



**Names**

Kefa – Peter  
 Messiah – English for Mashiach; anointed one;  
 Christ in the Greek means to be smudged  
 Moshe – Moses  
 Shaul – Paul  
 Shlomo – Solomon  
 Yeshua – Jesus' real name  
 Yēhōvāh – God's real name forever (Ex. 3:15)  
 Y'hudah – Judah

Yochanan – John  
 Yosef – Joseph

**Terms**

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  
 Vayechi – the 12<sup>th</sup> Torah portion

Vayechi means, "and he lived." This portion begins with Ya'akov dying at the age of 147 after living 17 Years in Egypt. He asks Yosef (Joseph) to swear to him that he will bury him in the cave of Machpelah in Hebron. That is the cave that Abraham bought and was thought to be where Adam and Eve were buried.

I would like to begin by talking about how old ways are often the easiest and best way to accomplish a task. The ancient ways of the Bible still apply best to life because they were given to us by an all knowing and good God that is looking out for our best interests.

Psalm 105:8 NKJV says, "He remembers His covenant forever, the word which He commanded, for a thousand generations. I remember reading scriptures like these when I was a young believer and thinking that those who say God's commandments are done away with are wrong.

For example, they were running duct work in houses over a hundred years ago and it allowed for the dispersal of heat throughout the house, and it is still in use in our era. I lived in an area of old homes that had coal rooms for coal furnaces. The home was subsequently upgraded to a home boiler system that used the same duct work to heat the house. Archaeologists have discovered wheels dating back thousands of years. Nowadays, wheels allow cars, trucks, and planes to be used almost everywhere on earth.

So, it would make sense that the truths of the Bible that were given to us by the creator God should of course still be valid. Why "reinvent the wheel" is an expression that has been used. Why try to reinvent truth? We need truth and not made-up doctrine and false made-up ideas on life. People will make up excuses not to follow the truths of Bible. People are often satisfied listening to false Bible scholars and false Bible teachers. Both those who teach false doctrine and those who follow them will have to stand before God.

The Bible says that those who teach people not to follow God the right way will be in the lake of fire. 2 Peter 2:17 NKJV says, "These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever." That includes people who are leading people astray by philosophies and ideas.

Did you know that the communist dictators and socialist leaders of the 20<sup>th</sup> century put to death over 100 million people? Ecclesiastes 1:9-10 NKJV says, "That which has been is what will be, that which is done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun. Is there anything of which it may be said, 'See, this is new?' It has already been in ancient times before us." All the nonsense that people are brainwashed by, and all the false ideas have already been done. Why not believe and live the truth of God's word?

God knows what is best and wants what is best for us because He is the creator. Psalm 33:6 NKJV says, "By the word of the LORD the heavens were made." Since He is the creator, He has no reason to try to fool us. He could just as easily do away with the world and start over. Matthew 3:9 NKJV says, "For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones." Just be glad that God is patient and loving. 2 Peter 3:9 NKJV, "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." God's word is the right way to live, and it is truth. Psalm 33:4 NKJV says, "For the word of the LORD is right, and all His work is done in truth."

We need to be on target spiritually. The Bible says we are to not get off course either to the left or right. Proverbs 4:27 says, "Do not turn to the right or the left; remove your foot from evil." Doing good is to keep God's commandments; not keeping God's commandments is evil.

We are on a pilgrimage in life that ends when we arrive at the goal, the future kingdom of God. Psalm 16:11 NKJV says, "You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore." The path of a godly life, a good life that follows God's commandments, leads to eternal life. As we live before our God and king, we should have tremendous joy. Living in the blessings of God (see Deuteronomy 28:1-15) by keeping His commandments leads to the eventual wonderful life of eternal blessings.

God shines into the darkness to find anyone who wants to know Him and the truth He has for us. He also seeks those who need to return to Him. Proverbs 6:23 NKJV says, "For the commandment is a lamp, and the law a light; reproofs of instruction are the way of life." Light refers to the understanding God gives us through His commandments. God's commandments continually teach us. They bring us back to truth at times so that we can continue to live with true understanding. Atheists call themselves "brights" because they think they are gods of understanding. They stand opposed to God and think they are God. They are false teachers whom the Bible says will spend eternity in darkness.

We seek true light and to follow the path of light from our good God. Psalm 43:3 NKJV says, "Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me." God's word and His commandments keep us on the path of light. Psalm 119:105 NKJV says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Just as we use the right tools to accomplish what we want to do in the natural world, we also need to apply the right spiritual tools. What spiritual tools will help us in life?

We need the scriptures that are from God. 2 Peter 1:20-21 NKJV says, "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." The Bible contains truths given to us from God. They must be understood how they were originally intended to be understood and we are not to make up what we think they mean.

We need good Bible teachings. 2 Timothy 4:1-3 NKJV says, "I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine." What will we be judged by? We will be judge by God's commandments. It sounds like there is more to know that just to live by faith. The faith is all you need is a false teaching. Hebrews 12:14 NKJV says, "Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord." If you are not living a holy life, you will not be in God's future kingdom.

We need to pray. Ephesians 6:18 says, "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints." Saints refers to God's holy people. They are not dead people. God is holy and we are to be holy (see Leviticus 11:44). God does what is right and we are to follow His commandments that teach us to do what is right. Doesn't this make sense?

We need God's good commandments (see Deuteronomy 6:17-18). They give us "wisdom and understanding" (see Deuteronomy 4:5-6). We need the Holy Spirit which is another helper; the first helper is God's commandments. John 14:15-17 NKJV, "If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever the Spirit of truth." We love God by keeping His commandments. 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."

What other tools can you think of? God may have specific things for us to do. We may need to make changes to our life. Just like Abraham received words from God, we have the Holy Spirit to help us. Many of the spiritual gifts were used in the Old Testament portion. Surely, we should be using them in the Messianic era. Genesis 15:1 NKJV says, "After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." So, there are many more spiritual tools that we need to use in our Messianic walk with God. God give us gifts or evidences that are associated with the Holy Spirit. In Romans 12:4-8 and Ephesians 4:11-12 they are called gifts. In 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, they are called evidences of the Holy Spirit or manifestations. God gave us the fruit of the Holy

Spirit to help us be loving, have joy, be patient, etcetera (see Galatians 5:22-223).

**I will append a teaching on the gifts of the Holy Spirit  
at the end of our teachings for today.**

God does not give us antiquated or old-fashioned ways of doing things; also, His commandments are not meant as a means to burden us. Isaiah 46:9-10 NKJV tells us that the God of Israel is the only one and true God who knows all things and that His purposes will stand. It says, "For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure.'"

This does not sound like a God whose commandments are worthless. He is the one true God and those who teach a different god are false teachers. Yeshua our Messiah said, "Salvation is of the Jews;" John 4:22 NKJV. This is a simple enough statement to understand. Also, since God's purposes will stand, then those who don't accept His ways live worthless and meaningless lives spiritually. They may accomplish tasks but lack an element of reality.

The true God will accomplish what He wills despite those who do not believe or oppose the truth. They can pray to their false god or rely on their own strength. We can rely on our abilities and on God who is able to keep us and help us. Psalm 55:22 NKJV says, "Cast your burden on the LORD, and He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved." God wants to help us in life. Not only does God give us His commandments to sustain us, but He knows the outcomes and can change them for the better. We just saw that in the life of Joseph. God knows the beginning and the end it said in Isaiah 46:10.

Some church people and pagans have a low opinion of God. Some church people put in their 1 hour a week and think they are spiritual. Pagans or atheists are no better spiritually. I lump atheists into this category because their god is themselves. They are the idol; they believe in themselves. In our modern world, we sometimes see anything outside of our modern culture as time consuming and bland. Because people are self-absorbed in their selfish world, they fail to see what God can do in their lives. The psalmist says in Psalm 18:3 NKJV, "I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised; so shall I be saved from my enemies." There are a lot of people out there that think they are right. It is God who is truly right; they are not God even if they think they are.

It says in 1 Kings 2:3 NKJV that God's ways are right: "And keep the charge of the LORD your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn." We may not prosper like all the selfish egotists; instead, we will trust in our God who knows all. In this Messianic age, God gives the Holy Spirit to believers in the Messiah Yeshua.

God wants to work powerfully for each one of us. He gives us peace and works powerfully in us through the Holy Spirit.

\*Yeshua said that those who receive the Holy Spirit through Him would receive power.

Acts 1:8 NKJV, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you."

\*God's commandments help us to live and so does the Holy Spirit.

John 14:15-17 NKJV says, "If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth.

John 14:26 NKJV, "The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name."

\*The Holy Spirit is to be part of our joy filled life.

Ephesians 5:18-19 says, "Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord."

2 Corinthians 13:14 NKJV, "The Holy Spirit be with you all." This implies something the Holy Spirit does for us.

\*The Holy Spirit helps teach us, brings godly thoughts to our minds, and gives us peace.

John 14:26-27 NKJV, "The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. Peace I leave with you."

Romans 14:17 NKJV, "For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."

\*The Holy Spirit teaches us good things.

Romans 14:17 NKJV, "For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."

### **Again, see our teaching on the gifts of the Holy Spirit that is appended to this teaching.**

Be at peace and practice God's ways. God has a lot for us through His word and the Holy Spirit. 2 Thessalonians 3:16 NKJV, "Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way." God is a good God who knows all and we can trust in Him. Culture and even some churchianity has its own values and not necessarily God's values. Instead of trusting in the ways of mankind, trust in our good God who is able to give us good things through the Messiah. Don't forget to seek the Holy Spirit. Luke 11:13 NKJV, "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!" 1 Corinthians 14:1 NKJV, "Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts."

### **Torah Teaching**

We now close out the book of Genesis also called Beresheet which means in the beginning. God has mercy on mankind as Adam and Eve repent. God again has mercy on mankind because of Noah who taught what was right and did what was right. That's what righteousness means; to do what is right. God protects Abraham and Ya'akov, men of faith. God saves the whole region of Egypt through Yosef, a believer in the true God. Archaeologists have found where the grain was stored during the famine at the time of Yosef. Also they

found Yosef's tomb that held his bones until Israel was able to go back to Canaan. This portion finishes the history of Yosef and Ya'akov.

Vayechi means, "and he lived." This portion begins with Ya'akov dying at the age of 147 after living 17 Years in Egypt. He asks Yosef (Joseph) to swear to him that he will bury him in the cave of Machpelah in Hebron. That is the cave that Abraham bought and was thought to be where Adam and Eve were buried.

Jacob says that El Shaddai (God Almighty)<sup>1</sup> appeared to him at Luz (Bethel), blessed him, and God said that the land of Canaan will belong to Jacob's descendants forever. Jacob blesses Ephraim and Manasseh, and he blesses the younger Ephraim first and tells Joseph that he is not making a mistake (even though his eyesight was bad). We should understand that Ya'akov was listening to God; Ya'akov relied on hearing from God, just as his fathers did. Also, he says that Israel should invoke a blessing that God would make His people like Ephraim and Manasseh (see Genesis 48:20). It is thought that they were examples of getting along well.

Perhaps Ya'akov chooses to bless Ephraim first to let us know that God chooses who He wills to choose. God has chosen Yeshua Hamashiach to be the Messiah regardless of what mankind thinks. Perhaps God saw the heart of Ephraim and chose Him because of his godly heart instead of just becoming a greater people than Manasseh as it says in the Bible. God knew that Ya'akov would be a spiritual person and that Esau would be a worldly person. That why we talked about Ya'akov being the descendent who would carry on God's line of believers. God chose Ya'akov as the first born. We learned that the promises of God are greater than what the world has to offer.

Ephraim and Manasseh were adopted by Ya'akov in Genesis 48:5. Yosef is appointed as the first-born son that receives the double portion and the double portion is passed on to Ephraim and Manasseh. Perhaps Yosef achieved first born status because he was the first born of Ya'akov's beloved wife Rachel.

Jacob prophetically says that God will bring them back to Canaan and then speaks to each of his sons and includes some words of prophecy to them. Some of these prophecies were words of correction. Perhaps they were meant to tell them to get with it spiritually. We should also understand that God knows our thoughts and sees all we do and is not removed from mankind as some think.

Ya'akov prophesies that the Messiah would come from Judah and that Judah's rulership will continue until the Messiah comes. Genesis 49:10 NKJV says, "The scepter will not pass from Y'hudah, nor the ruler's staff from between his legs, until he comes to whom [obedience] belongs; and it is he whom the peoples will obey." Yeshua Hamashiach was born before the Roman appointed King Herod and the false high priest were installed by Rome. Yeshua is our king and someday will reign as king in the future kingdom of God (see Jeremiah 23:5-6). Ya'akov's prophecy of the Messiah coming before the Israeli kingship being ended was fulfilled.

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<sup>1</sup>The ancient rabbis believed that El Shaddai meant mighty God.

It is interesting to note that if we take the dalet out of the name of Y'hudah, it spells the exclusive name for God, Yud-Hey-Vav-Hey, namely, Yĕhōvâh. Dalet means door in Hebrew. Yeshua said in Revelation 3:20 NKJV, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me." If we open our hearts to the Messiah, we can have a relationship with Him. Yeshua said in John 4:22 NKJV, "Salvation is of the Jews." How wonderful and interesting!

Also, Y'hudah means praise and that is from where we get the word Jew. Shaul says in Romans 2:29, "He is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God." Jew inwardly and praise from God is a Hebrew word pun. We are to be a praise (Y'hudah) to God inwardly and therefore a praise (Y'hudah) to God. Having a circumcised heart refers to Deuteronomy 10:16 NKJV, "Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and be stiff-necked no longer." In other words, stop resisting God.

*We are to be a  
praise to God inwardly*

Then Ya'akov dies, he is embalmed, and they mourn for him for forty days. The Egyptians mourn for him 70 days. Yosef asks Pharaoh if he can go bury his father at the cave of Machpelah and a great number of people go up with him and mourn for him for 7 days there in Canaan and then return to Egypt. Yosef's brothers are concerned that Yosef will retaliate for their mistreatment of Yosef, but Yosef tells them not to be afraid and that God used the situation and turned it around for good.

Joseph dies at 110 and he gets to see the third generation of Ephraim's children. He asks to be buried in Canaan when God takes them back to the land of Canaan sometime in the future. Joseph was a true believer, a holy one, a saint. We see him keeping God's commandments.

In this we perhaps can see a picture of our future hope; it prefigures the picture of God returning all His people to Him some day in the future and raising His people from the dead. Ezekiel 37:4-6 NKJV says, "Again He said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the LORD.'" This refers to Israel, but God will raise up all believers to live together in a future kingdom.

In this closing portion of Genesis, we see the death of two of our great spiritual leaders, Ya'akov and Yosef. What do the stories in the Bible tell us so far? Mankind fell from their relationship and fellowship with God. The sin of man without God becomes so severe that God relents creating man. For the sake of the faith of Noah, God saves the world through a believer. Noah listens to God, and he builds an ark that saves mankind from annihilation. May we all be like Noah who saved the world.

*Those who keep God's commandments  
give this world hope.*

Abraham becomes the father of believers in the true God and God tells Abraham that the world will be blessed through him. Isaac and Jacob carry on the line of believers and each encounter God. They are led by God just like the believers before them. Even though the believing prophet Joseph suffered as a result of his brothers' jealousy, he ends up saving them from a deadly famine. God prospers and protects His people of faith. The prophetic is important and Shaul tells us to love each other; to desire the spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit; and be led by God through the prophetic. 1 Corinthians 14:1 says, "Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy."

We see God saving mankind because of those who live in faith towards God, who follow God's commands, and who are led by Him. Let us also be people of faith who bring God's blessings to the world. Let us be a people who listen to God's voice and follow Him just as our patriarchs did. True believers make the world a better place. The world needs us. The people who say they don't need God are mistaken. Without God, there would be no life left on earth.

As believers in the true God, we have lots to celebrate. We can be thankful for the past saints of the Old Testament portion who brought us to this time. No wonder God's feasts are times of celebration. Mankind may celebrate their own works, their own accomplishments, their lives, and their special times, but without God, mankind would not exist. Celebrating God's feasts keeps us in touch with reality. We would have nothing without God so don't be deluded (tricked or brainwashed) into thinking otherwise; all things exist because of the creator God.

Let us be people of faith who bring God's blessings to the world. Let us be a people who listen to God's voice and follow Him just as our patriarchs did. We can make the world a better place.

The Haftarah for Vayechi is 1 Kings 2:1-12. We read about the deaths of some of the great leaders of Israel in the portions of scripture for Vayechi. King David is about to die and so he commissions Shlomo and tells him to do things God's way; namely, according to the Torah. David asks for specific favors against Joab and Shimei, and for Shlomo to be kind to the sons of Barzillai. David then dies after reigning over Israel for forty years.

We see Ya'akov giving farewell words to his children. Both Ya'akov and Yosef die in this portion and Yosef asks for his bones to be taken back to Canaan when they return. Yosef firmly believes in what God is able to do and so should we. Remember to be faithful to God.

*Remember to believe in what  
God is able to do and will do.*

We will close our Torah study with an ancient encouraging Jewish saying. We don't have to reinvent things in pagan terms. Tradition is not a commandment of God, but some tradition

can be useful and encouraging. They use this saying at the conclusion of each book of the Torah. Be strong in our God, Yēhōvāh.

Hazak, hazak, v'nit'chazek! 3X  
Be Strong, be strong, and let us be strengthened! 3X

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

It is good to make preparations for your death. Genesis 47:29-30

We may adopt children into our family. Genesis 48:5

We may give prophecies over our children at significant times. Genesis 48:20-49:28

It is good to observe a time of mourning for our close family. They spent 7 days mourning for Ya'akov. Genesis 50:10

God may intervene to thwart evil and turn it around. Genesis 50:20-21

We are to keep our convictions about God's promises to the very end just as Yosef did. Genesis 50:24-25

**Stop Resisting God**

(A teaching to accompany this portion.)

We shouldn't be making up our own religious practice; the creator God is big enough to tell us how we should best live. I believe most people want to do what is "right and good;" Deuteronomy 6:18 NKJV. Yeshua Hamashiach was against man-made doctrines; especially ones that took away from God's commandments. If we are not following God's instructions, are we really trusting in God? God's people need to stop resisting God.

There are things in life that are the trappings of worldly life. Examine what is behind what you do and what your motivations are.

Why do we do what we do and what are our motivations? Psalms 2 is about the rulers around Israel setting themselves up against God and Israel; it is also thought of as a prophetic Psalm because some day God will renew the world and rule the world in spite of what mankind thinks they will do (Psalm 2:8-9). Psalms 2:1-2 NKJV says, "Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed."

It's still true today; people think they are greater than Yēhōvāh our God (the word LORD in

verse 2 in all caps is Yĕhōváh). People make up their own religious practice instead of following God. God's prophets, probably Nehemiah, gave us Torah readings for every week. People aren't teaching it because they don't believe in God's word. They will say they believe in God's word, but actions speak volumes.

Let's talk a little about God's real name. Some say we can't use God's name. The Messiah Yeshua said in John 17:26, "I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them." The Messiah said to use God's name! Exodus 3:15 NKJV says, "The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations." "LORD" in all caps is God's real name used in the Bible as Yud-Hey-Vav-Hey and pronounced as Yĕhōváh. We've now found God's name as Yĕhōváh in 2,363 manuscripts. Once as Yĕhōvĕh, never as Yahweh. God says to use His name so **those who never** use Yĕhōváh are dishonoring His name.

In Psalm 2, the nations around Israel thought they could impose themselves on Israel, but of course they couldn't. God was for them. The same is true today isn't it. People think that they can get away with whatever they want to and that is not further from the truth. Those who are persecuting believers in the true God will end up in the lake of fire for all eternity. They are among the liars who say they are God over the earth. Revelation 21:8 NKJV, "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, **and all liars** shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone."

I should point out at this time that some take the scriptures out of context and apply them as though they had nothing to do with Israel. How ridiculous. This false teaching is called replacement theology. Also, there is teaching out there that says the Jews have their own salvation apart from Yeshua Hamashiach. That is also false teaching. Yeshua was Jewish and He is their Messiah too. Some teach that the American Indians are the 10 tribes; that is just made up. Some say Yeshua came for the lost tribes of Israel. That is a misquote. The context is about saving those who are sinning: "Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish;" Matthew 18:14 NKJV. God doesn't want anyone to go to the lake of fire for eternity; those are the lost.

Will we also pretend to be in control? Will we put worldly thinking and living over godly living (godly means to keep God's commandments). Do we think that our worldly thoughts and evaluations are better than doing things God's way? Watch what you think and rebuke the wrong thinking in your mind. Where did your thoughts originate? Are they proper spiritual thoughts or are they something you've been wrongly taught, imagined, or something we made a worldly commitment to? Are they something derived from an ungodly desire like lust, retribution, anger, fear, lack of trust in God, or a man-made philosophy?

*Are they proper Spiritual thoughts?*

What right things can you do?

- I will make my mind up to do what is "right and good" (Deuteronomy 6:18).
- I believe that God's commandments give us wisdom and understanding (Deuteronomy

4:6).

- I will love God by keeping His commandments ("Therefore you shall love the LORD your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always;" Deuteronomy 11:1 NKJV).
- I will trust in God by not making up misapplied man-made commandments. Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJV says, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

The Jews had made up thousands of misapplied man-made commandments in Yeshua's time; that's what a Judaizer is. Those who are saying that a Judaizer is someone who believes in God's commandments are liars. It is someone who makes up their own commandments. New Testament believers have made up their own man-made system of theology instead of following God. Some even say there are only two commandments, so making God's commandments of no effect. Yeshua was defending the commandments He gave at Mt. Sinai and said in Matthew 15:6-7 NKJV, "Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition. Hypocrites!" People say they follow God, but they don't. Yeshua called them hypocrites.

Yeshua also said, "And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men." Matthew 15:9 NKJV. Yeshua said their worship is in vain. Yeshua said in Matthew 7:23 NKJV, "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" In the context they were prophesying in God's name, so it is believers who are practicing lawlessness; they are not keeping God's commandments.

*Yeshua defended the law given at Mount Sinai.*

They don't follow God's Sabbath and feasts, nor His wisdom given in the Torah and the New Testament portion. Some say it doesn't matter. God says, "The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts;" Leviticus 23:2 NKJV. "On March 7, 321, however, Roman Emperor Constantine I issued a civil decree making Sunday a day of rest from labor, stating:

All judges and city people and the craftsmen shall rest upon **the venerable day of the sun**. Country people, however, may freely attend to the cultivation of the fields, because it frequently happens that no other days are better adapted for planting the grain in the furrows or the vines in trenches. So that the advantage given by heavenly providence may not for the occasion of a short time perish."<sup>2</sup>

Our Sabbath got changed to the day of the pagan Sun god, Sunday. That is what we inherited. Jeremiah 16:19 NKJV says, "The Gentiles shall come to You From the ends of the earth and say, 'Surely our fathers have inherited lies.'" So, when are the Gentiles going to wake up? Some will say, "Oh, that is just what you believe." Hello, what does the Bible say? What did Yeshua say?

*The Gentiles have inherited lies. When are they going to do something about it?*

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<sup>2</sup>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sabbath\\_in\\_Christianity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sabbath_in_Christianity)

We set our hearts on things so that God is not leading us much.

How can God lead us if we are resisting God's commandments. We are resisting God. It says in Leviticus, "You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD" (Yĕhōvâh); Leviticus 19:18 NKJV. Shaul quotes the gist of this scripture in Ephesians 4:32 NKJV, "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another." Leviticus said to forgive and love your neighbor. Shaul said to forgive and be kind and tenderhearted.

If we have decided not to forgive, then we are resisting God. If we are deciding not to be kind and tenderhearted, then we are resisting God. The Holy Spirit is in us if we believe in the Messiah, but if we are deciding to do things our way instead of God's way, how can the Holy Spirit be our helper?

Yeshua Hamashiach said in John 14:15-18 NKJV: "If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever — the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you."

*Yeshua is God and He gave us the commandments on Mount Sinai.*

First, we are to keep God's commandments. Then Yeshua the Messiah said He will give us another helper. The first helper that He gave us is the Torah. Yeshua said that the world does not receive the Holy Spirit because they are worldly. Don't continue to be a worldly person. God care about us and wants to help us.

Allow God to lead us in areas of our life that He wants us to be involved in. Trust in God and be at peace.

We are to grow up spiritually. Hebrews 5:14 NKJV says, "But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." We are to be thoughtful and apply God's commandments properly. Then we need to find out if there is something God wants us to do in addition to our normal routine. Perhaps it is nothing extra at this time or maybe God has something He wants us to do.

When people get open to the idea that God actually wants to use us in varying ways, God often begins inspiring us or speaking to us about serving in different ways. God does not want us to overburden ourselves, but often there is something more we can do. I am sometimes amazed at how believers can be with their time. Acts says they got together from house to house and ate together. They were using their time for God. Acts 2:46 NKJV says, "So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart." My experience is that most believers are not doing that.

*We always have to interpret the scriptures within their Jewish or Israeli context. All the writers of the Bible were Jewish.*

Of course, we need to understand that Jewish believers would eat together on Shabbat. We have always made it a point to make available eating together. Also, when the 3,000 people believed on the day of Shavuot they were automatically small group leaders. Those at the Temple on Shavuot were most likely believers who knew the Torah. That's right, believers observed the Torah. When they got together from house to house it was most likely on Shabbat, a day of rest. That's when they had the time to do that. Nowadays, most people don't rest on Shabbat, so they never have time to get together. Or maybe it is that they decide to be selfish with their time. I've talked to people like that. You will ask if they can do several different things and the answer is always no.

There is so much more I can say on this issue of finding out what God wants you to do. Try different things and see if God is speaking to you about any of these things. I have worked on churches, fed the poor, and have done short term missions to Europe and the Amazon. I have gone house to house and prayed for people. I have done street evangelism. I've gone to pray for people who were dying. You name it, there are so many things we can do with a little bit of our time.

This couple I knew helps the elderly. They put an ad in Craig's List and with a little bit of their time they helped them with things they needed done including cleaning. I think they just did it for a few hours on the weekend. I asked them if anyone receives the Messiah as they get to talk to them, and he said perhaps one or two people a year. They had been doing this for about 10 years as I recall. Even if only 9 people believed from all their contacts, how many of us can say we've helped that many people to know about God? Don't minimize what you can do. Even if it's just a little thing, our efforts will not be forgotten by God. Hebrews 6:10 NKJV says, "For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name." God will reward us in eternity and even in the present.

*Don't minimize what you can do.*

Get control of ourselves spiritually. Have substance to your spirituality.

Have you ever thought that your life was a little out of control? Well, you can do something about that. I've recognized things that I needed to change and have made a commitment to work on that. And, in the process, I think God blessed that effort; that is the only thing I can figure out because of the way it sometimes worked out. God can bless our efforts; He is God.

What is substance. Webster's defines substance as, "Ultimate reality that underlies all outward manifestations and change."<sup>3</sup> God and our spiritual life is the ultimate reality; all that we do is defined by the reality of God and living out that in our spiritual life.

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<sup>3</sup><https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/substance>

*God and spirituality are the ultimate reality.*

The Bible says we are to take our spiritual life seriously. Deuteronomy 6:5-7 NKJV says, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up." We are to be involved.

Sometimes I just don't catch onto to something right away. For example, Yĕhōvâh (the real name of God) is used in the Old Testament portion over 6,000 times. Wow, that's a lot. So, why are people saying we shouldn't use Yĕhōvâh's true name? It's just crazy isn't it; that's how deluded people can get. I just didn't get it for a long time too even though it should be evident. Again, to love God is to keep His commandments. 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." NKJV. It seems pretty plain. Our life is to have substance to it. God is big enough to let us know who He is and to help us live right. That's why doing things our own way instead of God's way is to reject God.

That's a dangerous thing to do. Shaul said in Galatians 5:19-21 NKJV that those who live in, "Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God." There is a limit to what God will accept as living without faith. Doing what God says is trusting in God. Do you trust in God? We can always get right with God, and He will forgive us.

*Following God's commandments is trusting in God.*

Some people need to hear about forgiveness. 1 John 1:9-10 NKJV says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us." If we confess our sins to God, He hears us because He is God, and we need to have faith that God has forgiven us. In Psalms 103:12-13 NKJV it says, "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him." If it says that God has forgiven us, He has forgiven us if we are truly sorry and commit not to doing it again. And if we sin again, He will forgive us if we are sorry and commit to being faithful to God.

God is the ultimate reality for living out our lives and not our own ideas, feelings, or any misapplied man-made commandment. 1 Peter 1:7-8 CJB says, "Even gold is tested for genuineness by fire. The purpose of these trials is so that your trust's genuineness, which is far more valuable than perishable gold, will be judged worthy of praise, glory and honor at the revealing of Yeshua the Messiah. Without having seen him, you love him. Without seeing him now, but trusting in him, you continue to be full of joy that is glorious beyond words." We saw that Yosef had some tough times but was rewarded for being faithful.

God says He will bless us for our efforts. Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you today; and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, Deuteronomy 11:26-28 NKJV.

*God can bless us supernaturally because He is God.*

When we don't follow Him, we are telling God we don't want those blessings and help. Yosef brought blessing on an entire region because He stood with God and used his prophetic gift from God. Unfortunately, those who turned away from God were not warned of the coming famine and suffered because of it. God though blessed an entire region through Yosef!

Don't be trapped by worldly thinking. For some reason, mankind thinks it has one up on God. They are mistaken. Don't resist God. Follow His commandments so that the Holy Spirit can better help you in life. God wants to use us for His purposes; be open to how you can serve God. Get control of our lives. God is the ultimate reality in life. God will bless us for our service. Trust in God.

**Now begins the teaching of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.  
This is part of the Devine Healing Prayer Class on our website.**

### **"Hearing" From God to Serve and Heal**

by Moshe Schwab

When praying for others we need to ask God for information, rely on the working of the Holy Spirit, and rely on the power of God. So, this is a good time to talk about the gifts or manifestations of the Holy Spirit and how we receive information from God.

All the gifts are important, but prophesy is especially important. Shaul (Paul) says it is **for edification**. 1 Corinthians 14:1,3 NKJV says, "Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. But he who prophesies speaks **edification and exhortation and comfort** to men." Often people think that the prophetic is all about foretelling, but that is not what the Bible says. It says that it is for edification, exhortation, and comfort.

Edification – to build up or establish (gives us confidence and helps us to follow God).

Exhortation – to urge strongly or to make an appeal (encouragement, an urging to follow God).

Comfort – to give strength or to console (gives us hope and peace).

Prophesy may be either forthtelling or foretelling.

**Forthtelling** – speaking forth (in this case it is a speaking forth to edify, exhort, and comfort)

Foretelling – speaking of future events

The Bible says that prophecy is mostly to edify, to exhort, or to give comfort. Although God may give people warnings at times, that is not the primary purpose of prophecy. **It is the pagan occult that is mostly concerned with fortune telling** or foretelling. God uses the prophetic to build us up, to encourage us, to give us hope and peace. God wants us to be

concerned with living the way He wants us to live and to follow His commandments. The prophetic is to help us do that. Occasionally, there may be a reason for someone to foretell.

### **God's gifts are for everyone.**

Acts 2:38-39 NKJV

"Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name Jesus Christ' [ Yeshua the Messiah] 'for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.'" As many a God will call; that includes us. Shaul lists a few of the ways the Holy Spirit works in us in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10. Remember, Jewish lists are partial lists. That is why Shaul lists other ways the Holy Spirit works; in Romans 12:4-8, Ephesians 4:11, and Galatians 5:22-23 (the fruit of the Holy Spirit are also obvious ways the Holy Spirit works in us). 1 Corinthians 12:5-7 CJB says, "There are different ways of serving, but it is the same Lord being served. And there are different modes of working, but it is the same God working them all in everyone. Moreover, **to each person** is given the particular manifestation of the Spirit that will be for the common good." It says that God is at work through the Holy Spirit and that "each person" can participate. Shaul refers to them as gifts from God in Ephesians 4:8 CJB, "He gave gifts to mankind."

Since these come from God, **they are not natural abilities**. In other words when it talks about wisdom, it is direction given by God. Shaul lists wisdom (wisdom is action), knowledge (information), faith, gifts of healing, miracles (which are supernatural events), prophecy, discerning spirits, speaking in tongues, and interpretation of tongues. We do them, but it is wisdom, knowledge, healing, tongues, etcetera from God, not from us. 1 Corinthians 12:11 CJB says, "One and the same Spirit is at work in all these things, distributing to **each person** as he chooses." It says that Holy Spirit is at work and notice again that God gives these gifts or manifestations of the Holy Spirit to each person. Shaul describes the believers as a body where each of us can take part. It says in Ephesians 4:16 CJB, "The whole body is being fitted and held together by the support of every joint, with each part working to fulfill its function; this is how the body grows and builds itself up in love."

### **The Spiritual Gifts of 1 Corinthians 12:8-10.**

There are more gifts, but we will just talk about the ones in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 for now.

Prophecy and interpretation of tongues are mostly for encouragement. 1 Corinthians 14:3 CJB says, "Prophesying is speaking to people, edifying, encouraging and comforting them." Shaul says that the supernatural interpretation of speaking in tongues is, "So that the congregation can be edified;" 1 Corinthians 14:5 CJB. Speaking in tongues and Interpretation is for edifying so the gift of interpretation is much like the edifying, encouragement, and comforting of Prophecy.

Speaking in tongues is for prayer, praise, and thanksgiving the Bible says. Shaul talking about speaking in tongues, "I will pray with my spirit;" 1 Corinthians 14:15 CJB. The context is about speaking in tongues although praying in the Spirit can also come from inspiration and prophecy. Speaking in tongues can be prayer and Shaul says that it is not understood and not

appropriate when believers come together unless it is interpreted supernaturally for the edification of others. A person can speak in tongues quietly while praying for others.

A good general rule when praying for others is not to do things that are distracting or for show. Speaking in tongues out loud when praying for someone can be distracting because the Bible says that is not usually understood. Shaul says to speak in our own language in 1 Corinthians 14:16. On the other hand, Shaul says, "Do not forbid speaking in tongues," in 1 Corinthians 14:39 CJB. Also, the Bible says that speaking in tongues can be praise to God and I should note that since it is prayer given by God, it is perfect prayer. Shaul quotes Isaiah and says that speaking in tongues gives us rest, probably meaning a quietness. Don't we all need that!

Also, we should understand that the Holy Spirit (the Ruach HaKodesh) and God's gifts are good. Who wouldn't want gifts from the God of the universe?

Luke 11:10-13 NKJV:

For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 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!"

Supernatural knowledge (information), wisdom (action), and the discerning of spirits is the impartation of God given information or how to act (what to do). The discerning of spirits tells us whether the Holy Spirit is present, or a devil spirit is present. It also tests the source of the information. Did it come from the Holy Spirit or just godly thinking? Is a devil spirit present or is someone having sinful thoughts? These three gifts of the Holy Spirit are sometimes called revelation gifts.

Inspiration is a form of these and is a moment-by-moment impartation of these three spiritual gifts. Revelation can even include a personal encounter with Yeshua as was the case for Shaul on the way to Damascus (Galatians 1).

Faith is the impartation of God given faith.

Miracles are extraordinary works of God.

Gifts of healing are imparted healings by God. Even though healings are called gifts, it has been my experience that God imparts healing liberally, but the healing is still up to God. We are to keep praying with expectation. Sometimes God will answer our prayers. We discussed this at length in other sections of our teaching on praying for others and divine healing.

## **How I believe the Holy Spirit may work (primary references, Assemblies of God, the Vineyard Movement)**

The prophets in the Old Testament heard from God. Exodus 12:6 NKJV says, "Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, make Myself known to him **in a vision**; I speak to him **in a dream**." Genesis 15:1 NKJV says, "After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, 'Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.'"

There were even schools of prophets. Perhaps we are having our own mini-series on hearing from God.

2 Kings 4:38-40 NKJV:

And Elisha returned to Gilgal, and there was a famine in the land. Now the sons of the prophets were sitting before him; and he said to his servant, "Put on the large pot, and boil stew for the sons of the prophets." So one went out into the field to gather herbs, and found a wild vine, and gathered from it a lapful of wild gourds, and came and sliced them into the pot of stew, though they did not know what they were. Then they served it to the men to eat. Now it happened, as they were eating the stew, that they cried out and said, "Man of God, there is death in the pot!" And they could not eat it.

**It says that when they tasted it, that is when God told them it was no good to eat. God uses our inner senses to speak to us, in this case taste.**

Shaul tells us that we are threefold people yet one. 1 Thessalonians 5:23 NKJV says, "May your whole **spirit, soul, and body** be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah." In the Hebrew, soul refers to life, what makes us alive. Referring to soul as some unembodied essence is a pagan concept. When Yeshua tells the story about the man gaining the world, but losing his soul, Yeshua is talking about the man's life. If you have lots of stuff, but die, it doesn't do you any good. There is a double meaning to this though. If you focus on worldly things and neglect spiritual things, you may be in for a rude awakening when God judges the world.

Shaul talks of the inner man. This is probably where the Holy Spirit works, in the spirit of man. The spirit of man is simply what makes a person a person. It's our inside person. Ephesians 3:16 NKJV says, "That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man."

Perhaps the reason Shaul refers to our inner man being strengthened by the Holy Spirit is because that is how the Holy Spirit works. **We see examples of this in the Bible by God revealing things to us through visions and our other senses; we could say that it is through the "inner person."** These visions are in our mind, or we hear God speak in our mind etcetera.

## **We know from the scriptures that we receive words from God (revelation) through:**

Seeing or visions – Genesis 15:1; there are lots of examples in the Bible.

Hearing – 1 Samuel 3:10; there are lots of examples in Bible.

Smelling – during worship at times I've smelled a sweet floral smell. I think God is telling me that He's pleased—it's encouraging. There are good smells and bad smells. In Matthew 10:1, the reference to unclean spirits (devil spirits) possibly has to do with a bad smell.

Tasting – Years ago I think I made some bad wine. As soon as I put the glass to my mouth, I experienced a bad taste, and I felt a paralysis. I thought God was telling me not to drink it; in Mark 16:17-18 it talks about food not poisoning us. Before we eat or drink something bad, God can tell us if it is bad. In 2 Kings 4:40 NKJV, the prophets said, "There is death in the pot!" God was informing them by tasting.

Touch – Sometimes I've felt the pain of the other person; ask the person if they are having pain somewhere and then pray appropriately. I've learned to identify a general area of the body to test whether I'm hearing from God right (Are you experiencing some pain? Is your shoulder sore?). If you get too specific, you risk having the person's faith drop if you are a little off.

Feeling – God can tell us how another person is feeling emotionally; do not confuse this with empathy. Don't manufacture empathy either and think it is a word from God. **We don't know what other people are thinking.**

Knowing – God often gives us a knowing so that we understand a vision or word; often God will give us the same visions over and over and it builds our spiritual vocabulary. For example, when I see a vision of a flower, I often associate that with praying for the other person to glorify God, namely, the keep God's commandments.

If God gives us a vision or a word, we should believe God for the understanding. If we don't understand, ask God for more revelation to help you understand.

Understanding – God gives the person receiving the word or vision the internal understanding. Also, God can help us understand situations; He will tell us what to do and even give us understanding in the moment. Luke 12:11-12 NKJV says, "Now when they bring you to the synagogues and magistrates and authorities, do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say. For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say."

Physical phenomena may accompany words. For example, the hand writing on the wall in Daniel.

Inspiration – God tells us something in the moment and we speak it or do it without thought. For example, an inspirational prayer, or when Kefa (Peter) lifted up the lame man by the

hand by inspiration in Acts. Miryam (Mary) and Elizabeth both had inspirational prophecy when they met each other.

Prayer can be inspirational words from God sometimes. Some people have learned to give inspired prayers that are from God. This is like some forms of inspired prophecy. They speak the thought that God gives them in the form of a prayer.

\*This knowledge and wisdom that we receive from God we call words from God because **they are God given information.**

**\*They are not gut feelings or personal insight.**

\*We don't give people good advice and say it was from God – that is **wrong.**

\*We are to test what is said. People can make mistakes in their understanding. 1 Thessalonians 5:20-21 NKJV says, "Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good."

\*Often, God first expects us to use our heads first, gather information, and make good decisions.

\*After we pray for someone, don't start giving them advice unless it is absolutely necessary.

\*Pray for what they asked for prayer first, then you can ask God if there is anything else that should be prayed for.

**Some gifts are occasional.** We can all operate in any of the gifts/manifestations at various times.

**Some gifts are constitutional.** We may have a specific gift that is with us all the time. **Yeshua had all the gifts in operation any time He wanted.**

Revelation (knowledge, etcetera) often takes place internally when we are awake. Kefa became hungry (taste). I think God was telling Him that God wanted the Gentiles to receive the Messiah. At least that is what he came to understand. These were Gentile believers and not idolaters. Also, he had a vision, and he heard God talk to him (see Acts 10:10-20).

God was not telling Kefa (Peter) that it is okay to eat just anything. There were people who were making up inappropriate laws from the Torah that kept the Gentiles outside the circle of believers. God was using Kefa to correct the problem. In Exodus 34 it is warning Israel not to form close relationships with idolaters. The Gentiles in Acts 10 were not idolaters and God wanted Gentiles to also believe in the Messiah. That was the issue. Exodus 34:16 CJB says, "Do not make a covenant with the people living in the land. It will cause you to go astray after their gods and sacrifice to their gods." Some in Kefa's time were inappropriately saying they were not to associate with Gentiles at all.

The revelation gifts can also take place in dreams.

Joseph, the wife of Mary had dreams (see Matthew 1:20) and the Magi had dreams (see Matthew 2:12). Acts 2:17 NKJV says, "And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see **visions**, your old men shall dream **dreams**."

The revelation gifts occur in the inner man, but occasionally may occur physically in an outward vision or voice.

The heavens were opened to Yeshua (see Matthew 3:16-17). Philip saw Yeshua standing at the right hand of God (see Acts 7:56). The people around Yeshua also heard an audible voice (see John 12:28). Elisha prayed for the young man's eyes to be opened and he saw the mountain full of horses and chariots (see 2 Kings 6:17). The writing on the wall in Daniel remained there because the king asked people to interpret what was written (see Daniel 5:5). It says the ten commandments were written by the hand of God in Deuteronomy 33:2.

God leads us and will use us if we are willing to take the risk. **The gifts are not automatic. We must pursue them.** Sometimes God will have something for us and at other times not. You will not receive anything if you don't ask. You can ask God for a word and God chooses whether to give you a word of revelation or not. 1 Corinthians 14:1 CJB says, "Pursue love! However, **keep on eagerly seeking the things of the Spirit; and especially seek to be able to prophesy.**"

Also, what we receive from God will not contradict the Bible. That is also important to understand. Are you hearing from God, are they your own thoughts, or is the devil tempting you?

What we receive for others should be given in a caring considerate way. Help others to save face so they don't fall into condemnation. Galatians 6:1 CJB says, "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." Sometimes even the mention of a fault will help a person to self-correct. For example, "Are you having trouble with feeling down at times?" They many say no, but they may realize that they need to start resisting the devil and not keep going over and over those thoughts that are troubling them. **Also, Don't be harsh or accusative.** "

When we pray for someone, we should first ask them what they want prayer for and then pray for that. We can also ask God what to pray for. God can use us to bring about life changing moments and much needed encouragement. God can use us to heal others by the power of God. Remember, it is God that does the healing; we cannot heal anyone supernaturally; it is God that it is at work. God's gifts are not natural abilities.

The typical model that Yeshua used was to lay your hand respectfully on the person that needs prayer. Laying your hand on their head (usually a hand is laid on the head) associates you with who you are praying for, but it is not our hand or us that is imparting the power. It is the power of God. Acts 4:29-30 NKJV says, "Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal." As we lay hands on others, God uses us to impart His power.