

April 13, 2021

Holiness from Within

Shalom,

One of the things that is evident in living in a fallen world is that it is easy to be infected by the world. The two Torah portions found in **Leviticus 12:1–15:33**, which are named **Tazria** (She conceives) and **Metzora** (Person afflicted with a skin disease), deal with instructions that are given to teach God's people to **maintain separation** from that which is *tamei*, or **ritually impure**. This condition, also called *uncleanness*, has to do with **touching the realm of death**. While everyone, at one time or another, makes contact that causes one to be unclean, God has provided ample provision for restoration to that which is *tahor*, or **ritual purity**, as well as protection through cleanliness and proper physical hygiene. While some of the things that God calls unclean are not immediately understood in our natural minds, it seems that those who will tolerate things that make them unclean, or unwholesome, will tend to allow for practices that lead them to become increasingly lax in their care for themselves and their homes.

“So you are to keep Bnei-Yisrael separate from their uncleanness, so they will not die in their uncleanness by defiling My Tabernacle that is in their midst.” (Leviticus 15:31 TLV)

Scriptural references to *ritual* have to do with that which is “**in order.**” **God's order**, which is from the beginning and is from the Father of all things, is **The Way** for us to enter God's awesome presence. **Notice** that these instructions were initiated by **YHWH** and show **how much the Father loves us and wants to protect us from all uncleanness that causes separation from Him. He seeks His lost sheep and has provided, and shown, the Way for us to come into complete purity (holiness) in Him.**

For the Son of Man came to seek and save what was lost.” (Luke 19:10 CJB)

In addition to the detailed instructions for coming out of darkness into His light, He gives instruction to those He has delivered from death for **maintaining separation** from that which is *tamei*, that works in our minds, so that we may walk in His Spirit and think and move according to the mind of Christ. **He wants to share His glory with us.**

In the Messiah He chose us in love before the creation of the universe to be holy and without defect in His presence. (Ephesians 1:4 CJB)

On the contrary, following the Holy One Who called you, become holy yourselves in your entire way of life; since the Tanakh says, “You are to be holy because I am holy.” (1 Peter 1:15-16 CJB)

Set them apart for holiness by means of the truth—Your Word is truth. (John 17:17 CJB)

Father, I want those You have given Me to be with Me where I am; so that they may see My glory, which You have given Me because You loved Me before the creation of the world. (John 17:24 CJB)

Then God's shalom, passing all understanding, will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with the Messiah Yeshua. In conclusion, brothers, focus your thoughts on what is true, noble, righteous, pure, lovable or admirable, on some virtue or on something praiseworthy. Keep doing what you have learned and received from me, what you have heard and seen me doing; then the God Who gives shalom will be with you. (Philippians 4:7-9 CJB)

When we consider **cleanness as it pertains to entering the presence of God**, and **uncleanness that deprives us of entering in**, or the principles **light and darkness**, or choosing **life or death**, it's important to know, **maintain focus**, and understand that **God always desires to be with His children. The Father is not looking for reasons to be separated from us. He has made the way for us into perfect shalom.** He is the God of Light and Truth **disposed to show favor**, and His covenants display His will to pour out blessing upon all who love Him and choose to walk in Him through trust in the cleansing, purifying blood of Yeshua the Messiah.

We need to remember that **God has provided the way to be made clean through Jesus** and, once we have been made clean, He gives us **the mind of the Messiah** to give us continual, step-by-step guidance to **maintain perfect cleanness** by our relationship with Him Who is perfectly clean. **Maintaining our focus on Yeshua is available for us to stay in a state of purity before God.** Trying in our own strength to do what can only be done in the Spirit is impossible, but our God and Father has changed us from the inside out. He lives in us and has made us anew to live, not ruled by the flesh, but cleansed by His Word and His Spirit. **I urge you to use the words of this email, especially the Words of Scripture, to encourage you to develop a relationship of separation to train your mind to stay focused on Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life.**

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: (Philippians 2:5 KJV)

You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. (John 15:3 TLV)

Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her, that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the Word (Ephesians 5:25-26 ESV)

“who has known the mind of Adonai, that he will instruct Him?” But we have the mind of Messiah. (1 Corinthians 2:16 TLV)

Clean and united in the Messiah,
Terry

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