

Great Joy in Obedience

Shalom,

The Torah portion this week is found in **Deuteronomy 21:10 - 25:19**. Notice the variety of topics to which YHWH makes reference, and the specific instructions that He lays out for us. **All of His Torah, or His “Teaching and Instruction,” are the path of life.** As we choose His ways, we are setting a course for life and shalom. We are taking our rightful place as covenant children in the Kingdom of Light.

Don't be deceived and view sin as disobedience to arbitrary rules and regulations that are difficult to follow and, therefore, they take away from our enjoyment of living as we please. The truth is that God's instructions for us are not meant to inhibit joyful living, but rather our **obedience from the heart produces great joy, because we are firmly planted in Yeshua and His shalom.** Mankind was created by the Word of God, as was every other thing that God spoke into existence. We were designed to live and function in harmony with every Word of God (Deuteronomy 8:3). Any act or thought contrary to the will of God, as expressed by the Word of God, will result in discord and bring harm and destruction. So, we can see that the Father is not trying to keep us from fun by teaching us His Word, but rather to lead us in a Way that is good, acceptable and perfectly in His will. His way is a way of joy unspeakable and full of glory.

I want to emphatically remind you that our salvation is only by the shed blood of Yeshua and trusting in His sacrifice for sin. We are justified, or made righteous, not by works that we have done, but the righteousness of Jesus is imputed unto us because we trust in His redeeming work of grace. We could never be saved as a result of obeying the Word of God, because all of us have sinned, and the penalty of sin is death. However, once we have confessed that Jesus is YHWH and believed in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead, we are redeemed from the curse that results from disobeying God's life-giving Word. At that moment we become a new creation, a new species created in righteousness. **All of the Word of God that spoke against us in judgment because we couldn't obey it, is now written in our hearts, and by the agency of the born-again spirit, we are able to walk in obedience to that for which we were created. We were created by Him, and for Him. We are one in His Word.**

Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

This portion deals with “Kingdom Principles,” or **God's way of doing things**, and if you will spend time in meditation, you will see that every one of the topics have to do with **dealing with the fleshly way of doing things by applying the Word, in the spirit.** Furthermore, there is a great stress on **dealing swiftly and severely with the works of the flesh, that they not be allowed to bring about separation from the life and power of God.** Remember, the Word of God spoken through you is the sword of the Spirit (*Ephesians 6:17, 18*). God's Word divides between soul (flesh) and spirit (*Hebrews 4:12*). The Word of God is spiritual, and it is the source of life.

Romans 8:13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

Romans 8:6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Praise God! The grace of God has equipped us to live and carry out His instructions if we just activate that grace through faith. His Word working in us, through the power of the Holy Spirit, joins us to Him and His will to manifest the Kingdom of God on this earth. Come, Kingdom of God!

John 15:7 If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Can't you see it? If we live in, and by the Word of God, which is Light, the mighty power of His abiding presence will be free to operate in us, just as it did in Yeshua, and we will do the same works that He did as we minister in His burden-lifting, yoke-destroying anointing.

Lined up with the Word,
Terry