



#8 Vayishlach – Genesis 32:3-36:43
Torah Teaching
by Moshe Schwab

Names

Esav (ěšāv)– 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

Yěhōváh – 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

Vayishlach - 8th Torah portion

The parashah for this week is Vayishlach which means and he sent. This portion begins with Ya'akov letting his brother Esau know that he is coming back home to Canaan and would like the favor of his brother. Ya'akov's messengers return and tell Ya'akov that Esau is coming to meet him with 400 men.

I would like to begin today by talking about applying yourself to the work of God. God sees us, nothing is hid to God. We often think of doing work for God as the extra things we do in life spiritually. God wants us to find out what he wants us to do with our lives spiritually. That involves asking God and get involved doing things for God. This one person I knew kept seeking God and asking him what he should do. God told him, "Do something." As we get involved doing different things, we can sometimes find something to do that is a good fit for us.

In the past, I have done whatever I could do to serve God from sweeping floors to standing on street corners to talk to people about God. I have fed the poor, did volunteer work with children, worked on church buildings, did prayer ministry and other things. The opportunities are endless.

What some people do not understand is that doing the work of God is primarily how we keep God's commandments. We are to live our lives around the commandments and values that God has given us in the Bible. Most specifically, we are to keep God's commandments in the Old Testament portion. Yeshua told us that He will reject those who do not keep the law. There was no New Testament at the time He said this.

Matthew 7:21-23 NKJV

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!'

Yeshua is obviously talking about believers who are not keeping the Old Testament laws. Yeshua said that if we keep His words, we will be set free. Yeshua said in John 8:31-32 NKJV, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." One of the things we can be set free from are the lies of pagan Christianity.

Our faith was taken over by the Roman Empire and they created their own text of the Bible.

The Roman Empire changed the day of rest to the day of the Sun god.

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.¹

They made Sunday the pagan day of the sun god a day of rest. They then made it illegal to keep God's feasts. That is right, they are God's feasts. Leviticus 23:2 NKJV says, "The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts."

We now know the Greek manuscripts were tampered with by heretics so we need to be careful how we understand them. If you interpret the New Testament wrong and to mean the law has been done away with, then you are believing in the lies that have been passed down to us from the Roman Empire.

In James 1:25 in the Hebrew it says we are to keep the Torah of the Examiner. Who is the judge over all the earth – God, He is the Examiner. In the Greek it says law of liberty. That is a big difference! The early believers in the Messiah kept God's commandments because that is what Yeshua taught. The Hebrew tells us to keep God's commandments just as Yeshua tells us, the Greek excuses us from keeping God's commandments.

The Hebrew John 1:1 says that the Son (namely Yeshua) is God. The Hebrew is straightforward. Yeshua is God. The Greek John starts out with in the beginning was the word. This has its roots in pagan thought.

Greek philosophy is thought to be, "The underlying form of belief systems, cultural values, and legal codes all around the world as it as largely contributed to their development."² In the 1st century, it was "a philosophical and rhetorical movement."³ The words of a sophist (namely, the ancient lecturer of thought) was valued and even paid for. So, the Greek manuscripts were changed to allude to the words of the sophist being in the beginning. It

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sabbath_in_Christianity

² https://www.worldhistory.org/Greek_Philosophy/

³ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sophist>

clearly has its roots in pagan philosophy.

Another example is that the Greek manuscript of John 1:11 says that Yeshua came to the Jews, and they rejected Him. In the Hebrew John it says Yeshua came to the world and the world rejected Yeshua. This is an obvious ploy to make the Jews look bad. The Roman historian, Publius Cornelius Tacitus, said the Romans put Yeshua to death. Yeshua said the Gentiles would put him to death. King Herod was appointed by the Romans, and the Chief Priest was a Roman appointee. So, the Roman leadership put Yeshua to death and not the Jews. Also, we have historical records of Pilate's character, and he was despicable and notoriously evil. There is no reason to believe that the story about this forgiving Pilate to be true.

So, the Greek manuscripts were obviously tampered with to turn the story around from the Romans putting Yeshua to death to the Jews. We must understand that the writings of Paul were also tampered with. For example, the Greek Galatians 3:10 seems to say that the Torah is a curse. We know that Paul is quoting from the Torah which says in Deuteronomy 27:26 NKJV, "Cursed is the one who does not confirm all the words of this law by observing them." The law is not cursed! Those who do not keep God's commandments are cursed.

Most honest Jewish rabbis believe Yeshua kept the Torah and taught that we should keep God's commandments. Matthew 5:17 NKJV says, "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets." Of course, because Christianity has been taught a different doctrine, they immediately reject what Yeshua said.

Much of Christianity does not follow the Messiah Yeshua, but their own made up religion. We owe much of modern Christianity to Martin Luther and the pagan doctrine passed down to us from the Roman Empire. Luther taught that we are to have faith and it did not matter if we sinned. Martin Luther said, "Be a sinner, and let your sins be strong [or sin boldly], but let your trust in Christ be stronger, and rejoice in Christ who is the victor over sin, death, and the world."⁴ His false doctrine of faith without following God is clear in his own words.

In recent portions, we have read the stories about some of God's champions. They kept God's commandments and listened to His voice. People like Noah, Abraham, and Jacob. Genesis 6:9 NKJV says, "Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God." Noah was a tzadik צדיק it says in the Hebrew, he did what was right. Those that do what is right keep God's commandments. Much of Christianity views the early believers as not knowing what is right or wrong.

God Himself said that Abraham kept God's commandments. Genesis 26:5 NKJV says, "Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws." He had faith and demonstrated it by keeping God's commandments. This scripture is specific and clear. Abraham kept God's commandments and that is what made him righteous. Those that do not live like they believe are going to the lake of fire for eternity. Revelation 21:8 NKJV says, "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

⁴ <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/did-luther-really-tell-us-to-love-god-and-sin-boldly/>

brimstone."

Since we are in a Messianic age, shouldn't it be an exceptional era? Shouldn't we be keeping God's commandments diligently and even better now that we have the Holy Spirit? We should also be hearing from God. I have personally experienced God at work, but often believers treat God as though He is distant and aloof from our lives. I refuse to believe that about God. Shaul said about God in Acts 17:27 NKJV, "He is not far from each one of us."

We love celebrating so God gave us His days to celebrate. Is it so hard to believe that God's feasts are to be kept and not the modifications to God's word that some teach? Again, Leviticus 23:2 NKJV says, "The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts." So, if you are not keeping God's feasts as described in the Old Testament portion, then you are deliberately disobeying God and Yeshua.

Why not celebrate what God told us to celebrate! It seems so ridiculous to me to hang on to man-made doctrine because we like it. Yeshua said that He does not know those who do not keep the law. Shouldn't you change your mind and do things God's way?

There is a way to live that pleases God. People often want to do things their way and that always seems to be a temptation for people. God knows what is best because He is God. God wants to help mankind, but people refuse to do what He says. I have told people that the feasts in the Bible are God's feasts and they get angry.

They are not rejecting me, but God. Hosea 7:13 NKJV says, "Woe to them, for they have fled from Me! Destruction to them, because they have transgressed against Me! Though I redeemed them, yet they have spoken lies against Me." You do not have to stand before me at judgement time. You will stand before God. Revelation 20:13 NKJV says, "They were judged, each one according to his works." If you think your salvation is based only on your faith, you are wrong. Keep God's commandments.

We view things in life as we proceed in life. We have a choice in life how we live. Will we live in darkness or in light, understanding, and truth. Yeshua taught that we are to keep the law. Are you a follower of the Messiah Yeshua or are you going to follow some made up theology? Do you want to be set free from pagan religion and begin following God? Psalms 27:1 NKJV says, "The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" Why is God our salvation? It is because He has given us His good commandments. His commandments give us wisdom and understanding (see Deuteronomy 4:6). His commandments are "right and good" (see Deuteronomy 6:17-18). You love God by keeping His commandments (see Deuteronomy 11:1).

Some people see Psalm 27:1 quoted in the New Testament portion and believe they are okay with God no matter what. What did Shaul teach? Those who live in sin will not be in God's kingdom. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 NKJV says, "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God." Do not be deceived. Keep God's

feasts and stop following pagan Christianity. Learn and keep all of God's commandments. If something seems to be saying we are not to keep God's commandments, it is either a problem with our understanding or the manuscript could have been tampered with.

Sometimes we need to review some things; repetition helps us to learn. God's ways are not complicated and don't require tedious work. People are often told that the Old Testament portion doesn't apply to us or is too difficult to keep. The Bible clearly says that God's commandments in the Old Testament portion give us 'wisdom and understanding' and are not difficult to keep.⁵

If God's commandments give us wisdom and understanding then they are a blessing of God's grace, His favor. In essence these naysayers are saying that God does not give us good things; so they are saying no to God and telling others to believe in them rather than God. The people who say God's Old Testament commandments do not apply any more are wrong.

Then there are those who say the Old Testament commandments are too hard to keep. The Bible says the opposite: "For this mitzvah which I am giving you today is not too hard for you, it is not beyond your reach; Deuteronomy 30:11 CJB. Isn't that something; people will do anything to make up their own god.

Look at what it says in Proverbs 8:6-11 NKJV:

Listen, for I will speak of excellent things,
 And from the opening of my lips will come right things;
 7 For my mouth will speak truth;
 Wickedness is an abomination to my lips.
 8 All the words of my mouth are with righteousness;
 Nothing crooked or perverse is in them.
 9 They are all plain to him who understands,
 And right to those who find knowledge.
 10 Receive my instruction, and not silver,
 And knowledge rather than choice gold;
 11 For wisdom is better than rubies,
 And all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her.

God's commandments in the Old Testament are better than rubies and are truth it says. I want what God wants for me no matter what these so-called believers say about God's commandments. Are they really believers if they do not keep God's commandments?

Get tuned into God so that you follow God's commandments and hear God speaking to you. Find out what commandments are applicable and do them. Some of them have to do with the sacrificial law which the Messiah Yeshua replaced. Hebrews 9:28 NKJV tells us the Messiah (Christ) gave himself for our sins; the old system of sacrifice is done away: "So Christ was

⁵ Deuteronomy 4:5-6 NKJV says, "Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should act according to them in the land which you go to possess. Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'"

offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation."

Also, don't be like some believers and deny the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 14:1 NKJV says, "Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy." Some say God does not speak any more. To them we have a god of stone or wood; that is not true. Shaul says, "Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil;" 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22 NKJV. We test the prophecies and hold onto the good.

Go to our Divine Healing class online and learn more about the Holy Spirit.

<https://www.teshuvahsa.org/prayer-class>

I will append Part 2 of the class to this teaching for your convenience.

Doing what is right brings blessing. In contrast, doing what is wrong is like fitting a round peg in a square hole. It might seem things work out at times, but a carpenter will tell you for a strong chair, you need the right fit; the peg must fit in the hole without wiggling or the glue will loosen up and the person sitting in the chair will end up on the floor. Proverbs 10:29 NKJV says, "The way of the LORD is strength for the upright, but destruction will come to the workers of iniquity." The person sitting in the wobbly chair will be in for nasty surprise and so will those who live in sin.

Knowing how to live right brings to bear the right attitudes and actions for all we do in life. I remember this person being frustrated with me because I had a simple view of life; namely, we should do what God says is right. Somehow, he couldn't commit to do what was right. It seemed that because he made mistakes, he couldn't accept the idea that we should commit ourselves to do what is right. Then false teachers come along and say things like you are not perfect so don't worry about it.

It seemed like this guy was saying to me that Christianity does not call you to do what is right. Ephesians 4:1 NKJV says. "I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called." How are we to be worthy? We walk worthy not on our terms, but God's terms. He is God and we are not. Galatians 5:19-21 NKJV says, "Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: 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. " The people who continue to live in sin will not be in the future kingdom of God the Bible says.

Some explain these verses away and say that these verses don't apply to them. Shaul says, **"Those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."** If you are explaining away these scriptures, you are deceived. The early leaders all told us to keep God's commandments. Shaul says in Romans 3:31 NKJV, "Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not!"

The Bible tells us the whole duty of mankind. After Ecclesiastes tells us about all the vain things people do, it concludes in Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 NKJV, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil." You can not hide from God, you cannot justify your worthless deeds and acts of unbelief. Abraham believed God by keeping God's commandments. Genesis 26:5 NKJV says, "Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws." Won't you also be a person of faith in the true God and keep God's commandments.

Torah Teaching

The prophets, probably Nehemiah, divided the Torah into weekly readings. These people did things that God commanded them to do. Our weekly readings help us to concentrate on these different sections and learn from them. Remember, God's word gives us wisdom; so let's learn and grow in God's word. The word Torah means instruction.

After Ya'akov leaves the land of his ancestors with his wife and family and approaches where he grew up, he sends ahead a message to Esau (esav, ěšäv), his brother, that he is coming home. He sends gifts for his brother ahead of him and Esau receives Jacob favorably. Ya'akov wrestles with an angel who names him Israel and he identifies the angel as God (Elohim) and that he has seen God's face.

Wikipedia says that Ya'akov is a shortened ancient name meaning, "may God protect." The same article says that Israel could be translated as God rules.⁶ This sounds like a possibility based on the story of Ya'akov. God does demonstrate His ability to rule and reign, and He protects Ya'akov. That point seems interesting. Ya'akov has everyone in his camp get rid of their idols and God confirms his promised blessings to Ya'akov. Both Rachel and Yitzchak die. Yitzchak was 180 years old when he died.

Esau's descendants settled in the land of Edom which is south of Israel. *Edom* means red. It is apparent that God has blessed and protected Ya'akov. It says that he was rich when he lived in the land of his ancestors while working for Laban and he sends Esau many gifts apparently to try and placate any anger that Esau may have held onto because Esau wanted the blessing that Yitzchak gave to Ya'akov.

It should be apparent that Ya'akov was blessed by God both materially and spiritually. He had a relationship with God and wanted to do what is right. Amazing blessings can come from our creator God. Ya'akov seems not to care about all that he is sending to Esau. He saw how God prospered him and blessed him when he worked for Laban. We should probably understand that he trusted in God; especially since he had gone through so much with greedy Laban who changed his wages 10 times to try to defraud him. Jacob and Esau end up greeting one another and agree to live in peace.

There is a standard Jewish teaching about the lesson of Ya'akov that has to do with, we doing our part and God doing His part. I learned about this as a child. It makes sense that we need to act and trust in God. Just sitting around waiting for something to happen is not really

⁶<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacob>

trusting in God. Not acting is actually not believing. When God asked me to go to the jungle to serve there, I immediately began investigating how I could do that. Doing nothing would have meant I didn't trust God. Ya'akov acts like God will prosper him in being generous towards Esau.

Ya'akov seems confident in God. Too bad mankind isn't also confident in God. The Bible says, "Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the Lord my God commanded me, that you should act according to them in the land which you go to possess. Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people;'" Deuteronomy 4:5-6 NKJV.

God's ways are wise and good, but mankind seems to want to do things their own way. The lesson of trusting in God and believing in God and His commandments is a lesson that we learn over and over when reading the Torah or for that matter, any of the Old Testament portion books. But instead of trusting God, people add to God's commandments inappropriately. Also, some people take the scriptures out of their Jewish context and change their meaning. The biggest problem we have in our time are those who take the New Testament portion or the Old Testament portion out of its Jewish biblical context and don't understand the Bible properly.

God's ways are wise and good.

Kefa talks about how people are deluded and going to the lake of fire because they do not understand Paul properly. 2 Peter 3:15-16 NKJV 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." There was no New Testament so what were they untaught in? We are to keep the Old Testament scriptures. They were twisting what Shaul taught and contradicting the Old Testament scriptures.

They were taking Shaul's teachings out of its proper biblical context. Don't go to the lake of fire with those who do that. Both Kefa and Shaul were Jewish. The ancient Jews believed in and taught that there is a future kingdom of God for those who follow God, and a lake of fire where those who do evil will be punished. God is just, so He must act in a just way. Some have been lied to about this important understanding. Even some Jewish rabbis have lost touch with their ancient truths. Of course, they need to also believe in their Messiah Yeshua and receive the Holy Spirit (see Acts 2:38-39).

Rabbi Kefa talked about people twisting the Bible and just before this he says in 2 Peter 2:4-7 NKJV, "For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly." Rabbi Kefa says there is a future judgment. Noah taught people to do

what is right; to keep God's commandments. That's what righteousness means. Noah was saved because he did what was right. We are to live godly lives by God's standards and not our own.

The book of Jubilees tells us that Noah taught God's commandments so he knew them. Jubilees 7:20-21 says, "And in the twenty-eighth jubilee Noah began to enjoin upon his sons' sons the ordinances and commandments, and all the judgments that he knew, and he exhorted his sons to observe righteousness, and to cover the shame of their flesh, and to bless their Creator, and honour father and mother, and love their neighbour, and guard their souls from fornication and uncleanness **and all iniquity**. For owing to these three things came the flood upon the earth."⁷ Remember, short lists can be representative for larger lists; they are not a complete list. **It says "all iniquity;"** what is "all iniquity?" It is any and all sins.

Noah taught God's commandments.

The portion continues after Ya'akov and Esau work things out. Ya'akov settles near the city of Shechem in Canaan. Dinah, Ya'akov's daughter, is raped and her brothers make an agreement that if the men of the city get circumcised, they will give them Dinah and form an agreement with them. When the men of the city are in pain Dinah's brothers kill the men of the city. What we are not told is that in the book of Jasher, the people of Shechem planned to attack Ya'akov and his family after they recovered and that the brothers became aware of the plan.

God then tells Ya'akov to move away from there and go to Bethel and God promises Ya'akov and his ancestry the land of Canaan and tells Ya'akov that his name is now Israel. Ya'akov goes on past the tower of Eder which is thought to be near Bethlehem. Rachel dies in childbirth on the way there. Isaac then dies at the age of 180. The genealogy of Esau is then given. Esau and his descendants then lived south of Israel in the land of Edom.

In the book of Jasher, Ya'akov offers Esau the land of Canaan or all the belongings of Isaac and the animals. At the time, the Canaanites were in the land still of Canaan and Esau took the belongings of Isaac. The decision of Ya'akov was most likely influenced by his encounter with God at Bethel where God promised Ya'akov the land of Canaan. Ya'akov, now named Israel, must have believed God's promise so he was happy with what God promised. May we too be happy with God's promises in our own lives and God's promise of eternal life to those who keep His commandments.

The Haftarah for Vayishlach is Obadiah 1:1-21. This prophecy is over Edom (Esau's descendants) for rejoicing over the misfortune of Judah. Edom stole from Judah and turned over those who were fleeing the Babylonians. God says He will bring on them what they did to Judah. We should be especially careful how we treat others. God can turn the tables on us too if we don't treat people right. In the Torah portion God turned the tables on Laban for trying to cheat Ya'akov.

⁷<https://www.sacred-texts.com/bib/jub/jub21.htm>

In Closing

God works out everything for Ya'akov. It is really amazing. It seems like Ya'akov is in trouble at times, but everything just keeps working out for him. Shaul tells us in Romans that God is able to work out everything; perhaps He was thinking of Ya'akov, but most certainly, God is in control and even if things don't seem to work out at times, our good God can restore us even as He has done so for believers in the past. God is good and His commandments are good. God has good intentions for us, so stay faithful and don't be tricked by people who don't understand the Bible properly. God is for us just like God was for Ya'akov. Shaul says in Romans 8:31 NKJV, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" If we do our part, God will do His part. If we keep His commandments and believe on the Messiah Yeshua, we will be with God for eternity.

In the Torah portion for today, everything has worked out for Ya'akov. He is able to return home and bring his family with him and he makes peace with Esau. Esau was clearly in the wrong and in the last portion, we saw that he was willing to commit murder. Ya'akov trusted in God and in God's ability to supply his needs, prosper him, and protect him. Like believers before Ya'akov, he had a relationship with God and God guided him. People sometimes think that God is far from us and our lives, but the Bible shows us otherwise. Because of that, believers in God make this world a better place for all and bring God's goodness with us. We can rely on God just as Ya'akov did.

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

God may hear our prayers, so it is important to pray. Genesis 32:9-12

Murder is wrong even if we think it is justified. There may have been a better response to the rape of Dinah than to attack the town. The penalty for rape in the Bible is death and the town made no appropriate response to the rape of Dinah (see Deuteronomy 22:25-27) and was perhaps complicit because of that. Ya'akov believed the actions of the brothers were wrong. The book of Jasher complicates the matter with the town's plot to eventually kill Ya'akov and his family. I believe God must have told Ya'akov that what they did was wrong because of his response to the brothers. Genesis 34:30-31

God's promises are faithful. In turn, we must be faithful to God. Ya'akov returned to the land of Canaan based on God's promise and God changes his name to Israel and again promises him the land of Canaan. Genesis 35:9-14

Prayer Ministry and Divine Healing Class – Part 2

By Moshe Schwab

Praying with Wisdom

Introduction

Just like anything in life, we need to know how to accomplish the task well. The same is true for prayer. It seems every denomination has its own way of praying or perhaps we've copied

how others pray when we learned how to pray. So, we've all probably learned different ways to pray. What is a good and biblical way to pray for others?

One model I've heard of is where we beg God. That is what I've heard some people do over and over. The Bible tells us to come before God boldly. "Therefore, let us confidently approach the throne from which God gives grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace in our time of need;" Hebrews 4:16 CJB.

Then there is the maybe model where we explain away God's power while we are praying. Yeshua (Jesus) said, "All things are possible to him who believes;" Mark 9:23 NKJV. While it is true that it is up to God whether He will answer our prayer, Yeshua encourages us to have faith in God's ability to heal. He is God and can do all things, even amazing things. Avoid this model; just boldly ask God for healing.

One of the models that was expected of me was to ask God what to pray for and then pray for the person without asking them anything. I'm not kidding. I had no idea if what I was praying for was what they wanted prayer for. I just had to trust God. Since then I've found a model that is sensitive, appropriate, and elevates the faith of both myself and the person I'm praying for. I would like to give credit to Rick Evans of the Vineyard Churches for introducing me to this method. My content does not necessarily agree in entirety with their method of prayer ministry.

It is not a formula, but a model for prayer.

- 1) We ask what they need prayer for
- 2) We decide what to pray for
- 3) We decide on the type of prayers
- 4) Then comes the actual prayer time
- 5) Then after the prayer

Ask – decide – type – pray – after ADTPA - security (ADT) through the Father (PA)
Or you could use the word Ad(a)tpa; sounds like adapt. It's actually a very simple and sensible model.

When I was younger I thought that if I prayed enough, maybe God would hear my prayers. In my 20s, I learned this way of praying for people where people would just come up and I'd pray for them and there wouldn't be any dialogue. In some circles you're expected to fall over or have some type of experience – I wasn't involved with that. The prayer model I am sharing with you is intended to help us to a good job when praying for others. This model isn't a formula for God to answer prayer. We ask God to do things, to come (for His presence), and to do what He wants to do.

Yeshua (Jesus) talks about a woman that comes to a judge and keeps bugging him. The judge hears her because she keeps coming to him. It doesn't suggest there are any special works involved. Perhaps we are to just keep on praying, to pray earnestly like it says in James 5: 16 NKJV, "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

The woman that keeps coming to the judge is in Luke 18:2-5 NKJV, "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.' And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.'"

So according to Yeshua (Jesus), we just keep coming to God in prayer and asking Him for healing or for whatever we need an answer to. It's not the same as the PUSH formula where we "pray until something happens." PUSH is not a bad formula, but is not all there is to prayer. It carries with it the idea that we have to do it. We can't heal; only God can heal. This formula can become about us rather than God. Still, Yeshua tells us to keep on praying in the story of the judge.

We actually want to focus on what God is going to do rather than on what we are doing. Like the girl in the jungle whose back and shoulder was healed when I prayed for her, I realized that I didn't have anything to do with it. I just said some simple prayers and God decided to heal her.

In the model I am sharing with you, we ask people what they need prayer for. We access the cause and pick an appropriate prayer – and pray what they requested prayer for. We also ask God what to pray for and ask the person before we start praying if what we are hearing from God is relevant. We might say something like, are you struggling with something right now? Perhaps God told us they were having trouble at work. Keep your questions simple. You can always add a prayer for work during your prayer time.

I remember praying for this really short young boy for basketball. It would have been nice to know that he wanted prayer for that. I could have said, "Are you working on a particular sport right now?" If he answered yes, then that's what God wanted me to pray for. Your faith and the other persons faith will be built up.

While we pray, we should look to see is anything is going on. If we don't see anything apparent, we could ask if they are experiencing something or feeling anything. "Is God doing anything; are you feeling anything?" We should ask if the person got healed – I find it raises expectation when we do that. If they are feeling something, I'll bless that and ask God for more (of His presence). If nothing happened, sometimes I'll ask if I can pray one more time.

In some circles, people are expected to experience something or fall over, what does that do for the person that doesn't experience anything? They may feel disappointed or wonder if there is something wrong with them. During prayer, people may experience something or not. I thought that falling down was weird, yet God can do that if He wants to. When the guy that I blessed in the jungle fell backwards it wasn't because he was told about it. These people knew almost nothing about God. We were way deep in the jungle.

When they came to arrest Yeshua, it says they fell down. "He said to them, "I AM." Also standing with them was Y'hudah, the one who was betraying him. When he said, "I AM,"

they went backward from him and fell to the ground;" John 18:5-6 CJB. In some churches they draw a line where you stand so you can get caught. It turns out to be a lot of show. We're not looking for show; we are looking for God to act. We want to get away from the religious and the fake and have a real encounter with God. If I see someone is being overcome by the presence of God while I am praying for them, I have them sit or lay down.

Through dialog we can see if we are hearing from God right. Like I've said before, it is a good idea to use words like "I think God is telling me that" It is often good to begin with a general statement when you hear something from God like, "Are you dealing with stress," or "I think God is telling me you need healing." Also, be courteous and gentle and not accusative. The Bible tells us to be humble. "Set him right, but in a spirit of humility;" Galatians 6:1 CJB. Don't project a superior attitude, be accusative, or overbearing.

A probable dialog could go like this. I think God is telling me that He wants to use you musically. Is that meaningful to you? No, I'm not inclined musically. Possibly, God is telling me that is something He wants to begin working in you. Could we pray for that to be birthed in you anyway? Pray for what they want first.

Just think about how encouraging it would be if we had a conversation like this:
I think God is telling me that you are having some pain issues. Are you having any issues with pain? And, the answer was yes; they say they've been having some annoying pain in their shoulder and it's limiting their ability to get work done. "Let's pray for that." That kind of interaction can lift your faith.

Note: sometimes people deny things because they are embarrassed. Just leave it go. Sometimes mentioning something helps them to do something about it. Don't embarrass people; it will not help them.

"Let everyone see how reasonable and gentle you are;" Philippians 4:5 CJB.

We are not trying to develop a formula, but a flexible model where we bring the focus on God to bear on what needs to be prayed for. We want to encounter God and get rid of the fluff, the extra unneeded stuff. We want to have a sensible and encouraging time of prayer.

Steps

1 Ask what they need prayer for – be welcoming; have loving eyes.

It's simply asking people what they need prayer for. Yeshua asked the man who was sick for 38 years if he wanted to be made well. I'm sure He didn't have to ask the man. John 5:5-8 CJB says, "One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. Yeshua, seeing this man and knowing that he had been there a long time, said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" The sick man answered, "I have no one to put me in the pool when the water is disturbed; and while I'm trying to get there, someone goes in ahead of me." Yeshua said to him, "Get up, pick up your mat and walk!" The man was healed and he didn't even know who Yeshua was! John 5:13 CJB says, " But the man who had been healed didn't know who it was." Like I've said, God can do what He wants. That takes the pressure off of us.

When you ask people what they want prayer for, you are trying to determine the need for

healing in four categories: 1) The Physical 2) The Emotional 3) The Mental or 4) The Spiritual

If someone hurt their ankle it's a physical thing (see my article on "The Four Primary Areas of Healing"). It could be any of the four categories. Perhaps they are dealing with emotional stress or they may have a problem thinking clearly. They could be dealing with sin issues. Because of my background, sometimes I'll forget to ask people what they want prayer for. I prayed for this girl and then asked her what she wanted prayer for – she responded with what I had just prayed for. I prayed for her again and I used her words; I wondered where she was when I was praying the first time I prayed (the Holy Spirit can inform you, but still ask what they want prayer for). Yeshua probably knew that the guy who was sick for 38 years wanted to be healed, but He dialoged with him.

Again, we pray for what people want prayer for. I remember when I first started using this model, I would ask God what to pray for and He'd then give me the same words I just heard the person speak. God was teaching me to be respectful and honor what people wanted prayer for. God cares about how we feel. God can always give you more, but at least pray for what the person wanted prayer for.

2) Deciding what to pray for

Ask yourself why this person is having this problem. Sometimes anxiety and stress can cause pain.

I won't say that it is the stress in their life that is causing their back pain. I'll ask if they are under some stress – if they say no, I drop it.

Try to get some words from the Lord. [see my "Hearing" From God to Serve and Heal article] Work from generalities to specifics. Perhaps you get a vision of a flute. Ask if there is something about music they need prayer for – ask them for the specifics. Sometimes trying to get too specific hurts the other persons faith because you are misunderstanding what God is telling you.

You don't have to come at people. Most of the time I've found that it is better to error on the side of being extra sensitive and respectful. If a person is filled with fear I might pray. "Lord give them strength and I come against any fear in their life and I ask it to leave." God honors that and He will cast that spirit out.

I remember praying for 3 women to be released from the demonic while I was in the jungle. I closed my eyes to pray for them and as soon as I finished, I opened my eyes and they returned to normal and walked away. They had no idea I was praying for them and they didn't speak English; I was in the jungle. If I hadn't opened my eyes, I would have been standing there with no one around with my eyes closed. It's not a bad idea to see what's going on when you are praying for someone.

Someone came to a friend of mine for prayer because she was being tormented spiritually. He had his eyes closed while he was praying and the spirit took her over. When he opened his

eyes, she was mocking him. When someone needs spiritual release, they need to make a commitment to resist the devil and being angry at the devil helps too. They need to have contempt for what the devil is doing to them. It says in James 4:7 NKJV, "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

Also, draw the line on specifics – we don't have to go to extremes. For example, "on the 3rd of November you lied." Sometimes God does want you to be specific. For example, God told someone I know that some guys marriage was in trouble. They were at the coffee shop and he didn't know him. Through the conversation he was able to encourage the man to get help and then later he found out that they were able to save the marriage. Most of the time it is better to start with something less specific.

Instead of just going into auto pilot and moving right into prayer

- 1) It is the opportunity for God to reveal to you what to pray for and how to pray
- 2) To determine which areas might need prayer – emotional, physical, mental, or spiritual
- 3) To ask God for more information and revelation.

It can be an encouraging and exciting time of ministry. You never know what God will do, One time I asked God for the rain to stop and it started snowing. God can do what He wants.

3) Types of prayers

There are prayers for:

Blessing – a prayer of blessing.

Healing – physical, emotional, mental, or spiritual healing

Forgiveness – a prayer concluding with God forgives you.

Accepting Yeshua – a prayer to accept Yeshua.

Cleansing – a prayer that rebukes sin and makes commitment.

Peace – a prayer to bring healing peace over our body, emotions, mind, or spiritual life.

Deliverance of demonic – a prayer to release from the demonic.

Wisdom – a prayer to know what to do about something.

There are other types of prayer. I'll often pray for several of these during the prayer time.

4) The actual prayer

We are trying to bless what the Holy Spirit God is doing. If you have a service where you decide to have ministry time, you can also address the things that God wants people to have prayer for. Try to see what the Holy Spirit wants to do. For example, God put it in my heart to walk around blessing children at meeting in a jungle village.

One time during worship at a jungle church I had a vision of a girl with blue eye shadow. I thought God wanted me to pray for her so I announced it after the meeting and a girl with blue eyeshadow came up for prayer. The local missionary and her daughter had invited her. She wanted prayer for her hearing; she was deaf in one ear. Talking about a little bit of pressure. I prayed for her and her hearing was restored. She began crying, and the missionary and her daughter began crying. The missionary told me that she was her neighbor and had been praying for her for two years. She then accepted Yeshua as her Messiah.

Do's and Don'ts

- * We are focusing in on being real with God.
- * The focus is not on ourselves, but on God.
- * It's not a show. We are not trying to drum up emotion. Some pastors intentionally do not have music during ministry to show that what people were experiencing had nothing to do with hype (music though is good for keeping prayer private).
- * We don't look for hype, but real encounters with God.

Laying on of hands is the biblical model that Yeshua used. Matthew 8:15 CJB say, "He touched her hand, the fever left her, and she got up and began helping him." Yeshua touched her hand. The Jewish model is to touch someone on their head. You can lay hands on someone's shoulder or lightly on their head or even on the affected area. Laying of hands is meant for association. For example, when the High Priest would lay his hands on the goat that was to be sent into the wilderness on Yom Kippur, he would lay his hands on its head. It represented the peoples' sins being removed from them as it went into the wilderness. I often feel led by God to lay my hand on the person's head and I encourage you to do that as well.

I believe that it could mean that as we stretch out our hands, it represents and relates to the direct hand of God touching others. Acts 4:29-30 CJB says "So now, Lord, take note of their threats; and enable your slaves to speak your message with boldness! Stretch out your hand to heal and to do signs and miracles through the name of your holy servant Yeshua!"

God uses our hands in a symbolic way. Remember, it is not us doing the healing, but God. Moshe (Moses) kept his hands raised and as long as they were raised, Israel was winning the battle. "When Moshe raised his hand, Isra'el prevailed; but when he let it down, 'Amalek prevailed. However, Moshe's hands grew heavy; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. Aharon and Hur held up his hands, the one on the one side and the other on the other; so that his hands stayed steady until sunset; Exodus 17:11-12 CJB. By laying on of hands, we are able to associate that it was God's work; in the case of Israel's battle with Amalek, it showed that it was God as work; otherwise Israel might have thought it was their own victory.

Yeshua laid hands on a man with leprosy and he was healed. Mark 1:41-42 NKJV says, "Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, 'I am willing; be cleansed.' As soon as He had spoken, immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed." God has used the method of laying on of hands for thousands of years to help us associate what is happening with what God is doing. Yeshua modeled it for us.

One time I was praying for a girl in the jungle that had leprosy and I held my hand over her head (I didn't know she had leprosy, but I thought God was telling me not to touch her.). I prayed for her to be released from the demonic and to accept Yeshua as the Messiah. She had no idea what I prayed for. We sat down after prayer and the pastor running the meeting asked if anyone wanted to accept Yeshua and she got up and went forward. It was very encouraging for me. To this day I think God must have done something while I was praying for her, but I will never know what it was.

Touch the other person appropriately. If you are a guy, you need to ask permission to lay hands on woman and nothing other than the head or shoulder. Actually, lay hands on people though. The biblical model is laying on of hands. Be appropriate when touching others. Men should ask a woman if it is okay to lay your hand on them. A woman praying for another women can touch each other areas other than the head or shoulders. If you are on a prayer team and there are men and women on the prayer team, guys try to pray for men and women with women. It is okay for men and women to pray for each other.

It's okay for multiple people to pray for others. Four of us prayed for a young woman with a bad back. We all got to share in the joy when she got healed. A quiet person may feel uncomfortable with several people praying for them. It can be good for a man to ask a woman if they could pray for them. Sometimes a man may prefer another man or a woman may prefer a woman.

We don't have to value hype. If a person is feeling like they might fall have them sit down. Remember, we are not putting on a show. Don't push people or scream at them or speak in tongues out loud over them or wave your hand around over them – don't do things that are distracting. If someone is doing something that is distracting, I have a hard time even thinking about prayer.

Also, people react in different ways to God. They may shake or scream or lay down on the floor because they are feeling faint. Why do we experience God in different ways? We are all different so we will experience Him in different ways. We can definitely experience God. Shaul (Paul) got knocked to the ground and blinded when he met Yeshua (Jesus). I'm glad we don't experience God all the same way. We all react differently to the presence of God.

One of the reasons that we experience God is that it is a relational thing. God becomes real to us. We know that He is doing something. The people in the Bible experienced God. Remember at the mountain of God.

The idea that people don't experience God is not biblical. Abraham experienced God, Jacob experienced God, and the early believers experienced God. God is a very real God, and we should experience Him. We should enjoy God's presence. I'm not saying we should allow just anything. I strongly resist trying to manufacture God in any way. I want a real relationship with God.

Also, we don't want to make excuses for the prayer not being answered while we are praying. We pray with expectation, then it's just up to God. Don't pray, "Oh God, if this is your will." Pray with authority and confidence.

Pray with authority and be specific. Yeshua trained people and sent them out, and He sends us out.

Keep your eyes open as much as possible when praying for others. In order to try to concentrate and hear from God, I will close my eyes, but look to see what is going on at times.

If I see that God is doing something I ask for more and keep inviting the Holy Spirit and Yeshua to come and for the kingdom to come. – at times, I just say come or more God (of your presence); keep it simple.

I am zealous for asking for more and for the Holy Spirit and the kingdom to come.
 Luke 11:2, "So He said to them, "When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Why not ask God for more.

5) After the prayer

Sometimes you can just excuse yourself and move on.

If the Holy Spirit is on them, you may just leave them and let God do what He is doing with them. – don't feel you have to say something.

I almost always ask how they are doing.
 Was what I prayed for meaningful to you?
 Was the prayer relevant?

Based on what they say, I may go back and pray more.
 Don't be hasty.

You might suggest going to a doctor. "Have you gone to the doctor?" Avoid this one as much as possible. It can detract from your prayer time. You are asking God for a healing.

Never tell people to stop taking their medicine. If they are healed the doctor can confirm this. You may make suggestions, but most of the time the prayer is sufficient.
 Don't try to talk too much after the prayer – just let God do what He will do.

We are God's kingdom people.

Col 1:13 NKJV

"He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love."

Yeshua wants the kingdom to come into the present.

Matt 6:9-10 NKJV

"In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

We are showing people God's love and compassion.

Yeshua is there with us.

Heb 13:5 NKJV

"I will never leave you nor forsake you."

He is ready to accomplish what He wills with power.

1 Cor 4:19-20 NKJV

"But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord wills, and I will know, not the word of those who are puffed up, but the power. For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power."

Yeshua promised that we could 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."