

August 2, 2017

Keep Watch and Hear

Dear Family,

The Torah portion for this week is **Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11**. It is certain that these words are of utmost importance for us to hear and meditate so that we may always keep God's Word in our hearts and minds.

Keep Watch

Deuteronomy 4:9 (CJB) Only be careful, and watch yourselves diligently as long as you live, so that you won't forget what you saw with your own eyes, so that these things won't vanish from your hearts. Rather, make them known to your children and grandchildren—

The Hebrew word for beware is *shamar*. It means *to keep, guard, keep watch, and protect, or save life*.

Idolatry is Sneaky

Deuteronomy 4:23-24 (CJB) ²³ Watch out for yourselves, so that you won't forget the covenant of ADONAI your God, which He made with you, and make yourself a carved image, a representation of anything forbidden to you by ADONAI your God. ²⁴ For ADONAI your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

How quickly we forget! It is amazing that we, even as the children of Israel did, can see God working in our midst, hear His Word and rejoice in it, and walk in His Spirit, believing, with His gifts and manifestations flowing, and abruptly forget it all when a new challenge or attack arises. The reason for this forgetfulness is relatively simple. **The Creator of the universe made us with a need for constant and consistent fellowship with Him, His Word, and other believers.** Just like old manna, **old revelations cannot sustain us. We require new manna every day**, and when we are lulled into complacency about “**Gathering**,” that is **gathering** our spiritual food from God, His Word, fellowship with Him, and **gathering** together in His Name, even those things that we have gained and understood, and thought we knew, slip from us. As happened with day-old manna, we begin to stink, and become stale in our walk with God.

Levels of Hearing

Luke 8:18 (CJB) Pay attention, then, to how you hear! For anyone who has something will be given more; but from anyone who has nothing, even what he seems to have will be taken away."

Now, there are levels of hearing, and we cannot grow into spiritual maturity in Messiah without progressing in our hearing.

- There is a level of hearing that is just the simple hearing without retaining.
- The next level involves recognizing the direct meaning of what is spoken.
- Further understanding comes when we receive, recognize, and gather what is hinted at by what is heard, or written, and relating it to a fuller text of the scripture passage.
- A higher level of hearing comes when we hear, understand and see what is heard, or written, in relationship to other related sayings in the Word of God.
- The highest level of hearing involves an understanding of the words, including the context relationship, the relationship to other scripture portions, and a deep recognition of hidden things that can only be received by the revelation of God.

We can be assured that YHWH is willing to reveal Himself and His ways to us,

Luke 8:17 (TLV) For nothing is hidden that will not become evident, nor secret that shall not be known and come into open view.

My desire is to hear the sayings of God, and understand their deep meaning and applications to every area of my being. **We must hear with the Father as a result of abiding in Yeshua so that we hear as He hears, and, therefore, we will do as He does.**

Always Growing in Faith

Matthew 5:17-19 (CJB) ¹⁷ "Don't think that I have come to abolish the Torah or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish but to complete. ¹⁸ Yes indeed! I tell you that until heaven and earth pass away, not so much as a yud or a stroke will pass from the Torah—not until everything that must happen has happened. ¹⁹ So whoever disobeys the least of these mitzvot and teaches others to do so will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But whoever obeys them and so teaches will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.

There is no greater temptation than to think that “We have arrived” and no longer press in to know Him more. The world and all its demands are used by the tempter to keep us from Life by distracting us from the “True riches.” Instead of total love for YHWH, it is easy to allow other “gods” to slither into our affection, putting **our** plans, goals, and comfort in place of our unwavering love of the “One and only true” God and His plans. In His great mercy, He gives us warning of the danger of forgetting Him and His Word that always results in our slipping back into areas of unbelief. If we listen to the warning, we will guard our hearts to follow the way of life, to give heed to His teaching and instruction, and to refuse to forget His covenant of shalom. We will develop a pattern of faithfulness, recognizing that **whatever level of hearing we have attained and whatever level of maturity we have come to, there is greater revelation and greater glory to come as we continue our walk of faith.**

Hebrews 10:23-25 (CJB) ²³ Let us continue holding fast to the hope we acknowledge, without wavering; for the One who made the promise is trustworthy. ²⁴ And let us keep paying attention to one another, in order to spur each other on to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not neglecting our own congregational meetings, as some have made a practice of doing, but, rather, encouraging each other.

We must refuse to be “hit or miss” in our approach to God. Determine that you will not only begin strong, but that you will also finish the race. God tells us to guard our hearts so that we will never forget, nor become casual in our walk with Him. **If we choose to remember, confess, and obey His Words, the fruit of faithfulness will grow up in us until we have His shalom ruling in our hearts.**

Joshua 1:8 (CJB) Yes, keep this book of the Torah on your lips, and meditate on it day and night, so that you will take care to act according to everything written in it. Then your undertakings will prosper, and you will succeed.

Pressing in,
Terry