

May 26, 2021

Willing to Abide

Shalom,

The weekly Torah portion, from **Numbers 8:1–12:16**, called **Beha'alotcha**, or “**When You Kindle**,” begins with instructions regarding the Menorah, the Lamp of God, which reminds us of the light which emanated from God in creation. **God is light. There is no darkness in Him, and His desire is that His light be manifest in all mankind.** His light is a showing forth of His glory and His truth. In the wilderness, the Tabernacle was covered with His presence and His light, and through His direction, all His congregation was led.

On the day the tabernacle was put up, the cloud covered the tabernacle, that is, the tent of the testimony; and in the evening, over the tabernacle was what appeared to be fire, which remained until morning. So the cloud always covered it, and it looked like fire at night. Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tent, the people of Isra'el continued their travels; and they camped wherever the cloud stopped. At the order of ADONAI, the people of Isra'el traveled; at the order of ADONAI, they camped; and as long as the cloud stayed over the tabernacle, they stayed in camp. Even when the cloud remained on the tabernacle for a long time, the people of Isra'el did what ADONAI had charged them to do and did not travel. Sometimes the cloud was a few days over the tabernacle; according to ADONAI's order, they remained in camp; and according to ADONAI's order, they traveled. (Numbers 9:15-20 CJB)

In this world we all encounter many things that tempt us to turn from the true light toward things and pursuits that claim to be illuminating, but they are counterfeit and distract from the plans and purposes of God. **There is a way to escape** the devious temptation to always be on the go, occupied and busy with many activities even if there is no benefit from our doing them; and most often, we are left unfulfilled, tired, and discouraged. **That way is to abide in His presence and be led by the Spirit of God.**

You make me know the path of life; in Your presence is unbounded joy, in Your right hand eternal delight. (Psalms 16:11 CJB)

What I am saying is this: run your lives by the Spirit. Then you will not do what your old nature wants. (Galatians 5:16 CJB)

The instruction of the Lord is for us to ask Him to show us the things and activities which are really directed by Him to keep us in fellowship with Him, **moving when He moves, but also remaining where we are until He moves.** Instead of moving on our own, and at our own speed, or allowing other people to dictate our schedules, **we must**

join the Father in what He is doing so that we will learn to do what we do according to His plans and purposes for us. It is only as we are in relationship with the Father, being directed by His Spirit, and **abiding in His presence that we will produce much fruit.**

"I am the vine and you are the branches. Those who stay united with Me, and I with them, are the ones who bear much fruit; because apart from Me you can't do a thing. (John 15:5 CJB)

All who are led by God's Spirit are God's sons. (Romans 8:14 CJB)

The idea of **being still for a purpose is a foreign concept to most** of us, and yet I believe that is exactly how the Lord is leading us; in the same way He directed the Children of Israel to remain in their tents until the cloud moved, we must be willing to come apart from our incessant activity and abide in our **"tents"** where we can learn to be led by Him. We mistakenly suppose that we can find peace and be in control of our own lives, but God's shalom is a place of rest and restoration that can only be realized by remaining in His presence to hear and see with Him and be instructed in the way that we should go.

"If you remain united with Me, and My words with you, then ask whatever you want, and it will happen for you. This is how My Father is glorified—in your bearing much fruit; this is how you will prove to be My talmidim. (John 15:7-8 CJB)

Let's lay aside our own way of doing things, discarding our itineraries and schedules, and let's choose to remain in the glorious light of His presence.

Following His Glory,
Terry

lwcfgl

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