

While Praying

*God makes us suitable for His purposes and uses us.

*We are connected to God; we bring life by our mere presence.

Abraham and Sarah both die during this portion. One of the first things we probably think about is the probable impact of their lives. Both Abraham and Sarah lived for God and heard from God. The Jewish writings say that Sarah also heard from God. They worked together to bring the message of God to others. We see their generosity and goodness when the three angels came. Abraham immediately got ready to serve them and so did Sarah.

They intended to live right and do what God told them to do even though we know they made some mistakes. They gave birth to righteous Isaac who was raised to follow the true God. They became the parents to many believers to come. They were not just the parents of many descendants, but many believers in the true God. "Then he [God] brought him outside and said, 'Look up at the sky, and count the stars - if you can count them! Your descendants will be that many!' He believed in ADONAI, and he credited it to him as righteousness." Genesis 15:5-6 CJB. God said they would be a blessing to the whole world. "I will make of you a great nation, I will bless you, and I will make your name great; and you are to be a blessing." Genesis 12:2 CJB.

How have our lives have worked out? Have we decided to do what is right and good? Have we learned from our mistakes and have decided to make strong commitments to God at each turn in our lives and be a blessing to the world? Every day of our lives and year of our lives is important.

The Holy Spirit helps us to be suitable for God's purposes, whatever that may be. Yeshua said about the Holy Spirit, "When he comes, he will show that the world is wrong about sin, about righteousness and about judgment." The Bible helps us and the Holy Spirit helps us too. The Holy Spirit will help us to understand better what is right. It will help us to understand the difference between what is right, and the principles of the world that is sometimes driven by the demonic.

Since we have a better thought process after we decide to follow God's commandments, we begin to grow up spiritually; we have become children of light. We are better suited to be a good influence on this world for the purposes of God. "For you used to be darkness; but now, united with the Lord, you are light. Live like children of light, for the fruit of the light is in every kind of goodness, rightness and truth - try to determine what will please the Lord. Have nothing to do with the deeds produced by darkness, but instead expose them, for it is shameful even to speak of the things these people do in secret. Ephesians 5:8-12 CJB.

What are some of the differences in understanding that we have?

*We understand there are spiritual powers at work. We need to be ready to defend God's good works both by our actions and by how we explain it. "But treat the Messiah as holy, as Lord in your hearts; while remaining always ready to give a reasoned answer to anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you - yet with humility and fear, keeping your conscience clear, so that when you are spoken against, those who abuse the good behavior flowing from your union with the Messiah may be put to shame. 1 Peter 3:15.16 CJB.

Yeshua taught that some people live unprincipled and destructive lives. Yeshua is talking about the leadership of His time in John 10:10 CJB, "The thief comes only in order to steal, kill and destroy; I have come so that they may have life, life in its fullest measure." Yeshua came to help us and deliver us from the destructive ways of the world.

*God says all lives are valuable, even the helpless unborn.

Proverbs 24:11 CJB, "Yes, rescue those being dragged off to death." Jeremiah 1:4-5, "Here is the word of ADONAI that came to me: "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you; before you were born, I separated you for myself. Genesis 1:26 CJB, "Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, in the likeness of ourselves." We are special; God created mankind with His attributes so that every person has the ability to bring good into this world.

*Homosexuals call us bigots out of hate, but we don't hate them back. In fact, Yeshua says to love others. We are different; we are not filled with hate like the homosexuals and Muslims are who call us bigots. Instead we are to be filled with love. They have become people of hate; we don't become like them. Yeshua said, "Beloved friends, let us love one another; because love is from God; and everyone who loves has God as his Father and knows God. Those who do not love, do not know God; because God is love.;" 1 John 4:7-8 CJB.

*Some people say we are old fashioned and out of touch with reality. We understand it to be the opposite. What we believe is truth. Believing in the true God teaches us to do what is good and right. The unbelievers and atheists have no boundaries, can change what they believe without any recourse, and some say there is no right or wrong.

We know that such a world would be filled with anarchy and terrible sin – even as it is today. Many make up their own rules. Simple commandments like "don't kill" are ignored for selfish purposes, often just for whatever a person wants. God's ways are not so old fashioned after all, are they? God's truth will set you free not just any old opinion, "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free;" John 8:32 CJB.

*Our understanding and even our very presence sheds light on the things that are destroying mankind. Our stand and presence should be a witness to others that there is a better way. When we enter the room, people should be thinking, "Here is a kind thoughtful person of wisdom".

Don't do anything that would cause others to think evil of us. "Abstain from all appearance of evil." 1 Thessalonians 5:22 KJV. Be engaging, thoughtful, avoid disputes. Instead, bring peace; have thoughts of wisdom ready. For example say, "Try working this out without begin upset; being upset only escalates tension. Try using a softer voice. "A gentle response deflects fury, but a harsh word makes tempers rise;" Proverbs 15:1 CJB. The Bible says not to, "give place to the devil;" Ephesians 4:22 NKJV.

Nevertheless, Yeshua said people will hate us. "This is what I command you: keep loving each other! "If the world hates you, understand that it hated me first;" John 15:17-18 CJB. In spite of whatever treatment or responses we get, we should remain firmly committed to God and bring God's blessings into the world just like Abraham and Sarah did. "So let us not grow weary of doing what is good; for if we don't give up, we will in due time reap the harvest. Therefore, as the opportunity arises, let us do what is good to everyone, and especially to the family of those who are trustingly faithful;" Galatians 6:9-10 CJB. Don't give up; keep doing what is right and good. Be especially forgiving, tolerant, and caring with our spiritual family.