

September 18, 2024

A Time to Stay Focused

Shalom,

You are standing today, all of you, before Adonai your God—the heads of your tribes, your elders, your officials, all the men of Israel... (Deuteronomy 29:9 TLV)

Beware in case there is among you a man or woman, or family or tribe, whose heart turns away today from Adonai our God to go serve the gods of those nations. Beware in case there is among you a root producing poison and bitter fruit. (Deuteronomy 29:17 TLV)

Jesus seemed to have been describing people living in this day when He taught concerning the parable of the sower and the seed, especially when referring to seed planted among thorns.

And others are the ones sown among the thorns. They have heard the Word; but the worries of the world, the seduction of wealth, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the Word, and it becomes unfruitful. (Mark 4:18-19 TLV)

In the two Torah portions for this week, which are found in **Deuteronomy 29:9–31:30, Nitzavim** or “**You are standing**” and **Vayeilech** or “**And He Went**,” Moses, inspired by the Holy Spirit, brings His final instructions to the Children of Israel prior to their entry into the Promised Land. They are instructions of YHWH to all His people, including those of us who are grafted into the commonwealth of Israel through trust in Yeshua. By faith, we all enter the covenant He has provided, but there is a warning that turning our attention to the things and teachings of the world will cause us to miss out on the blessing and its mighty benefits. It is unlikely that anyone would awake one morning and decide to forsake God and His teaching. **Instead, people drift away** from the LORD by following a pattern of wrong choices. If such bad choices are tolerated, they will divert affection away from God and His loving instruction.

The love of God is magnificent, and His grace is amazing in that He is always drawing people to Himself, always willing to restore relationship, teaching the right paths to follow, but also warning of dangerous thoughts and actions. His Word and Spirit give all that is needed to make good choices to avoid all the pitfalls that would rob us of being fruitful.

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in case there is among you **a root producing poison and bitter fruit.** (Deuteronomy 29:17 TLV)

There is a tendency among lukewarm believers to excuse their own wandering hearts, saying things like, “God knows my heart,” or “I’m not as bad as so-and-so,” or “I’m going to make changes, someday.”

*Now when someone hears the words of this oath and in his heart considers himself blessed, thinking, “Shalom will be mine, **even though I walk in the stubbornness of my heart**—thus sweeping away the moist with the dry”... (Deuteronomy 29:18 TLV)*

Such self-deception leaves a person unforgiven, and if they choose such a path, they will be kept from all the good that God has designed for those who love Him. He always wants us to remember to run back to Him when we have missed the mark. He calls us to return to Him with all our heart and soul so that he can receive us unto Himself.

Remember, no matter what you may have done; no matter how far you may have drifted; **never run from God, run to Him.**

*Now when all these things come upon you—the blessing and the curse that I have set before you—and you take them to heart in all the nations where Adonai your God has banished you, **and you return to Adonai your God and listen to His voice according to all that I am commanding you today—you and your children—with all your heart and with all your soul, then Adonai your God will bring you back from captivity and have compassion on you, and He will return and gather you from all the peoples where Adonai your God has scattered you.** (Deuteronomy 30:1-3 TLV)*

*For this mitzvah that I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you, nor is it far off. It is not in the heavens, that you should say, “Who will go up for us to the heavens and get it for us, and have us hear it so we may do it?” Nor is it across the sea, that you should say, “Who will cross over for us to the other side of the sea and get it for us, and have us hear it so we may do it?” **No, the word is very near to you—in your mouth and in your heart, to do it.** (Deuteronomy 30:11-14 TLV)*

Those who have known the truth of God’s Word in their hearts and let it slip become increasingly negative and miserable. Many in this state are overwhelmed by depression and hopelessness, and yet **there is a simple and God-given solution. “It is not too difficult for you.”** The good news of the Gospel is in full force today for those who will apply it. **IT’S NOT TOO LATE!** Just as wrong choices brought about bad consequences, **good choices** that select life not death, light not darkness, will open us up to the supernatural wonder of all that God has destined us to become.

And when he came to himself, he said, “How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee...” (Luke 15:17-18 KJV)

Don't delay! Run to God right now—He is waiting to receive you!

And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. (Luke 15:20 KJV)

*I call the heavens and the earth to witness about you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. **Therefore choose life so that you and your descendants may live.** (Deuteronomy 30:19 TLV)*

Choosing Jesus,
Terry

***With your ears you will hear a word from behind you: “This is the way; stay on it...”
Isaiah 30:21 (CJB)***

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