



### **Names**

Esav – Esau

Hevron – Hebron

Ya'akov – Jacob

Kefa – Peter

Messiah – English for Mashiach; anointed one; Christ in the Greek means to be smudged – anointed

Moshe – Moses

Rivkah – Rebecca

Shaul – Paul

Yeshua – Jesus' real name

Yĕhōvāh – God's real name forever (Exodus 3:15)

Yitz'chak – Isaac

Yochanan – John

### **Terms**

Cohen – priest

Haftarah – reading from the prophets

Tanakh – Old Testament portion of Bible

Torah – 1st 5 books of the Bible

Torah portion – there are 54 portions of the Torah

VaYetzei - 7<sup>th</sup> Torah portion

VaYetzei means, "and he went out." This portion begins with Ya'akov leaving Be'er-Sheva and his parents in the land of Canaan and heading north to the city of Haran which was in our southeastern Turkey near the Syrian border.

Dispensing light and truth helps make people a light. God wants us to have His light and to let others know about God's light so it will help them. The word light in the Bible refers to the understanding we get through God's good commandments. Darkness refers to having an improper understanding. We get a proper understanding of life through God's good commandments which give us wisdom and understanding for how to live life. This is a key scripture for understanding the Bible. Deuteronomy 4:6 NKJV says, "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.'" When the Bible talks about wisdom, it is talking about God's Old Testament commandments. The same is true for the word understanding.

God gave us His light for life through the law, God's Old Testament commandments. Proverbs 6:23 NKJV says, "For the commandment is a lamp, and the law a light." It says in Psalms that God gives us light and enlightens us. Psalms 18:28 NKJV says, "For You will light my lamp; the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness." God is gracious and wants to have this 'wisdom and understanding' in life to help us in life. Psalms 112:4 NKJV says, "Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness." We are to learn and be ready to teach about God's truths for life. Deuteronomy 6:6-7 NKJV says, "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up." In all of life, we are to apply and be ready to help others to keep God's Old Testament commandments, especially our own family.

Since we are to be diligent at every good opportunity to talk about God's commandments, this is important. Why is that? As we grow up and as we age, we will have different situations to apply God's commandments to. The more we apply them, we become more adept at keeping them. Also, the more we hear them, the more likely it is that we will remember them. As we live life, we will then make sure our thoughts and actions line up with God's commandments. That's why we have these weekly meetings. It is so we become experienced at controlling our thoughts and lining them up with God's commandments. I am not doing these teachings just for my own good. I not only want to follow God's commandments, but also to teach others at every good opportunity. Acts 15:21 NKJV says, "For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath." That is what the early believers did. That is what we do every week, and why I make these teachings available online. They went to the synagogue to hear the scriptures taught.

I might add that this scripture in Acts 15:21 is in the context that refers to new believing Gentiles. They were to learn the Torah at synagogue, namely God's Old Testament commandments. They especially need to hear what the Torah teaches because they lack that instruction before they became a believer. Having set times to teach about God and His commandments allows us to have a natural time when we sit down and talk about God. That is why in our family we made sure we scheduled time to do that and when we are dinner, I made sure that we talked a little about God's Old Testament commandments.

The commandment to be diligent at every opportunity to teach others God's commandments applies to each of us. We should be willing to teach and willing to listen. We should praise our children for applying God's commandments well. Having these daily conversations helps us to find out how our children and friends are doing and reinforce good behaviors. Why did God want us to do this? God must have known that we needed that in life. 2 Peter 1:12 NKJV says, "For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things."

For example, my mom used to do this at any good opportunity. I found some change on the ground once and my mom explained to me how to keep the commandment to return what belonged to others. Deuteronomy 22:1-2 NKJV says, "You shall not see your brother's ox or his sheep going astray, and hide yourself from them; you shall certainly bring them back to your brother. And if your brother is not near you, or if you do not know him, then you shall bring it to your own house, and it shall remain with you until your brother seeks it; then you shall restore it to him." Of course, an ox could be very important to a farmer at that time because it helped him to plow his field. So, it is especially important to return things of great value.

If it is something of small value like a small coin, it is usually okay for us to keep it. I will try to return anything of value to the owner if I can. If someone drops something, I will pick it up and return it to them even if it is of little value. I will do my best to return things I find to the owner no matter how small. I once had a 6 inch steel ruler that was probably worth almost nothing, but it was sentimental to me because it was a ruler I used for one of my first jobs. I lost it years later and I regretted not putting it in a safe place where I wouldn't lose it. I

bought another one to replace it and I still use it at times.

How will people hear about the goodness of God if you do not tell others. I urge you to try to communicate to others the important principle about the goodness of God that we talk about frequently. How will people know about the goodness of God if we do not tell them? God's commandments, His law, are intended to help us in life. They can prosper us and help us to have success in life.

Joshua 1:7-8 NKJV says,

Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Yeshua came to help us follow the law and have a good life. John 10:10 NKJV says, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." That is why He said in Matthew 7:13-14 NKJV, "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it." Do not go along with the crowd; keep God's commandments. Yeshua came to help mankind return to God's commandments so that we would have a good life, a more abundant life. Some use this scripture in John to mean God's wants us to be rich. While having the means to take good care of ourselves is a good thing, Yeshua came to help us follow God the way we are supposed to and not just made-up theology or made-up commandments. Matthew 15:9 NKJV says, "And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men." True prophets tell people to keep God's commandments. Deuteronomy 13:3-4 NKJV says, "You shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments." Life is a test. Will we follow God and keep His commandments?

Yeshua said in Matthew 5:19 NKJV, "Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven." We are not to break even what we consider the smallest of God's Old Testament commandments. The word least can be translated as nothing according to Strong's Dictionary. In Matthew 5:18 NKJV, Yeshua said, "Till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law." The heaven and earth still exists, end of discussion. All the early believers understood that we are to keep God's Old Testaments portion commandments.

Shaul said, the law still stands. Romans 3:31 NKJV says, "Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, **we establish the law**." Shaul also said in Romans 7:12 NKJV, "The law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good." So those who say the law is not good are lying. Yochanan said that not keeping the law is sin. 1

John 3:4 NKJV says, "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and **sin is lawlessness**." Yeshua said He will reject those who do not keep His Old Testament commandments. Matthew 7:23 NKJV says, "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; **depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!**'" Keep God's Old Testament commandments. Also, keeping civil law will keep us out of trouble with the local authorities. Keeping God's commandments will help us to have a better life and keep us out of hell, "The lake which burns with fire and brimstone," see Revelation 21:8 NKJV.

Why would Yeshua tell us to go to extremes to not sin if it was not important? Matthew 5:29 NKJV says, "If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell." Yeshua does not mean we should hurt ourselves, that is wrong. He is trying to get our attention, so we keep God's Old Testament commandments.

We also need to caution you about who you talk to about God. We need to find people who are willing to listen and are interested in what we have to say. Some people will hate us for trying to help them. Proverbs 9:7-8 NKJV says, "He who corrects a scoffer gets shame for himself, and he who rebukes a wicked man only harms himself. Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; rebuke a wise man, and he will love you." Sometimes people are willing to listen, but they will not give up their sinful life. But sometimes we will find someone who wants to follow God and His good ways and change for the better. We can offer people a better way to live and it is up to them to want to change. If they are open to us reasoning with them, we may be able to help them. A wise person will be willing to hear us and believe.

Here is an example from the book of Acts. Shaul, Paul, reasoned with the people to try to help them. Shaul was his God given name by his parents, but we often use names that are more familiar with our culture. That is why he also used the name Paul. Sometimes God will give us a name. My God given name by two prophets is Moshe, but I go by Michael. We are not as much trying to convert people as to help people find truth.

Acts 17:16-17 NKJV says,

Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols. Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there.

If we do not speak up, no one will ever hear about the true God. Don't you want to help people to find a better way to live. God is a good God and wants to help mankind.

God looks deep into our hearts to see what is there.

We need to understand that God is the creator and knows everything about us.

Psalms 139:13-17 NKJV says,

For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them. How

precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!  
 Notice that God wants what is best for us, even before we came into existence. It is up to us to accept God's good commandments and live "right."

Watch our thoughts; rehearse truth in our minds so we will walk right and keep God's commandments. We talk about how the Bible uses certain words at times. We develop a biblical language so to speak by understanding how the Bible uses words and what they mean. We talk about these usages of words frequently to help people understand what they mean. In our societies, we understand things in different ways than other societies or cultures. In baseball in America, when a person makes it home, they score a point. It does not mean they went to where they lived. So, we need to understand how the Bible uses different words. The word for walk in the Bible is sometimes used to describe keeping God's Old Testament portion commandments. The scriptures I am about to share talk about our path in life. Namely, what path will we use to **walk** by? Will we keep God's good commandments or not.

First, let's review how the Bible tells us to walk with God and keep His good commandments. First, here is an example of what the word "walk" means in the Bible. Deuteronomy 5:33 NKJV says, "You shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God has commanded you, that you may live and that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong your days;" (also see, Deuteronomy 8:6, 10:12-13, 11:22, 13:4, 19:9, 26:17, 28:9, and 30:16). It makes perfect sense, those who do not keep God's commandments are not walking with God and not doing what our good God tells us to do for a good life. God wants things to go "well" for mankind and keeping God's commandments can even "prolong" our lives.

The Bible encourages us over and over to walk in God's Old Testament commandments. We should not want to walk in evil, but to walk in God's good Old Testament commandments. The Bible sometimes teaches us by giving us mental pictures of how we are to live. They are ways of describing how we are to live life.

Proverbs 4:14-19 NKJV says,

Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of evil. Avoid it, do not travel on it; turn away from it and pass on. For they do not sleep unless they have done evil; and their sleep is taken away unless they make someone fall. For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence. But the path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked is like darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble.

Those that do not keep God's good Old Testament commandments are often driven in life to "eat the bread of wickedness," to do things their own way instead of doing things God's way. They are driven to "drink the wine of violence." They are like a drunken person who cannot control themselves.

Those that walk in God's good Old Testament commandments are like the Sun that lights our path and helps us not stumble. I like the imagery. Don't you want to shine like the Sun? Those who do not follow God do not understand what is going on in life and cannot see that their life is flawed. That is because their thoughts, what is at the "heart" of their life, is

consumed with what they think is right and not what is really "right and good."

Jeremiah 17:9-10 NKJV says,

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.

God has reached out to mankind since the inception of time to help them, but for the most part, mankind has rejected the good ways of God. They reject God and so God must leave them to their own ways. Isaiah 59:2 NKJV says, "But your iniquities have separated you from your God." Sin separates us from God's goodness, that is the path that they have chosen. They have not chosen wisely.

God does not want to destroy. It should be obvious that God's wants what is best for us, but we must choose His good ways. To us, God's commandments are God's good wisdom for life, but to those who do not want to follow God, they are foolishness. They are too smart for themselves we might say. Another way of saying that is they think they are right so they will not accept the truths of the creator God who cares about mankind. They will not accept God's good Old Testament commandments.

Those that do not keep God's commandments often think that violence is an acceptable way to impose their beliefs. Proverbs 21:7 NKJV says, "The violence of the wicked will destroy them, because they refuse to do justice." It is the violence of those that do not accept God's good ways, it is the people who refuse to walk in truth that can bring destruction. Take for instance the religions that do not believe in God. The Atheist, leftist Communist religion caused the murders of some 100 million people of their own people in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. According to historians, China alone murdered 70 million of their own people and they continue to impose their false religion on the population and they continue to put people that do not believe in their religious political system in concentration camps. They use them for forced labor and body parts. It seems that evil will prevail if good people do not try to stop it.

It seems people are prone to follow their evil hearts instead of doing what is "right and good." Why do I put the words "right and good" in quotes? It is because I am quoting the Bible. So, here is the scripture again for those who have not heard it. Deuteronomy 6:17-18 NKJV says, "You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, His testimonies, and His statutes which He has commanded you. And you shall do what is **right and good** in the sight of the LORD, that it may be well with you." This is another principle for understanding the Bible. Doing what is right is to keep God's commandments. The people that keep God's Old Testament portion commandments are said to be right, namely, righteous. The people who do what is good is not referring to what we think personally is good, but is referring to the good commandments of God that "it may be well with you," that life will go better for you. The ancient believers understood this, but it seems that modern society cannot figure this out and many think it is okay to do whatever they want to do. It seems modern society is not so wise after all. The German society in the 1900s was one of the most educated societies ever and the socialist atheist leftist government put to death 11 million of their own people.

Ya'akov must have known God's commandments. The ancient believers knew the difference

between what was right and what was wrong. God's commandments were passed down to the believers verbally until it was written down at Mount Sinai. To walk with God is to keep God's good commandments. Genesis 6:9 NKJV says, "Noah walked with God." Ya'akov the son of Isaac was a believer and knew what was right and wrong. So, Ya'akov understood what was going on with his cousin Laban.

He confronts Laban because he was trying to cheat him. Stealing is wrong and breaks the 7<sup>th</sup> commandment. Ya'akov, Jacob, says that he served Laban honestly, but Laban has tried to cheat him.

Genesis 31:38-42 NKJV

These twenty years I have been with you; your ewes and your female goats have not miscarried their young, and I have not eaten the rams of your flock. That which was torn by beasts I did not bring to you; I bore the loss of it. You required it from my hand, whether stolen by day or stolen by night. There I was! In the day the drought consumed me, and the frost by night, and my sleep departed from my eyes. Thus I have been in your house twenty years; I served you fourteen years for your two daughters, and six years for your flock, and you have changed my wages ten times. Unless the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the fear of Isaac, had been with me, surely now you would have sent me away empty-handed. God has seen my affliction and the labor of my hands, and rebuked you last night.

This would be a good time to review the 10 Commandments. Remember there are more than 10 commandments, but these are a good starting point and always good to put in remembrance. Learn the commandments and all their wording.

The commandments here come directly from the Bible in Exodus 20:2-17 from the NKJV:

The 1<sup>st</sup> commandment is,

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment is,

You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> commandment is,

You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

The 4<sup>th</sup> commandment is,

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no

work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

The 5<sup>th</sup> commandment is,  
Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

The 6<sup>th</sup> commandment is,  
You shall not murder.

The 7<sup>th</sup> commandment is,  
You shall not commit adultery.

The 8<sup>th</sup> commandments is,  
You shall not steal.

The 9<sup>th</sup> commandment is,  
You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

The 10<sup>th</sup> commandment is,  
You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's.

God also led Ya'akov (Jacob) personally by giving him revelation. Ya'akov noticed that Laban and his family no longer appreciated his good work. And then God told him to leave probably for Ya'akov's own safety. God can still speak to us and help us personally in life. One of the Messianic gifts associated with the Holy Spirit is wisdom. Wisdom is what we are to do. Knowledge is just facts and does not tell us what to do. We then may get wisdom on what to do or not do. Genesis 31:1-3 NKJV says, "Now Jacob heard the words of Laban's sons, saying, 'Jacob has taken away all that was our father's, and from what was our father's he has acquired all this wealth.' And Jacob saw the countenance of Laban, and indeed it was not favorable toward him as before. Then the LORD said to Jacob, 'Return to the land of your fathers and to your family, and I will be with you.'"

Notice that Ya'akov heard wisdom from God just like other ancient believers. Genesis 15:1 NKJV says, "After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, 'Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.'" Isn't that wonderful. God encourages Abraham and God told Ya'akov that, "I will be with you." There are hundreds of scriptures that God gave us to encourage us. Here are a couple.

What God does is sure and true and therefore His commandments are sure and true. Therefore, it makes sense that they would be sure and true forever. An awesome respect for God helps begin our understanding of spiritual wisdom, the truths we need for life.



Psalms 111:7-10 NKJV says,

The works of His hands are verity and justice; all His precepts are sure. They stand fast forever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness. He has sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever: holy and awesome is His name. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever.

God's commandments are forever and are worthy of praise forever.

We need good judgement, and we can learn good judgement through God's commandments. God is good and His commandments are good. Do not succumb to the lies of those who do not believe in God. Keep His commandments with your whole heart.

Psalms 119:66-69 NKJV

Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe Your commandments. Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word. You are good, and do good; teach me Your statutes. The proud have forged a lie against me, but I will keep Your precepts with my whole heart.

### **Here is more to consider.**

I sometimes attach old teachings to further encourage us. I want to help you to follow God the way the Bible says we are to follow God. God is greater than what this temporary world has to offer. We live in this world but in a different realm and with a different understanding. This is a basic understanding for us. We are to follow the true God and follow His ways. We join with other believers who become God's kingdom people. 1 Chronicles 29:11 NKJV says, "Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and You are exalted as head over all."

Our good God is over all and is to be our good King whom we are to obey. In order to live in the realm of the kingship of our God and King, it is important to seek God and His truths in the Bible. We must reorder our lives so that we follow God's commandments, the King's commandments and not do evil. When we do not follow God's commandments, we are doing evil because our all-knowing God knows what is best for mankind.

Isaiah 55:6-9 NKJV says,

Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. "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."

So, we follow our creator God and King and His ways and do the things that have eternal verity. We follow truths for life. 2 Corinthians 4:18 NKJV says, "While we do not look at the

things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal." Although we are in this world, we do not value the things of this world more valuable than the things that are eternal.

Do not look to the things of this world. Look to the things of God. This is important. Proverbs 3:5-7 NKJV says, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and depart from evil." We are to trust in our good God to lead us. He gave us His good commandments to help us in life. As we allow God's commandments to lead us in life, we put aside our own ideas or wisdom so that we do what is good instead of evil. God's commandments are mostly concerned with how we live life and not with facts. For example, how far the Sun is from the earth does not tell us how to treat others. While facts can be useful, they do not often address behaviors.

This next scripture is an important scripture because it gives us some important details on how to live right. Deuteronomy 6:17-18 NKJV says, "You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, His testimonies, and His statutes which He has commanded you. And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD, that it may be well with you." We are to be diligent to keep God's commandments. We do this because they are "right and good." God is the creator, and He knows what is best for us and wants what is best for us. It makes sense that the creator God's commandments are right. When a person follows God's commandments, they are right; namely, they are righteous.

Do not be confused by the word righteous. It means to do what is "right," like it said in Deuteronomy. Also, when someone does what is good, they are keeping God's commandments because God's commandments are good. When the Bible says to do what is good, it is referring to keeping God's commandments. Proverbs 4:2 NKJV says, "For I give you good doctrine: do not forsake my law." God's commandments are good, and they are doctrine. The Torah is the basic God given doctrine for life which contains God's laws. We also have God given inspired historical writings, inspired songs, inspired letters, and inspired books of correction. But the basic doctrine we need for life is the Torah.

We need to explain this a little because many people take the New Testament portion documents out of context. The following is from 2 Timothy 3:14-17 which we will see is about the Torah. There was no New Testament at the time.

Verses 14 and 15 NKJV say, "But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

Timothy was to continue in the things which he learned as a child. His mother was Jewish. Acts 16:1 NKJV says, "Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed." Timothy would have learned the Torah from his mother. It said in Proverbs that the law is doctrine. So, it makes perfect sense that Shaul would identify what Timothy learned as a child as doctrine.

Then 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

The scriptures Shaul is talking about are God's commandments in the law, the Torah. They are doctrine and are "profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." What is righteousness? Again, it is doing what is right, namely keeping the Torah. The Torah equips us for every "good" work. What is good? Again, it is God's commandments because God is a good, kind, and loving God who wants what is best for us.

In the future kingdom, it will be a wonderful experience as God will restore the world to what He wanted for it at its inception, a "right and good" place where mankind does what is right. 2 Peter 3:13 NKJV says, "Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells."

Let God's light eradicate the darkness. Allow God's ways to win out.

Since God's ways are good, God's ways replace the dark and evil ways of the world with God's goodness, light, graciousness, compassion, and right ways. The upright person does what is right and brings God's attributes into the world. Psalms 112:4 NKJV says, "Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness; he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous." The upright bring God's goodness into the world.

God's commandments give us 'wisdom and understanding' according to Deuteronomy 4:6. We are to allow God's wisdom, God's commandments, to be at the core of our life.

Proverbs 2:10-14 NKJV says,

When wisdom enters your heart, and knowledge is pleasant to your soul, discretion will preserve you; understanding will keep you, to deliver you from the way of evil, from the man who speaks perverse things, from those who leave the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness; who rejoice in doing evil."

When you know how to keep God's commandments, you will have the ability to discern what is right or what is evil. Your understanding will keep you from what is evil. Do not go along with those who do evil. Instead, think about what you are doing.

The basic doctrines and the doctrine of repentance.

In the book of Hebrews, it mentions some basic doctrines that all new believers were to learn. The first one mentioned is repentance.

Hebrews 6:1-2 NKJV says,

Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

The writer assumed that all believers knew these foundational doctrines and therefore did not intend to cover them there. They were repentance, faith, baptisms in the plural, laying on of hands, the resurrection, and eternal judgment. We often talk about repentance, faith, the

resurrection, and judgment. You may already know of one baptism, but there are a number of commands in the Old Testament about other ritual washings or baptisms that we are required to keep. That is why baptisms are in the plural. Some say that these are legalistic, but it is evident from the book of Hebrews that we are to keep these baptisms. It was basic doctrine. As I often say, in life we have lots of ritual, so why not keep God's rituals. Also, as I often say, the feasts in the Bible are not just Jewish feasts, they are God's feasts. And, God's commandments are God's commandments and not just Jewish commandments. If you believe in God, you are supposed to keep His commandments. James 2:24 NKJV says, "You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only." We need to address all the basic doctrines, but for our purposes, today we will only talk about repentance.

Believers for all of time kept God's commandments. For example, Noah knew what animals were clean (see Genesis 7:2), and the Bible says he was a just man and walked with God (see Genesis 6:9). Genesis 26:5 NKJV says, "Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws." Abraham was not Jewish, and he kept the law, the Torah it says in the Hebrew which are the first 5 books of the Bible. Believers passed down God's commandments verbally until they were written down at Mount Sinai.

In the book of Hebrews, one of the basic doctrines is to repent of dead works. Some say that dead works is the law, but how can God's good law be called dead works. Dead works refers to sin, which is not keeping God's commandments.

The Bible says that sin brings death, so it is sins that are dead works. James 1:15-16 NKJV says, "When desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren."

Shaul (Paul) lists some of the sins that are dead works. He also says, "Do not be deceived." The death that he is talking about is not being able to enter the future kingdom of God. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 NKJV says, "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."

Sin leads to death, so sins are dead works. Those who live in sin will not be allowed into God's future kingdom. Those who obey God's commandments leads to righteousness according to Shaul. Romans 6:16 NKJV says, "Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?"

Not doing what is right is sin. Doing what is right is to keep God's commandments which are "right and good" (see Deuteronomy 6:17-18). 1 John 5:17 NKJV says, "All unrighteousness is sin."

Those who do not keep the law are living in sin. 1 John 3:4 NKJV says, "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness."

We are to repent and get rid of the sin in our life by putting sin to death. We are to stop sinning. Here is another list of sins. Colossians 3:5 NKJV says, "Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry." We put to death the dead works that causes spiritual death.

So, the basic doctrine of repentance is to keep God's Old Testament commandments and stop doing things that lead to spiritual death for eternity. 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." We talk about these things to help you enter God's future kingdom. We are to repent of sin that leads to death. Keep God's commandments that leads to life. Deuteronomy 30:15 NKJV says, "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil." So, keeping God's good commandments gives us life, not keeping the commandments of our all-knowing and good God is evil, and produces eternal spiritual death. Do not be deceived by those who do not understand the Bible properly. We will talk about some of these basic doctrines from time to time. We need encouragement in this area because of all the wrong teaching out there. We are a people who seek more authentic beliefs.

What is behind what you do? Are we spiritually minded, or do we allow vain thinking to control us? There can be many distractions in life. Are we committed to doing what is right so that in all that we do, we do what is 'right and good?' Nehemiah 9:13-14 NKJV says, "And spoke with them from heaven, and gave them just ordinances and true laws, good statutes and commandments. You made known to them Your holy Sabbath, and commanded them precepts, statutes and laws." It says they are true laws and good statutes. Friday night at sunset to Saturday at sunset is God's holy Sabbath.

Think about it. God spoke to the people from heaven; He gave them a heavenly law. They are not a worldly law. They are "just ordinances," they are "good statutes and commandments." Isn't that wonderful? Just in case you are wondering if you should keep the Sabbath, it says that we will be keeping God's Sabbath for eternity.

Isaiah 66:22-23 NKJV says,

"For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me," says the LORD, "So shall your descendants and your name remain. and it shall come to pass that from one New Moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, all flesh shall come to worship before Me," says the LORD.

Those who believe in the true God are supposed to keep God's Sabbath; it is not just a Jewish Sabbath. Isaiah 56:6 NKJV says, "Also the sons of the foreigner who join themselves to the LORD, to serve Him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be His servants—Everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath." So, do not defile the Sabbath. This is also a basic doctrine.

Our God is a faithful and good God. Won't you be faithful to Him? Deuteronomy 7:9 NKJV says, "Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments." God is merciful, so always repent from sin and commit your ways to God.

We are to love God with all our heart. Deuteronomy 11:1 NKJV says, "Therefore you shall love the LORD your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always." Always love God by keeping His good commandments because God wants what is "right and good" for us.

### **Torah Study**

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

#### God can speak to His people anywhere He chooses.

Since Yeshua was the presence of God on earth, we would expect this activity to be occurring wherever Yeshua was. Pagans teach there are special places on earth where spirits will communicate with us. These are just pagan ritualistic places where devil spirits have done something, and people make themselves open to devil spirits there. The Bible says there is a devil who weakens the nations (see Isaiah 14:12, and Ephesians 6:11).

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

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

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

*Select "More" on the top of our home page and scroll down!  
to the link for the class.*

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

**I will attach Part 1 of the Devine Healing Prayer Class to this Study.  
Learn to grow more in your walk with God.**

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

Ya'akov then vows that if God will guard him and bring him back in peace that God will be His God. As Ya'akov is traveling, he comes to a well and it happens that Rachel, Lavan's daughter, had just come there with their sheep. Ya'akov waters her sheep and tells her who he is. Ya'akov stays with Lavan for a month, helping him with the sheep. Lavan then offers to pay him.

Ya'akov is attracted to Rachel, and he offers to work for seven years for Rachel. Leah is described as having weak eyes and perhaps she had trouble seeing and taking care of the sheep. We would expect the older daughter to take care of the sheep, but the younger daughter Rachel cared for them.

Beauty is fleeting.

It is a fact of life that outward appearance can take precedence over inner beauty even though inner beauty is more important in life. Proverbs 31:30 NKJV says, "Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised." A person who loves someone only because of their outward beauty does not really care about them. What will happen when their beauty fades? Women are more apt to be attracted to a man's acuity, manly character, and ability to provide. An appropriately attired and well-groomed person is important though as a matter of respect for self and for kindness towards others.

In this portion, Lavan tricks Ya'akov and he gets married to Le'ah. Perhaps he got tricked because it was dark. With no moon or a woman wearing a veil, it could be easy for him to be deceived. Also, he would have been drinking; it was a wedding feast. He offers to work for another seven years for Rachel. Leah conceives six sons and one daughter. The meanings of the names are from Strong's Dictionary; Re'uven [see, a son], Shim'on [hearing], Levi [joining], Y'hudah [praise], Yissakhar [hire, reward], Z'vulun [living together], and Dinah [controversy over rights].

Rachel is unhappy without children and is jealous of Le'ah. She gives Ya'akov her maid Bilhah. Bilhah has two children, Dan [he judged] and Naftali [my wrestling]. Le'ah also gives Ya'akov

her maid and Zilpah has two children: Gad [good fortune] and Asher [happy]. Finally, Rachel has two children: Yosef [may he add] and she eventually also gives birth to Binyamin [son of the right hand].<sup>1</sup>

The model for marriage is one husband and one wife as seen in Genesis. Genesis 2:24 NKJV says, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." This suggests that monogamy is the proper marriage relationship.

After Yosef is born, Ya'akov asks Lavan if he can go back home. Lavan offers him the speckled and streaked sheep. The Lord speaks to Ya'akov and Ya'akov puts branches with streaks in front of Lavan's sheep so that they have speckled and spotted lambs. Obviously, God is making the sheep turn out in Ya'akov's favor.

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

Then God speaks to Ya'akov and tells him to return home, and he leaves with his family; he had a three-day head start. Lavan catches up with them, but God warns Lavan not to meddle with Ya'akov and his family. Ya'akov tells Lavan that if he finds anything that belongs to Lavan, that he can take it. Ya'akov said that whoever had taken Lavan's idols would be put to death. Rachel had taken his idols and put them in the saddle under her and she said she was having her issue of blood, so Lavan did not look for his idols there.

Ya'akov argues that he has served Lavan honestly and faithfully for 20 years and that God has given him favor, but Lavan has been a cheat and a liar. Ya'akov says in Genesis 31:41 NKJV, "Thus I have been in your house twenty years; I served you fourteen years for your two daughters, and six years for your flock, and you have changed my wages ten times." The truth comes out. But even though Ya'akov earned what he has, Lavan apparently considers everything his anyway. They end up making peace and Lavan returns home. As the portion ends, Ya'akov meets some angels.

#### The problems of dishonesty.

Lavan was very deceptive with Ya'akov. When a person says something they do not know is wrong, they are not lying, but it is still a lie, a falsehood. Some people lie so much that it becomes a way of life, and they feel no remorse. That seems to be the case with Lavan. Some people are hopelessly entrenched in lies. For example, communism must lie in order to steal the property of its own people. The Bible says we are not to tamper with people's landmarks. So, the ideals of communism are false ideals. Communists say their false nonbiblical ideals are for the benefit of everyone. They then enforce their lies by murdering all those who oppose their false ideals. For example, Stalin is said to have killed 20 million of their own people to enforce communism on the people. They are trapped in a false belief system. Autocratic societies can commit great atrocities because they think they will get away with anything they decide.

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<sup>1</sup> See Strong's Dictionary for the meaning of these names.



Some people think that lying is not a big sin, but as you can see, it can develop into devastating circumstances at times. Can you have a trusting and good relationship with someone who lies a lot? Why do people lie?

They may be trying to control by lying.

They may be trying to get an advantage by lying.

They may be trying to cover up something.

Or they may be trying to deliberately mislead others through silence.

#### The first liar was the devil.

The first liar was the devil when he deceived Eve. The devil got Eve to doubt truth. He said in Genesis 3:1 NKJV, "Has God indeed said?" Then God's words got changed by Eve and the devil. The devil through the serpent contradicted what God said. Isaiah 14:12 NKJV says that the devil causes problems for nations. It says, "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations!" The Bible says there is a devil, and we must stand against the lies of the devil. This is another basic doctrine. Ephesians 6:11-12 NKJV says, "Stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."

#### Believe the whole Bible in its correct context.

What about when a person refuses to check what they are saying against the Bible when there is reason to believe the person is wrong? We talk about some of the problems with doctrine that occur. Here are a few of the major ones:

People will deny or contradict what the scriptures say.

Some take the scriptures out of their original context.

Some refuse to accept the truths from the Bible that contradict their doctrine.

Some pick and choose scriptures and do not reconcile properly scriptures that are different from what they already believe.

Some say that the Old Testament scriptures are harsh, but there are hundreds of scriptures that say otherwise. They are good judgement and knowledge, they are good, and the Psalmist is delighted with God's law, they are worth more than lots of money.

Psalms 119:66, 68, 70, 72 NKJV:

Verse 66 says, "Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe Your commandments."

Verse 68 says, "You are good, and do good; teach me Your statutes."

Verse 70 says, "I delight in Your law."

Verse 72 says, "The law of Your mouth is better to me than thousands of coins of gold and silver."

We need to be open to what is true because God will judge us not by our standards, but by His standards. People who are not doing their best to teach and live out truth are in danger of the lake of fire (see Revelation 21:8). People will say they are not lying, but if they are not teaching the truth the way they should, what will happen to them and their followers?

Jude 1:13-15 NKJV says about those who do not keep God's commandments, Raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds.

God is the judge and people need to be a little more careful with their understanding of the scriptures. The Bible says that those who live sinful lives will not be in God's future kingdom (see 1 Corinthians 6:9-19, Galatians 5:19-21, and Revelation 21:8). It is worth the effort to seek truth. Like the lies of communism, some people are attached to various false ideals instead of truths for life.

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

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

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

Northern Israel is promised blessing later in these passages if they will return to God; perhaps we could liken this blessing to how Jacob returned to Canaan safely, or like how Israel was delivered from Egypt to worship the true God. We find out that Northern Israel did not return to God.

All sin is very deceitful. Some may even think at times that they benefited from their sinful desires, but in the end, sin is just foolishness, and it is wrong. God created the world, so God knows how best we should live. Mankind did not create the world, so when people do things their own way, they often bring troubles to themselves. Sadly, Northern Israel's sin eventually led to their complete destruction.

In this portion, Ya'akov sees Yě-hō-váh and also angels going up and down a ladder in a dream. All the patriarchs saw God. This was a special encounter for Ya'akov, and he works

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

**Commandments, Implied Commandments, Permissions, and other Concepts.  
(We can also understand commandments are being implied from other scriptures in the Bible. There are other possible concepts than what is shared here.)**

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

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

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

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

### **Devine Healing Prayer Class – Part 1**

**By Moshe Schwab**

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

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

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

### **It is an amazing experience to encounter God.**

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

Exodus 19:16,18-19 NKJV says,

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

The people encountered God, and they trembled. There was thunder, lightning, a loud trumpet that got louder and louder, the earth quaked, and they heard God speak (see Deuteronomy 4:33). Actually, Israel encountered God every day, didn't they. Maybe in not such a dramatic way as in Exodus 19. A cloud stood over the Tent of Meeting every day and a fire by night while they were in the desert, and God also gave them food and water every day in the wilderness.

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

I had a friend of mine that told me that when he began to go to church, he was told that experiencing God was wrong. That's not what I see in the Bible, people experienced God and even believed because they experienced God. Deuteronomy 11:7-8 NKJV says, "Your eyes have seen every great act of the LORD which He did. Therefore you shall keep every commandment." The testimony of God's great works was all they needed to realize that God is real and the commandments of our all-knowing God are good and we are to keep them.

Some say that experiencing God is not found in the scriptures. Of course, they are wrong; people experience God, and we also see that in the scriptures. We have to be careful that we don't limit God; after all, He is the creator. See my article entitled [In Tanakh Times](#) for some scriptures showing God at work in the Old Testament portion.

### **God cares about us and loves us.**

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

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

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

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

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

The Bible says that God is the creator; can there be anything too difficult for Him? Adam talked with God, Noah talked with God, Abraham talked with God, and Moses talked with God. I've heard people say that God no longer speaks to us and no longer heals – don't they respect God? Is God anything less now than He was in the Old Testament portion? Malachi 3:6 CJB says, "I, ADONAI, do not change." It says in James 1:17 CJB, "Every good act of giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father who made the heavenly lights; with him there is neither variation nor darkness caused by turning." God was good, is good, and is still good, and He hasn't changed. The things He did in the Old Testament portion He can still do now, and greater things Yeshua said. John 14:12 CJB says, "Yes, indeed! I tell you that whoever trusts in me will also do the works I do! Indeed, he will do greater ones, because I am going to the Father." The Bible says that Yeshua will not change. Hebrews 13:8 CJB says, "Yeshua the Messiah is the same yesterday, today and forever."

When praying for people God will sometimes answer our prayers. Sometimes the answer is yes, and sometimes it is no. Sometimes the answer is not yet, but no matter what - God loves us. Ultimately, we will be completely whole in the new heaven and earth. Let's now try to understand more about divine healing through the Messiah Yeshua. Here is some of the teaching from our Devine Healing Class that is available online.

## **Understanding healing through Yeshua**

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

No doubt Yeshua performed many miracles in his youth, but His ministry began when the Holy Spirit fell on Him. Luke 3:16,22 CJB says, "So Yochanan answered them all, 'I am immersing you in water, but he who is coming is more powerful than I - I'm not worthy to untie his sandals! He will immerse you in the Ruach HaKodesh and in fire.'" And in verse 22 it

says, "The Ruach HaKodesh came down on him (Yeshua) in physical form like a dove." Immediately after that, the Bible says in Luke 4:1 CJB, "Then Yeshua, filled with the Ruach HaKodesh, returned from the Yarden and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness."

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

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

Yeshua was ready because He was being filled with the Holy Spirit. Are you ready, are you being filled with the Holy Spirit?

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

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

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

Part of why I did what I did is because I was taught that my walk in life was pretty much up to me. I understood that the Holy Spirit was working in me, but I still felt that what I did was pretty much my work for God. In other words, God was up in heaven, and I was living life pretty much separate from Him. That is not a biblical viewpoint. God is always at work in His creation and sustains His creation. See my [God and His Creation](#) article.

Since God is available and at work in His creation, we can expect miracles and healings. Also, God wants to lead us personally. The Bible says we are to be led by the Holy Spirit, not just the Bible (see Romans 8:14) – God is almighty God and is still able to accomplish great

miracles and healings and to speak to us today. When we hear from God, we are to test what we receive from God with what the Bible says and if necessary, get the help of responsible and knowledgeable people. 1 Thessalonians 5:21 CJB says, "But do test everything - hold onto what is good."

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

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

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

Luke 11:11-13 NKJV says,

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

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

## **2) God wants to heal**

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

This also probably tells us that healing does happen contrary to those who say it does not. We should also be expecting healing and asking for things in faith. Don't give up after a few

tries. Pray for a couple of hundred people and write down answered prayers. You will see healing and answers to prayer if you begin praying. That is also my experience with prayer. One weekend I experienced 3 healings. I told my wife that I needed healing and she prayed for me. The next day she asked me how I was doing, and I said I got healed; this happened three days in a row! You can't explain that away.

As we saw in the Tanakh, feeling and experiencing God are more the normal in those who are in relationship with God. When Solomon dedicated the Temple, they experienced God. 2 Chronicles 7:1-2 NKJV says, "When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the Lord filled the temple. And the priests could not enter the house of the Lord, because the glory of the Lord had filled the Lord's house." Wow, what an experience!

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

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

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

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

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

We didn't do anything to deserve God's love, but after we commit our lives to Him, God wants to help us to live right and live in power through the Holy Spirit. In Romans 5:8 CJB it says, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in that the Messiah died on our behalf while we



were still sinners." That's compassion. Yeshua has compassion for us – He wants to be our shepherd.

#### 4) Yeshua healed in the presence of faith and expectation

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

The centurion's servant was healed; he had great expectation and faith. The centurion said to Yeshua in Luke 7:7 NKJV, "But say the word, and my servant will be healed." Yeshua marveled at the centurion's faith, He admired His faith according to [Strong's Dictionary](#). Yeshua is not asking us to have a ton of faith nor is faith a formula for pleasing God. **There are a lot of things that please God not just faith.** Faith is important, but we are not asked to have lots of faith. If we have a little faith like that of a tiny mustard seed Yeshua said, God can use that to do amazing things it says in Luke 17:6.

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

Did you know that the person that Yeshua told pick up his bed and walk didn't even know who Yeshua was!

John 5:8-13 NKJV

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

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

This one time, I was praying for this young woman in Brazil for some very general things like God blessing her and God to help her. I don't speak Portuguese, so I was just praying for people what I thought God was telling me to pray for. After I finished praying for her, the local missionary came over and the girl told him that while I was praying for her, she was healed of the pain running down from her back into her leg and she was healed from the pain

in her shoulder. I can't say that her healing had anything to do with me – do you understand; it's up to God.

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

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

**There is a lot more online. Please take the time to learn and grow spiritually. Select "More" on our website heading and then the Devine Healing Prayer Class from the drop-down menu.**

### **In closing, let us say the Aaronic Blessing from Numbers 6:24-26:**

We need to explain why we use God's real name in the Aaronic blessing. Some believe we are not supposed to use God's name, but they are mistaken. ADONAI or LORD in all caps in our Bibles is the name for God which is pronounced Yě-hō-váh. Yě-hō-váh is used over 6,000 times in the Old Testament portion. Since God's name is used that many times, it is evident that we should be using His real name.

According to Exodus 3:15, Yě-hō-váh is God's true name forever. Of course, we should use His name with respect. Yě-hō-váh is an acronym formed from the Hebrew verb hayah. Yě-hō-váh means, He existed, He exists, and He will exist. I want to honor God's name. Won't you also honor God's and use His true name with respect at times. The ancient rabbis say that Yě-hō-váh (יהוה) is God's name. 2,363 different manuscripts of the Bible point God's name as Yě-hō-váh, once as Yě-hō-věh, never as Yahweh. The church Fathers said God's name is Yě-hō-váh.

Yeshua said in Matthew 23:39 NKJV, "You shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!'" Yeshua is quoting Psalm 118:26; the word "LORD" in that verse in Psalms is Yě-hō-váh (יהוה).

Numbers 6:27 says we are to put God's name on His people. What an honor it is to be a people of the creator and true God.

Let's say the Aaronic Blessing from Numbers 6:24-26:

יְבָרֶכֶךָ יְהוָה, וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ  
 יֵאָר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ, וַיַּחֲנֶךָ  
 יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ, וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם

Yě-hō-váh bless you and keep you.

Yě-hō-váh make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

Yě-hō-váh lift up His face upon you, and give to you peace. Amen.

Thank you for being with us today.