

May 28,2024

Blessed from the Inside

Shalom,

This week's Torah portion, found in **Leviticus 26:3—27:34**, is called **Bechukotai (In My Decrees)**.

YHWH is Love, a wonderful, grace giving, compassionate, merciful, and covenant keeping God Who is the one and only true God. All His blessing to us is through Jesus, the Messiah, His only begotten Son, the Savior of the World. He does all things well, and everything He does is for the benefit of His covenant children. **His Torah, or Instruction, is given to us to teach us the way we should walk to position ourselves in the center of His will to partake of His promises which are The Blessing of God.**

We know that faith comes through continual hearing of the Word of God. Our faith, or trust, is exercised **by taking heed according to His Word**. True trust is built upon, and limited to, that which He has promised. His covenants contain His promises, and **all His promises are yea, and amen to the glory of God, by us**. It is true that the only way to appropriate His promises is by faith, but the walk of faith, which comes from hearing His Word, is never disconnected from the promises nor **the conditions of the covenant**. Many miss the fullness of the promises, because they don't recognize that we receive the full benefit of the promises of God as we position ourselves in His grace by believing to abide in Jesus Who perfectly obeyed His instruction.

*If you live by My regulations, observe My mitzvot and obey them; then I will provide the rain you need in its season, the land will yield its produce, and the trees in the field will yield their fruit. Your threshing time will extend until the grape harvest, and your grape harvesting will extend until the time for sowing seed. You will eat as much food as you want and live securely in your land. **I will give shalom in the land**—you will lie down to sleep unafraid of anyone. I will rid the land of wild animals. The sword will not go through your land. You will pursue your enemies, and they will fall before your sword. Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand—your enemies will fall before your sword. (Leviticus 26:3-8 CJB)*

Something that stands out in this Torah Portion is the undeniable fact that **the choices people make determine blessing or cursing in their lives. Even the choices we consider small and trivial may make a big difference in determining whether we are positioned to receive God's best. If we always ask Him, He said He would direct us to the way of Life.**

*I call on heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have presented you with life and death, the blessing and the curse. **Therefore, choose life**, so that you will live, you and your descendants... (Deuteronomy 30:19 CJB)*

It's possible to think we are believing for God's promises and not even realize that the very nature of covenants is that conditions must be met before promises can be received.

*God's power has given us everything we need for life and godliness, **through our knowing the One Who called us** to His own glory and goodness. By these He has given us **valuable and superlatively great promises**, so that through them you might come to share in God's nature and escape the corruption which evil desires have brought into the world. (2 Peter 1:3-4 CJB)*

“Through our knowing the One Who called us” describes a life of faith that has to do with **fully knowing**, not just a mental agreement that He exists, but a **“knowing” that regulates every part of our lives into trust for Him, and expresses itself in us in a life of obedience.**

Remember, **God** does not barter with us to give His promises if we obey, but rather, in His love, **has given us access into His divine nature through knowing Him in the new birth** transforming us into a new creation that **walks according to the Spirit**. Knowing Him in this way prompts us to choose life and godliness. **His decrees are no longer external rules** to try to be righteous, but a supernaturally changed existence with **His righteous commandments written in our hearts**. Doing them is not a legalistic requirement, but simply walking in accord with our new nature equipped with His ability to choose according to **a whole new set of desires**.

*I will put **my Spirit inside you** and **cause you to live by My laws**, respect My rulings and obey them. (Ezekiel 36:27 CJB)*

Obedience, from the heart to the plans and purposes of God which are founded on His love for us, truly positions us to receive all things that pertain to life and godliness. His way is the way of life and blessing. To try to obtain the blessings of God through fleshly keeping rules or any other means constitutes **legalism** which can never receive the blessing, because it **is eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Choose to refuse fruit from the tree that feeds the carnal nature.**

If you remain united with Me, and My Words with you, then ask whatever you want, and it will happen for you. (John 15:7 CJB)

By abiding in Jesus, the source of blessing, we are in harmony with Him and are kept in agreement with His Word. The Father desires to bless us, and the fact is, when we walk in faith by the Spirit, we are led to observe His Teaching and Instruction, and His blessing will come after us and overtake us. Some blessings appear immediately, and some manifest as we are walking with Him at the proper time. Never think that we can gain favor with God by keeping all the rules. It is only as we accept His forgiveness and surrender ourselves to Him and His presence in our lives that we are enabled to walk as He walks and do what He does. **We can never earn what He has ordained for us, but we can live in Him, the place where God's blessing dwells.**

So, when a born-again believer decides to allow the Spirit of God living in him control of his behavior, he is **equipped** to keep God's decrees and obey His instructions, not by his own will or power, but **as one united with the Messiah doing what the Lord wills in the same way Jesus did it.**

*When the Messiah was executed on the stake as a criminal, I was too; so that my proud ego no longer lives. **But the Messiah lives in me, and the life I now live in my body I live by the same trusting faithfulness that the Son of God had,** Who loved me and gave Himself up for me. (Galatians 2:20 CJB)*

Let's choose to surrender our lives and every choice to Him, walking in and, by the power of His Holy Spirit, giving ourselves over to Him, abiding in Him, and He in us.

In His abiding love,
Terry

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