



**#52 Vayeilech Deuteronomy 31:1-30  
and Teaching: Be a Faithful Servant  
by Moshe Schwab**

**Names**

Kefa – Peter  
Moshe – Moses  
Shaul – Paul  
Ya'akov – James  
Yeshua – Jesus (in Hebrew it means "Salvation")  
Yehoshua – Joshua  
Yĕhōvâh – God's real name forever (Exodus 3:15)  
Yochanan – John

**Terms**

Cohen, Cohanim – Priest, priest  
Haftarah – the weekly reading from the prophets  
Parashah – (portion) one of 54 parts of the Torah  
Rosh Hashanah – Yom Teruah; Jewish New Year  
Shabbat – the 7th day of the week; we are to rest  
Tanakh – Old Testament portion of Bible  
Torah – 1st 5 books of the Bible

This week is the portion Vayeilech. Vayeilech means, "he went." These portions were established by the prophets. Ya'akov (James) speaking about instructing the Gentiles says in Acts 15:21 NKJV, "For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath." The early believers were reading the sections of the Torah every week and teaching on them.

In this portion, it begins by saying that Moshe is 120 years old, and he is not allowed to enter the promised land. It seems a small matter, but it is perhaps a spiritual picture to us that little things matter to God. Yĕhōvâh will go over the Jordan before them perhaps expelling any fears.

**Special Section for Yom Kippur**

I want to take a few minutes to explain some biblical concepts about forgiveness. First there are sins that are unintentional. Before the Messiah Yeshua came, a sacrifice was required for unintentional sins; see Numbers 15:24, 27. They would be sins like, to do something you did not know is wrong and then you find out it was wrong. Another type of unintentional sin, would be like to find out later that something you ate had something in it that was not kosher. These sins required a sacrifice. Notice that ignorance was no excuse for sin.

In the book of Hebrews, it says that Yeshua offered up Himself for our sins, so the sacrificial system is no longer required. Hebrews 7:26-27 NKJV says about Yeshua, "For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself." We must confess our sins to God and repent with the understanding that Yeshua sacrificed Himself for our sins so we could be forgiven.

Since the Messiah is now our High Priest, those who say they do not need the Messiah for forgiveness are not forgiven. Yeshua is the Messiah and we must treat Him as such.

Deuteronomy 18:18-19 NKJV says, "I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him." Why don't you accept the Messiah Yeshua today if you haven't yet.

There was no sacrifice for intentional sin. Instead, intentional sin must be repented of. Deuteronomy 4:25 NKJV says, "When you beget children and grandchildren and have grown old in the land, and act corruptly." Then it says that God will then forgive them if they turn to God, repent, and keep His commandments. It says in Deuteronomy 4:30 NKJV, "Turn to the LORD your God and obey His voice (for the LORD your God is a merciful God), He will not forsake you." It does not say we are to give a sacrifice for intentional sin, but we must ask for forgiveness and repent.

What is intentional sin? The intentional sinner is saying to God that they believe they are right, and that God must put up with them and how they are living. Sometimes people commit an intentional sin when they are weak. All intentional sins require a turning away from the sin and a prayer. Hosea 14:2 NKJV says, "Take words with you, and return to the LORD. Say to Him, 'Take away all iniquity; receive us graciously, for we will offer the sacrifices of our lips.'" Read Psalm 51 as an example of a prayer for the forgiveness of an intentional sin. King David says that he is sorry for his sin and he also says there is no sacrifice for the intentional sin he committed, but the requirement is to repent. Psalms 51:16-17 NKJV, "For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart — these, O God, You will not despise."

Also, what if there was no Temple or it was too far for them to go to the Temple for the sacrifice of unintentional sin. Israel understood that they could offer a sacrifice through prayer as it says in Hosea.

Notice you are confessing your sin to God, and you stand before God. It requires that we ask for forgiveness of sin and to not commit the sin again. God will not forgive those who are not committed to stop sinning, they are double minded the Bible says. But He will forgive us as many times as necessary if we are truly sorry. Proverbs 15:8 NKJV says, "The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is His delight." The sacrifices of those who blatantly continue to sin are not forgiven. It is the prayer of the upright who ask for forgiveness that is accepted.

Those who are not committed to keeping God's commandments will not be forgiven, their prayer of forgiveness is disgusting to God, namely, an abomination it says. God knows our hearts. That is why Ya'akov says in James 4:8-10 NKJV, "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up." We must have a pure heart in order to be forgiven.

In this New Testament era, we are to humble ourselves to God and confess our sin to God. We are to turn to God and live right with the understanding that we have forgiveness through Yeshua HaMashiach, namely, Yeshua the Messiah. Light which means understanding refers to God's commandments in Deuteronomy 4:6 NKJV which says, "Be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding." We are to be careful to keep God's commandments because **they give us light, they give us understanding**. 1 John 1:7-9 NKJV says, "But if we walk in **the light** as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Again, we are to make a prayer with our lips in place of the sacrifice for unintentional sin with the understanding that Yeshua's sacrifice cleanses us of our sins and atones for our sins, but any sin requires we are not "double-minded," we must stop doing the sin.

Also, just like in the Old Testament portion, intentional sin requires that we say a prayer asking God for forgiveness and turn away from that sin, repent, stop doing that sin. Also, since we are in a Messianic age, we ask for forgiveness with the understanding that Yeshua the Messiah gave Himself for our sin. Isaiah 53:6 NKJV says about the Messiah, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all." Again, God is a good and merciful God who will forgive us as many times as we repent, but those who are half-hearted and wicked in their heart will not be forgiven as it says in Proverbs 15:8. We must purify our hearts as Ya'akov said in James 4:8-10.

## **Introduction**

God commands us to be a clean people spiritually. We should be examples to others. Abraham was an example of faith and action. God told Him to leave his home town and he did. He went where God told him to go. Notice that faith requires action. It is quite an act of faith to leave all that makes you comfortable and do what God tells you to do. At 99 years old, God tells Abraham to be blameless. Genesis 17:1 NKJV, "When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless."

I remember years ago that two prophets told me they saw me as Moses. I was actively serving God and I knew that Moshe did not begin his ministry until he was 80 years old. I wondered what those prophecies meant. Perhaps it means that it is never too late.

What if God told you to be like Abraham? He was 99 years old and God told him to be blameless. It is not true they did not know right and wrong. He must have known what is right if he was told to be told to be blameless. Noah did what was right. Genesis 6:9 NKJV says, "Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God." He lived to be 950 years old. That is a long time to follow God. God wants us to also walk before Him blameless just like Abraham and Noah lived in faith and kept God's commandments. What a tremendous witness they are to us, and we are also to be an example to others.

Those who do not do what is right leave nothing good behind them. Proverbs 5:22 NKJV says, "His own iniquities entrap the wicked man, and he is caught in the cords of his sin." Noah saved the world for mankind because he did what was right. What will you leave as a legacy? Do not imagine that you will leave anything good behind you by living in sin.

May our ways not be broken ways. May we have blessings instead of negative consequences. The wicked person is trapped in their ways. Shaul also refers to this in the New Testament portion that those who live in sin are trapped in sin. That is what sin does. It leads to a life of servitude to sin and evil. Just look at the world and all the evil that has been done by those who live in sin. Too bad people do not realize what sin produces. We just recently talked about the legacy of atheists like Stalin, Hitler, and Mao Zedong who combined to murder 101 million people. That represents only some of the terrible evil they did.

Do not take part in a legacy of evil. Doing what is right leads to eternal life through following God. The people who follow God will receive eternal blessings. Evil people suppose there are no consequences for their sin, but that is not true. Yeshua said John 5:28-29 NKJV of Himself, "For the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth — those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation."

There is a hell. Revelation 21:8 NKJV says, "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." Atheists are evil unbelievers and they are often actively spreading their defiance to God. I know this because I have known atheists and their evil attitudes. They may even say they are good atheists, but they are good on their own terms; they make up what they think is good. I know of this one famous atheist who thinks it is okay to kill anyone who does not contribute to society. Abominable means detestable. Those atheists who killed all those people are detestable and they are going to the lake of fire.

May we grow up and become a glory to God, become a good influence, and bring people to God. Have you ever looked forward to the light of day and the beautiful day to come? Proverbs 4:18 NKJV says, "The path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day." I have seen lots of perfect days and they are wonderful! Those who do what is right are like the perfect day. That sounds wonderful, doesn't it.

Psalms 13:5 NKJV says, "I have trusted in Your mercy; my heart shall rejoice in Your salvation. We have reason to have abundant joy because of God's mercy and goodness. He wants to help us; He wants to save us.

Here is some scripture that is a spiritual picture of our pilgrimage to the future kingdom.

Isaiah 35:8-10 NKJV

A highway shall be there, and a road, and it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it, but it shall be for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast go up on it; it shall not be found there. But the redeemed shall walk there, and the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and

come to Zion with singing, with everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The highway of holiness is for those who want to follow God's commandments and it will not lead to calamity. It is not for evil people. It leads to eternal joy and gladness and no sorrow. This sounds amazing to me, and I am looking forward to experiencing it for myself. Won't you join me?

### **More to Consider**

I've watched a Christian movies sometimes. One movie's so called happy ending had a couple living together unmarried. The Bible says that no one living in sexual sin will have a happy ending.

Another so called Christian movie honored the beginnings of pagan practices in Christianity by honoring Constantine who changed the day of rest to the pagan day of the sun god Mithras. Constantine made this edict: "On the venerable day of the **Sun** let the magistrates and people residing in cities rest, and let all workshops be closed" (Codex Justinianus lib. 3, tit. 12, 3; trans. in Philip Schaff, History of the Christian Church, Vol. 3, p. 380).

Another movie had people believing in the evolution of man and people being one with creation. We are not God, and the creation was created by God and is not God. Also, it had believers seeing auras which is demonic and is something practiced by Satan worshippers. I think some people think these things are okay with God. They are not.

Another movie had a young extremely autistic girl being injected with a serum and because she was a believer, she was healed and her blood could heal others. I am not kidding. I think it was supposed to be a Christian movie. It was total nonsense, but it was better than the other ones. Be aware of the messages you are receiving from pagan culture.

There is light and truth and we need to seek it and live in it. The Temple was the center for God's word and truth. Psalm 138:2 NKJV, "I will worship toward Your holy temple, and praise Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth; for You have magnified Your word above all Your name." Seek truth. Notice he praises God for His word in the Old Testament portion.

There are a lot of variables to life and God is the one constant we can count on. There are a number of equations that rely on certain constants. For example, the rate of acceleration for the gravity of earth. What is interesting to me is that many things are explained using constants.

The Higgs boson explains the existence of matter. It is called the God particle because without it, scientists believe everything would simply disappear. This lends to the idea that God created this particle and caused matter to be created. It is an interesting thought, but who really knows the ways of our almighty God? Mankind thinks they know everything because they can try to explain things using science. Mister science know-it-all is not God. Isaiah 40:28 NKJV says, "Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable."

There is a lot of information out there, but what is important? What is the conclusion to the whole matter? Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 NKJV says, "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."

People are ever learning but not learning truth. Shaul said in 2 Timothy 3:7 NKJV, "Always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." Isn't that true of our society? It seems people are always coming up with something except for the truth. It says in Isaiah 55:8-9 NKJV, "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."

It is stunning how evil and decadent people can get without God's commandments. Instead, They make up their own so-called truths instead of living by God's truths. Every person living by their own ideas on life is not following God's ways. It is doing things their own way and without God. James 4:7-10 NKJV says, "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up." These are Yom Kippur scriptures. Yom Kippur is coming up and it is a special time of repentance. Ya'akov (James) tells us to take our spiritual life very seriously and to be humble towards God.

### **Torah Study**

In this portion, Moshe tells Israel and Yehoshua that God will go before them and to boldly enter the land. Moshe then wrote down the Torah, gave it to the Cohanim, and told them that they were to read it to the people every seven years on Sukkot. Moshe and Yehoshua go to the tent of meeting and God tells them that someday the people of Israel would become a disobedient people. In this portion, they are encouraged to boldly trust in God and to do what God told them to do; there are consequences for doing what is wrong. These are all things that we need to apply and remember for our own lives.

Because they would someday disobey God, they were to write a song that the people should learn as a testimony. Yĕhōvāh commissions Yehoshua as Israel's new leader and Moshe finishes writing the Torah which was to be kept by the Ark. Moshe assembles all the leaders and tells them they will provoke God with their evil and he teaches them the Ha'azinu that God told him to write. Recognizing that any one of us could fail, should make us humble and open to anything that can help us do what is "right and good" (see Deuteronomy 6:18).

Our culture brainwashes us into accepting sin. This brainwashing works through alluring tactics (through lust), by force (by making us conform to sin, or us wanting to belong), and by lying (our culture is filled with lies which contradict God's commands). Yeshua said in John 8:44 NKJV, "**You are of your father the devil**, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and **does not stand in the truth**, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for **he is a**

**liar and the father of it."** Do what is "right and good" and do not follow lies.

The Ha'azinu is to remind Israel that someday they will provoke God with their evil. While we like to hear and sing about good things, we also need to hear the complete story. We also need to apply ourselves to doing what is right and good. Rabbi Shaul says in Galatians that we should not be deluded, "A person reaps what he sows;" Galatians 6:7 NKJV. If a person sows what is bad, God sees that. Sow good and God will reward us with eternal life. A pretty good trade off; we do what is good and we are rewarded for doing good in the present, and then get rewarded with eternal life with a good God.

It says in Hebrews 10:28-31 NKJV, "Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, 'vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord. And again, 'The Lord will judge His people.' It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

*God will forgive us if we repent*

While judgement may be difficult to hear, it is what the Bible says. We should also understand that God will forgive us if we repent. So, do not remain in your sin, but repent and decide you will follow God and do what is right. Shaul says to stand in Ephesians Chapter 6. We should, STAND UP and get back on our feet spiritually! Yochanan said, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness;" 1 John 1:9 NKJV. If God cleanses us of our sin, He will not hold them against us. Psalms 103:11-13: "For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; 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." Instead of failing, why not remain faithful. We are told to be strong in this portion. Deuteronomy 31:6 NKJV says, "Be strong and of good courage."

The Haftarah for Vayeilech is Hosea 14:2-10 and Micah 7:18-20. Joel 2:15-27 is included since this Shabbat portion is during the 10 days of repentance. This Shabbat is called Shabbat Shuvah which means Shabbat of return; meaning return to God, teshuvah. In the Haftarah, Hosea uses pictorial imagery and He tells Israel to return to God; nothing but God can save us and make us:

Lilly – beautiful	Tree roots – stable	Olive tree – prosperous
Fragrance – pleasant	Shadow – protected	Grain – fertile
Vine – cover the land	Wine – have joy	

Ephraim will even repent of its idols because of what God is doing in Israel. It makes sense; God's ways are fruitful and right; those who do what is right will have life through them, but the sinful will stumble.

In Micah 7:18-20 says that God will forgive for He is merciful. He will have compassion and cast their sins into the depths of the sea. On Yom Teruah, we sometimes do a ceremony

where we throw bread into a body of water or river and as the bread gets carried away (or sometimes eaten by birds), we think of our sins going away. It says in Micah that God will keep His promise of truth and mercy that has been promised to the children of Abraham and Jacob.

Joel tells us to make God's assembly holy and God will help them and keep them. This is a Yom Kippur scripture. Yom Kippur is the day of general confession of sin. See our teachings on Yom Kippur at: <https://www.teshuvahsa.org/observing-the-feasts>. Earlier in our study, we talked about how Yeshua is now our High Priest. Hebrews 7:26-27 NKJV says about Yeshua, "For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself." We must confess our sins to God and repent with the understanding that Yeshua sacrificed Himself for our sins so we could be forgiven.

Since the Messiah is now our High Priest, those who say they do not need the Messiah for forgiveness are not forgiven. Yeshua is the Messiah and we must treat Him as such. Deuteronomy 18:18-19 NKJV says, "I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him." Why don't you accept the Messiah Yeshua today if you haven't yet.

**Be a Faithful Servant**  
**(A practical teaching to accompany the Torah teaching.)**  
**(This teaching was also shared last week.)**

During this season leading up to Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement), we are to think about our lives and how we are doing spiritually. Sometimes we have talked about spiritual warfare in this season which is an important part of staying faithful. We also need to trust in God and His power. In our previous Torah study we mentioned that we are to cleave to God. We are to stay close to God and stay away from sin. In this Torah study, we also mentioned how we are not to rely on our own thinking and think that doing things our own way instead of God's is okay. We should do things God's way. Do not depart from God. Serve God; be a faithful servant.

God is powerful and His works are beautiful. We can each take part in what God is doing through His power.

The scriptures sometimes have so much to teach us. How amazing is God's creation. Somehow it just happens there is dry ground above the water on the earth. If the land was level all over the earth, the earth would be covered with water. How did we end up with dry ground? God spoke it into existence, "Then God said, 'Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear;' and it was so;" Genesis 1:9 NKJV.

God's creation is beautiful; it reflects who He is. Psalms 111:2-4 NKJV says, "The works of the



LORD are great, studied by all who have pleasure in them. His work is honorable and glorious, and His righteousness endures forever. He has made His wonderful works to be remembered." It is true, isn't it. The sciences study the creation of God. That statement should rankle a few scientists. In a number of cases, science can only speculate. Look how long it took man to figure out how to go to Mars. Science moves at a snails pace, doesn't it. When God spoke things into existence, it just happened. God can do that because He is God. Mankind takes a long time to get anything done; mankind is nothing compared to God.

*God is God and We Are Not.*

What is amazing about a relationship with God is that we can participate with God in life. If we keep His commandments, He blesses that and there is power associated with our obedience. The Torah says we can either have God's blessings or be cursed. If we do things our own way, we miss out on the power that God can put on our lives through our obedience. Sometimes, the consequences of doing what is wrong is not so severe, but just one big mistake can mess up our lives badly. Why not receive blessings instead of curses!

As believers in the Messiah, we also participate in the spiritual gifting that God gives us through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is good and so are God's gifts that are associated with the Holy Spirit. We need to be reminded of these things. "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!" Luke 11:13 NKJV. Notice the exclamation point at the end of this verse. Even the translators thought this verse conveyed importance.

Shaul says that the spiritual gifts are to be used by the believers. We see them doing this in 1 Corinthians 14:26 NKJV, "Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification." Shaul might be pointing out that their meetings were a little tedious, but notice how different they were than our modern meetings. The early believers used their spiritual gifts!

*Early believers sang (psalms), had teachings, revelation (prophecy, words of knowledge and wisdom), and speaking in tongues with interpretation. They used the spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit.*

We have different lists of spiritual gifts. There are probably many spiritual gifts. Remember, the Rabbis made incomplete lists. For example, it would be tedious to list every commandment so they would list a few of them. That is why we have different lists. The Rabbis would often summarize or give 2 answers to a question; for example love God and your neighbor. Hillel said, "That which is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow. That is the whole Torah; the rest is the explanation; go and learn."<sup>1</sup> That is two commands. Hillel was a Jewish rabbi who lived in the 1<sup>st</sup> century. Notice how he summarized the Torah. He wasn't saying not to obey the whole Torah by his summary and neither was Yeshua when He summarized.

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<sup>1</sup>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hillel\\_the\\_Elder](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hillel_the_Elder)

Do you see how important it is to understand the Bible in its Jewish context? The Bible even says the Gentiles were to learn and keep the Torah. Referring to the Gentiles: "For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath." Acts 15:21 NKJV. It is sad how people can read the Bible and not understand it properly. Let's read about some of the spiritual gifts. To learn more about the gifts of the Holy Spirit and how to use them go to: <https://www.teshuvahsa.org/prayer-class>. This is really important. The Holy Spirit even saved my life at least a couple of times!

### **1 Corinthians 12:4-10 NKJV lists a number of gifts:**

There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

Here, the gifts are called a manifestation of the Holy Spirit. Many of these gifts were used in the Old Testament portion including other gifts like inspiration to do different kinds of work. Manifestations means they experienced them.

### **In Romans 12:4-8 NKJV they are called gifts (charisma):**

For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

### **Ephesians 4:11 NKJV lists some gifts:**

"And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers." Israel had all these gifts in Ephesians in the Old Testament portion; some of the prophets like Jeremiah and Isaiah were apostles; they were sent. An apostle is someone who is sent; it is a common gift according to Ephesians. Shaul said, "Greet Andronicus and Junia, my countrymen and my fellow prisoners, who are of note among the apostles;" Romans 16:7 NKJV. Junia is a woman's name.

Some churches spiritualize the word apostle to mean something that it is not; they are doing that out of pride, and they are being deceitful and controlling. These are some of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, but there are others; we know that because we have different lists of gifts. These gifts bring the power of God into the assembly of believers. Just like God's creation is beautiful, His spiritual gifts are both powerful and beautiful. Again for more information on the gifts of the Holy Spirit, go to: <https://www.teshuvahsa.org/prayer-class> for more

teachings on the gifts/manifestations of the Holy Spirit.

Our lives are to be centered and attached faithfully to God.

When we make something the center of our attention, we are keeping our eyes on it; we are to keep our eyes on the things of God and recognize His presence. God sees all we do. Proverbs 15:3 says, "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good."

In last week's portion for it says, "That you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life;" Deuteronomy 30:20 NKJV. What a great scripture. Obey God, cling to Him, stay close to Him; He is our life. He is the one who gave us life, and we can choose to be with our good God for all eternity.

Work at being wholly clean people and don't carry a stained life with us.

Have you ever had to walk around with a stain on your clothing? What about a stained spiritual life? I was at a business conference once and at lunch time I went outside and a bird had stained my shirt without me knowing it. One of the millionaires who was there was kind enough to tell me and he even tried to use some water and a napkin to clean it. I was amazed by his caring attitude. Perhaps that was the secret to his success. Do what is right and good and God will bless you the bible says.

Ya'akov tells us to get rid of the sin in our lives, have clean thoughts, and think of doing what is right. We shared this earlier. Resist the devil and draw near to God. James 4:7-10 says, "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up." Ya'akov tells us we need to get serious about life and to be humble; we need to be willing to do what is right in the sight of an all-knowing God.

*"Draw Near to God and He will Draw Near to You."*

We are not fooling God. No one can fool God. In fact, the Bible says God will not be mocked. Galatians 6:7 NKJV says, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap." God knows what is going on. Shaul said in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 NKJV says, "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." God expects us to get with it; do not walk around with spiritual stain.

Be ornamented with keeping the norm spiritually and not at being a deviant.

People often identify people who are spiritual outcasts and keep their distance. Even unbelievers can sense a person who is deviant and not want to associate with them. Also, though we may hide our faults to others, God knows who we are. Yeshua did not mince words when it came to sin. He said about those who sinned in Matthew 23:27-28 NKJV, "For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full

of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside some are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness."

I have had some people tell me that believers in God are just hypocrites. For the most part, believers are trying to live right. Unbelievers follow their own belief system and when they do not, they simply change what they believe. They are the hypocrites.

Some unbelievers can be the slickest and nicest people, but their innermost thoughts can be filled with all kinds of worthless sinful desires. Yeshua said in Luke 6:45 NKJV, "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil." Are we doing good and keeping God's commandments? God knows, so make sure you clean up your life. Yeshua also said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven;" Matthew 5:16 NKJV. Remember, good works in Jewish and biblical thought is to keep God's commandments. Yeshua is the Jewish Messiah to the world.

Now is a good time to set your life straight. We are coming up on Yom Kippur when we make a general confession of sins. Ya'akov said in James 1:12 NKJV, "Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him." Psalms 1:1-2 NKJV says, "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night." Let us serve Yĕhōvâh and be His blessed people.

Psalms 100:2-5 NKJV:

Serve the LORD with gladness; come before His presence with singing. Know that the LORD, He is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.

*Serve Yĕhōvâh<sup>2</sup> with Gladness.*

Some things God has hidden the Bible says, but we have His word to follow and we should do what we know and keep His commandments. We need to take care to continue to follow God; what God has given His believers is by no means a small matter. What God created is beautiful, His commandments are a blessing for us, and the work of the Holy Spirit is also good. God has given us gifts associated with the Holy Spirit and the early believers used them. We need to recognize that God knows us and sees us; we should stay close to Him. No one can fool God; we should not identify ourselves with those who are defiant or deviant. We should set our lives straight and serve God and be faithful.

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<sup>2</sup>In 2,363 different manuscripts, God's name is pointed as Yĕhōvâh; once as Yĕhōvâh; never as Yahweh.