeshua didn’t do many mighty works in His home town because of their unbelief. Matt. 13:58 See my [Faith Leaking](#) article about how sometimes we talk ourselves out of believing in God.

The centurion’s servant was healed; he had great expectation and faith. The centurion said to Yeshua, “But say the word, and my servant will be healed;” Luke 7:7 NKJV. Yeshua marveled at (admired)⁵ the centurion’s faith (verse 9). Yeshua is not asking us to have a ton of faith nor is faith a formula for pleasing God. **There are a lot of things that please God not just faith.** Faith is important, but we are not asked to

⁵ Definition from Greek for the word marveled is from Strong’s Dictionary.

have lots of faith. If we have a little faith like that of a tiny mustard seed Yeshua said, God can use that to do amazing things it says in Luke 17:6.

We planted a tiny banana tree in our back yard and it turned into a giant plant. A tiny seed is all that God is asking us to start with, and just like a tiny mustard seed it can grow into something great. The more I pray for people, the more I realize it has little to do with my faith and all to do with trusting God; perhaps just like planting seed and knowing it will grow into a plant.

Did you know that the guy that Yeshua told pick up his bed and walk didn't even know who Yeshua was! John 5:8-13 NKJV

Yeshua said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath. The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed." He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.'" Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk'?" But the one who was healed did not know who it was.

If he didn't know who Yeshua was, do you really think it had anything to do with his faith? And, we know that this guy also reported on Yeshua when he found out who healed him and so he wasn't what we would call a caring appreciative person – he was more concerned about getting himself out of trouble with the religious leaders. I often think that God can and will do what He wants.

I was praying for this young woman in Brazil for some very general things like God blessing her and God to help her. I don't speak Portuguese and so I was just praying for people what I thought God was telling me to pray for. After I finished praying for her, the local missionary came over and the girl told him that while I was praying for her she was healed of the pain running down from her back into her leg and she was healed from the pain in her shoulder. I can't say that her healing had anything to do with me – do you understand; it's up to God.

I am satisfied with having some faith when I pray for people. I know God can heal them and I know it's not up to me. It also takes the pressure off of me. After all, I can't heal anyone anyway. The idea that you have to have faith (do the work) in order to be healed is more of a works thing. Healing can't come from us; it is God that does the healing – faith in your faith is works; it is not "faith in me" or faith in my faith. See my [Faith in God](#) article for more explanation on this. So, we put our little bit of faith in the hands of our gigantic powerful God and at times we get to see the amazing love and power of God.

As we can see, God is a powerful God who is not disconnected from His people and the world. Man said that He can manage things on His own and so we have lots of pain and brokenness in the world. But when we come back to God He is there for us. He loves us and has demonstrated His love for us in the past and still does mighty works for mankind. The Holy Spirit helps us to pray for others; we need the Holy Spirit. God wants to heal and there is no limit to what He can do. Experiencing God is normal for believers. God cares for us and has compassion for man. We should never forget that and we should trust Him and pray with expectation. 'With God all things are possible,' (Matthew 19:26) so we should never give up praying and asking God for His help and healing.

**There is a lot more online. Please take the time to learn and grow spiritually.
It is not a get on your knees prayer class.**

**Go to this site and learn more about walking with God.
<https://www.teshuvahsa.org/prayer-class>**