

Choosing to Live

Dear Saints,

The portion of God's Word to us this week is found in **Deuteronomy 11:26 - 16:17**, and shows His love and provision for His covenant people. He gave them a land of promise where they might thrive as they choose to trust in His love. Thank God for His unconditional love for us. He loved us from the foundation of the earth. He loved us while we were His enemies caught in the bondage of sin. He loved us before we accepted His gift of eternal life in Yeshua. He loves us when we place our trust in Him, and He will love us forever. Nothing can change that, for His love never fails. In fact, Yeshua prayed in John 17:23 saying that the Father loves believers as He loves His Son. We can trust in God's love for us, and remember that His love has nothing to do with our performance. So, if the Father loves us anyhow, then, why should we try to obey, and walk after His instructions?

Rom 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

Rom 6:2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

*Deuteronomy 11:26 **Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse;***

*Deuteronomy 11:27 **A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day:***

*Deuteronomy 11:28 **And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.***

*Galatians 3:13 **Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:***

*Galatians 3:14 **That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.***

We know that we have been freed from the curse of the law through trusting in the redemption purchased by the blood of Yeshua, and that the blessing that God has spoken from the beginning is ours, that is, we are to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and have dominion in it. What many fail to grasp is that in order to walk in the blessing that God gave to Abraham and his seed, **we cannot just sit back and let the blessings come. No, we must choose the same path that Abraham chose, and that is the choice to believe God, from the heart, and walk according to His Word.** In other words, Abraham chose a life of faithful obedience. He believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness (Romans 4:3). What did that look like? His walk of faith was in recognition that YHWH had chosen him by His grace, because He loved him, and in response, Abraham chose to walk according to the instructions of God, which is the way of blessing. Notice that He was justified by his trust in the Word of God alone, but the path to the blessing was by choice. **Righteousness is by faith alone, but the fullness of blessing is received in obedience as we live out the life of faith. Remember, we are a new species of creation in Christ Jesus, and to walk in His ways is in our new nature (2 Corinthians 5:17).**

God tells us in His Word that His instruction, or Torah, is for our good (Deuteronomy 10:13). In order for us to come into full possession of all that the LORD has promised us, we must make the decision to believe Him, and through our faith, be made new creations in Him, dead to sin and alive unto righteousness. The commands, then, are no longer just rules to abide by in the flesh, but **as new creations in Jesus that are equipped to live by every Word of God in the spirit.** Therefore, when we put our trust to work in abiding in Him, we follow His instructions, not out of fear of the curse, but through the power of love, in the Spirit of God, His Word becomes the very essence of who we are, and what we do.

Choosing to live in the blessing is a choice given to us through the work of salvation that was begun in you when we first believed. Just decide for yourself that His Word is true. Let it become alive in you, fill yourself with His precepts and promises by speaking them with your mouth. They will grow and develop in you, and bring you to maturity in Him. Because of your obedience and faithfulness, you will position yourself in the blessing that has always been available to you as a believer in Messiah.

*Deuteronomy 30:16 In that I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, **that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it.***

Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Obedient through His grace,
Terry