



28 Days to Renew Your Mind

(By the Book)

by Jesse Leonardi

Introduction

Have you ever considered why you may have struggled with faith, as if beating the air? Praying for years until you are dry of any hope, you resign yourself to never receiving an answer, but continue praying because you think you must, to be a 'good Christian', righteous believer (Jew or non-Jew)? This is devastating to your heart as the Scriptures says, hope deferred makes the heart sick. It also leaves your relationship with God shipwrecked, because HE is either true to HIS word or HE is not. Throughout this 28 days only read and apply one topic per day, in addition to your own, personal reading schedule of the Bible. Be starkly honest with yourself and most importantly with ADONAI (the LORD). The transformation begins with openness and a willingness to admit what you really believe. The goal is to trust HIM, ADONAI, (the LORD) more than we trust ourselves. This is HIS expectation.

(The term Non-Jew is used rather than Gentiles because Gentile has often been applied for centuries as a slur of sorts, rather than just a description of people who are not ethnically Jewish descendants from Abraham, Isaac and Jacob).

Day 1 What is Faith?

(Romans 10:17) **So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.** The LORD (ADONAI), infuses the gift of faith in His very word, for as we hear (read, meditate, digest, study), faith comes. How generous of HIM! The seed of faith is indwelt in God's very word, itself. He has even provided the seed, that we may be set free from the enemy and all his lies, destruction and devices. What is faith exactly? In the Greek, this word faith is **pistis**, meaning to be persuaded, come to trust. Who are we coming to trust? We can trust doctor reports, our feelings, circumstances, or the enemy's taunts. Or we can come to trust GOD Himself, the Author and Finisher of our faith. Our faith in this promise is based on the finished work of the Cross; a done deal. Our faith is, simply put, believing God will do what He has said He will do. The onus is on God to perform (confirm His word), and on us to believe He will perform it. Let us honestly ask ourselves, do we really believe? If we do not, let us examine ourselves (2 Corinthians 13:5) and be willing to lay ourselves down upon the altar as a living sacrifice, before the Father to do and to will for His good pleasure.

There is a condition to faith, but it is not what many believers in Christ (Yeshua HaMashiach) have come to believe. For numerous believers it has become an arduous task of drumming up, or conjuring for themselves some semblance of faith, without really understanding the essence of faith. This essential nature of faith is only, and ever generated from simply believing God's word, the Bible (full counsel); believing what He said, and the concomitant acceptance of His word as the TRUTH for yourself! That is trusting God to do what He has said He will do; if it is written, it is done. It is not a case of, well maybe it is not God's will to heal, or provide, or sustain; that is a false assumption based on doubt, emotions, experiences and circumstances. In His Word it is clearly stated that He has already provided for healing by His stripes, He supplies all of our needs according to His riches in glory, He is the giver and sustainer of all life (2 Peter 2:24, Phillipians 4:19, Job 33:4). There appear to be two extremes in Christendom and even with Messianic believers; one extreme is a belief that you never quite know what God's will is, and you must simply hope for the best; the other extreme is the proverbial taking the 'bull by the horns' type of faith and assuming you will make it happen, as if everything you will is God's will. Neither is the truth as revealed in the Bible. The LORD is not some capricious figure who doles out blessings here and there depending on His mood. Neither are we creating our own reality by declaring whatsoever we desire, and demanding it to appear; that is a new age (old age actually) belief that we are *gods*, as it were, and can command God. We have authority over all the power of the enemy, but we do not have power over God, (Luke 10:19). The exceedingly abundantly more than we can think or ask for is according to His power that works in us, not our self-generated control or demands.

This has been the old adage, from the Garden (of Eden), where humanity decided they would usurp God's will and authority when tempted by satan. The cycle has continued ever since. Each individual must determine for themselves whether God is in charge of their lives, or whether they'd prefer to direct their own lives (at their peril). To be clear, we are not victims of satan and his deceptions; believers must readily accept and act upon this truth according to God's Word which calls us more than conquerors, overcomers, and whom He always causes to triumph.

This paradoxical misconception in the Body of Christ causes believers to either allow themselves to be victims of the devil, as if he is more powerful than the One who abides in them (1 John 4:4), the same Spirit that raised Jesus (Yeshua) from the dead, or on the other hand, they cast a very wide net of naming, blaming, and claiming anything and everything, as if spoiled, spiritual brats entitled to whatever they determine is theirs, having faith in their own faith (aka desires/will), not faith in the Word of God; it is not Word of Faith (with it's own jargon, rules and clublike, and of times cult like policies), but *faith in His word* that we are required to uphold. The truth, as Jesus Christ (Yeshua Hamaschiach) already stated, is that if we abide in Him and His word abides in us, we will ask anything in His name and it will be given to us. This is not a free-for-all statement seeking selfish pleasures, for we are told not to use our freedom for our flesh in Galatians 5:13; it is however an acknowledgement that what the Father has provided in all areas is ours to receive. We are co-heirs with Christ (Messiah). Far too often believers find it impossible to receive because they do not believe what God has said is for them personally. They may feel undeserving, guilty, not good enough (all accusations of satan). So how do we overcome this dilemma? God's word has the answer. Stay close, immerse yourself in His word, and the truth will resolutely make you free!

A very productive practice is to ensure you are reading the Word everyday and meditating on it as the LORD (ADOINAI) directs in Psalm 1:1, Joshua 1:8, 2 Timothy 2:15, as well as many other scriptural references. This allows HIS word, which is HIS truth to take precedence over your flesh and satan's lies as your mind renews. This daily discipline encourages HIS word, which is spirit and life, to be born in you.

Prayer: Holy Spirit (Ruach HaKodesh), I ask You, the Spirit of Truth, to illuminate the mind of Christ (Mashiach) in me, so that I may understand the truth of Your Word in Jesus (Yeshua's) name. Quicken me according to Your word LORD and make Your Word become flesh in me in Jesus name.

Day 2 Traditions of Man

(Mark 7:13) "Making void the word of God with your tradition, that you have handed down. And you do many such things."

Jesus (Yeshua) said the traditions of men make the word of God of none effect. This is a foundational precept of our faith. What did He mean? Well, if we examine the Pharisees, they had an extremely precise system of religion and full control of the Torah, sacrifices, beliefs, temple worship, etc, as well as staunch management of Jewish society, as a whole. The one thing they did not possess were open hearts to Christ, (Messiah). These religious leaders made assumptions about their understanding of the Scriptures, to such a degree that when the Messiah appeared, they regarded him as a heretic, rabble rouser and false prophet. This is how traditions of men can become straight jackets to a genuine relationship with God; in addition these traditions are elevated above God's word and any who dare to question their validity are ostracized and minimized. So what current traditions have kept the Body of Christ captive? There is cessationism, (no healing or miracles today belief); believers are taught God sends sickness as a blessing, or chastisement, that it is not necessarily His will to heal all, although the Word of God states otherwise (Psalm 103:3, 2 Peter 2:24); and yes, there is an instance of Epaphroditus who was ill and Paul (Sha'ul left him while Epaphroditus was not yet healed. The same Sha'ul that healed multitudes simply by cloths he had touched); yet, this same man, Epaphroditus recovers and ministers to Sha'ul later. To extend this further, we must consider the whole counsel of GOD. In the Tanakh, (old testament), there are several times where ADONAI brings disease or disaster upon the people of Israel. These occurrences are often applied to our present day situations as well as the afflictions of Job. But are we misapplying GOD's wisdom with such a usage? His people, chosen for His purpose, a holy nation were to be a definitive example to all the other nations. They were to usher in and sustain the belief in One True God, a Living GOD. Did ADONAI's severe chastisement motivate them to return; sometimes, sometimes further chastisement was required to bring the children of Israel back to ADONAI. Applying this to any illness that is persistent, chronic, and long term which even after perhaps weeks, months or years of prayer is like saying well, I prayed for my adult son for years and he still isn't saved, so I quit because it must be GOD's will not to save him. Let us not fall into such a trap with the healing of our bodies and minds.

There also is a school of thought, in some current traditions, that contends expecting healing is presumptuous, or that we remain filthy sinners and victims of our own rebellious bodies, not new creatures,(1 Corinthians 5:17), etc. There also is the tradition in some circles of Christianity that place man's desires over God's will. For instance the so-called 'prosperity gospel' where self-centredness has become Lord and scriptures are twisted in order to support one's fleshly desires. Fear of man has also become its own tradition within some of the Body of Christ and therefore compromise of God's word and principles are favored over standing boldly for our faith, in

order to avoid persecution, particularly in the West, naming it love, or tolerance, rather than, more aptly, cowardice.

All these and multiple other traditions of man hinder the children of God from walking in faith and receiving all the LORD has provided and called us to become. Always, compare the tradition in question with the Bible (both Tanakh/Old Testament and B'rit Hadashah/New Testament). Is it aligned or skewed in relation to the Scriptures? If the tradition contradicts the Bible, it must be relinquished, even if we were raised with such traditions. For the Word of God to be effective, we have to believe it is true. Let God be true and every man a liar. Jesus Christ (Yeshua Hamashiach) is the Same Yesterday, Today and Forever, unchanging and faithful. His Word is true from the beginning according to Psalm 119:160. There are multiple scriptures describing the unfailing truth of God's word. Truly HIS word never fails.

Think of a tradition which you have believed that violates or contradicts the Word of God. Take your time and examine how it may have hindered your faith in God, walk with God, and call from ADONAI (the LORD). Write this tradition down and the Scripture(s) which addresses it. Then pray and be sincerely willing to relinquish it into ADONAI's Mighty hands. You may notice over the next few days or weeks how subtle but definitive this tradition(s) has influenced your relationship with the LORD.

Father, I have held this tradition(s) of _____ as precious and as taking precedence over Your Word. Please forgive me and reveal to me the truth rather than the tradition of man. I am willing to be renewed in my mind and transformed for Your good pleasure, according to Your will. Let it be done in Yeshua's name, Amen.

Day 3 Evil Heart of Unbelief

(Hebrews 3:12) "Take heed brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the Living God."

Unbelief is the crux of shipwrecked faith. In Hebrews 3:12 the Scripture states, "Take heed brethren, lest there be in any of you an *evil heart of unbelief* in departing from the Living God." This is a terrifying thought and we must acknowledge that God views unbelief as evil, not cute, or just a simple misunderstanding, but wicked. Why? Because unbelief, (doubt in His word) is when and how the original transgression occurred in the Garden of Eden. It is the same reasoning, and desire for independence from our Creator and an attempt to control, manipulate, and/or ignore God that occurred then, as now. This word in the Greek in Hebrews 3:12 is defined as **apistia** (meaning faithless), it is the antithesis of faith as amoral is the antithesis of morality. It is the extreme form, and we may convince ourselves that we only harbor a little doubt, but to God as stated in James, this doubt will extract nothing from God, as it indicates we are double minded, untrusting. A little unbelief is all it takes to leaven the whole lump of our hearts (**kardia** = Greek meaning the center of our being; the core of who we really are). Unbelief is evil because it is based on a stance of not trusting God, not relying on the goodness of His character, and disbelieving what He has said in His word. The LORD (ADONAI) takes this seriously because our entire relationship with Him is founded on faith. The old adage or excuse, "I'm only human", does not suffice, because in fact we are new creatures in Christ (Mashiach), old things have passed away, behold all things are made new (2 Corinthians 5:17). Unbelief is not something to placate, to "play nice" with, or even tolerate. Unbelief, in fact, is a choice. One we must all make. Just as a choice was given by the LORD through Moses (Deuteronomy 30:19), life or death, He insisted that the people of God, the Israelites, choose life. But of course they still had a choice. We too have a choice to make, believe the truth of the word which is Spirit and life, as Jesus (Yeshua) said, or choose fear, worry, doubt and then succumb to the torment of the enemy. God has provided everything we require for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3). Let us stop pretending we are orphans in the wilderness, but instead stand on the truth of His word that all we need is already ours, and provided fully. In the following prayer if you need to list specific issues, beliefs or doubts, please feel free to add them into the prayer.

Oh dear Father (Abba), forgive me for doubting Your goodness, Your full provision and Your life. Renew my mind through the glorious truth of Your Word and enlighten the eyes of my heart that I may be fully transformed. You deserve what You paid for Yeshua Hamashiach (Jesus Christ), and You paid for me, so I renounce unbelief and open my heart to truly trusting the only One who is always trustworthy in Yeshua's (Jesus) name. Amen.

Day 4 Killing Unbelief

(Ephesians 3:17) *That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith (pistis, persuaded, come to trust), that you being rooted and grounded in love.*”

With this understanding that unbelief is a sin, we can now be determined to render its ultimate demise. How do we definitively eradicate this persistent pest of unbelief? Truly discovering who the LORD of Glory actually is becomes our best insulation from faithlessness. Yeshua often chided the disciples for their lack of understanding, faith and grasp of who He truly was in the flesh. We can readily criticize them, but consider that God Himself came to redeem humanity in the very form of humanity that He had created. This was and is inconceivable to the natural mind. This was what they sometimes could not fathom. It is what challenges us, as well, but why? In Isaiah 53 it is clearly stated that He was wounded, punished in our place, bore our sicknesses, pain, and infirmity, that He died the most gruesome death, but looked to it with joy because He knew we were the prize. This is the LIVING GOD, the King of Glory. Namely, we cannot grasp GOD loving us with such depth that He would actually sacrifice Himself for us, personally. But He does (love us that profoundly) and He did (die in our stead). The solution to this chasm between ourselves and ADONAI is simple. As we commune with HIM in the Word, through His Spirit and by obedience to His will, it will only make sense to trust this One who is LOVE Himself. This process takes time, nurture and consistency, just as any relationship that we invest in blossoms. Our commitment to and time with the LORD are required for unbelief to die its rightful death.

In Ephesians 3:17 it states “That Christ (the Messiah) may dwell in your hearts by faith (pistis, persuaded, come to trust), that you being rooted and grounded in love.” This is the goal of the Father that we actually walk by faith and are rooted in His love which then opens our hearts to (Ephesians 3:18) “... comprehend ...the breadth, length, depth and height...” of His love. Do you see Saints, if we actually realized the unlimited expanse of His love towards us, how in our *right mind* could we ever doubt His faithfulness towards us, His provision in all areas (whether healing, housing, favor, help, direction, etc)? The Word declares like a Divine symphony in Ephesians 3:19 knowing the love of Christ (Mashiach); this knowing in the Greek original text is designated as the same as a husband and wife becoming one flesh). Are we not Yeshua’s flesh and bones (Ephesians 5:30)? This is no small thing that Yeshua HaMashiach (Jesus Christ) accomplished; if we have been believers for years, it seems the magnitude has been so diminished in our minds, as we chase after our needs, rather than seeking His kingdom and righteousness. We become jaded against the One true God who can deliver, rescue and liberate us from not only the enemy, but our own flesh. Listen to the remainder of the promise in Ephesians 3:19 once we come to know the love of Christ (Messiah) which passes knowledge, this is the ultimate prize, “...to be filled with the fullness of God.” How often do we cheat ourselves, and other believers with the “maybe it’s not God’s will” to provide, help, heal? Yet, here we are being informed of the great passion God has for us, His children, so much so as to fill us with His fullness. Oh, let us not miss this!

Dear LORD, fill me with the fullness of God through this deep and intimate knowledge of the love of Mashiach (Christ) who gave Himself for me. Forgive me for not honoring Jesus' remarkable sacrifice by unbelief. Let me, help me, have me Holy Spirit, (Ruach HaKodesh) my dear Teacher, believe Your Word simply because You have said it in Yeshua's name!

Day 5 Unbelief: The Silent Tormentor

“Examine yourselves, whether you be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know that you are not your own selves, how that Messiah Yeshua is in you, except you be reprobates? ” (2 Corinthians 13:5)

We must actually admit that unbelief is a regular companion in our walk with GOD, if we have found ourselves double-minded, James 1:6-8 provides a stern admonishment. That is one day believing His word and another day frustrated and discouraged, believing the lies of the enemy. For God’s part, He cannot keep company with unbelief, so we are then left with our flesh and the roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. Keeping the lies silent is what fuels their power. If conversely, when you hear the taunting voice of the enemy prod you, and declare the healing is not coming, the provision will never arrive and or the situation will only worsen, you will be aware the enemy is afoot providing misinformation (aka lies). We cannot placate or play nice with unbelief as if it were simply an annoying neighbor, or stray dog. Unbelief is a killer and will destroy our lives, the lives of those we love, and even a nation. Unbelief must be annihilated!

The LORD warns us in James (1:6-8) that doubt in GOD will lead to us receiving nothing from Him. So when we doubt, and then our prayers are seemingly unanswered, we become despondent, despairing and even bitter towards God, when, in fact, it was our own lack of faith that hindered God answering. This is not an exercise in pointing fingers but a statement of fact and once we accept our responsibility, we lose all victimhood, all attributing blame to others, and even ourselves. We simply admit, I didn’t believe, and without faith I will not receive. Not believing the word of God, doubting He is true to His word, and you can take Him at His word is stating to God and the enemy, that the LORD is not to be trusted as far as you are concerned, in this area or that, fill in the proverbial blank. This gives full permission to the enemy to wreak havoc, not because he has “a legal right” as some claim, but simply because our faith no longer guards us; the shield is laid down and fiery darts are a continual onslaught without faith’s shielding. We either believe the truth (God’s word) or a lie. There are only two options; believe or don’t; fence sitting is in fact doubting. Thus, there are no third options.

In James, we are starkly admonished that wavering in faith causes us to be tossed to and fro like a wave in the sea. No solid ground, we instead have built our house on shifting sand and silent torment buffets us with the wind and waves of doubt and fear, listening to the enemy’s threats and declarations of doom. It was doubting God’s word that caused the first sin, leading to the demise of humanity. Unbelief allows our flesh, including fear, worry and doubt to usher in the torment of the enemy who is roaring and roaming, looking for easy prey. Even worse than our own anguish is the fact that our unbelief dishonors what Jesus (Yeshua) bore for us; His bleeding to his death, for the sake of us (in the Greek His blood is described as a hemorrhage, that is bleeding out, with nothing left). Instead, we are believing that our symptoms, circumstances and issues are far greater than His stripes, crucifixion and promises. This is how unbelief leads to departing from the Living God and although we may state we are believers, our lack of faith in His word belies our profession. Let

us take a close look at our faith, examine it with the word of God. In 2 Corinthians 13:5 the word (examine) in the Greek, **peirázō**, means to test or tempt. So our own faith is tested when confronted with trials. Temptation can be a test to our faith. Again, this is always an opportunity to demonstrate our trust in GOD and His goodness. The other significant word in that Scripture is prove; in the Greek. **dokimázō**, meaning something genuine or approved. This Scripture states that we are to know our own selves, if indeed Christ (Masiach) is in us. That word *know or recognize* in the Greek is **epiginóskō**, meaning *experiential knowing, through direct relationship*. So this is how doubt is derailed, by truly knowing Christ, communing with the Spirit of God, and immersing ourselves in His word.

Faith is the very foundation of our salvation and the lives we live for and in Mashiach. We cannot look lightly upon doubt, neither do we berate ourselves, but instead when trials and difficulties arise, we take the sword of the Spirit, word of God (Ephesians 6:17) and slice the lies, doubts, fears to smithereens! We take no prisoners, this is a clean kill, nothing of doubt is to remain to contaminate us in our faith in HIM.

Oh, Lord Jesus (Yeshua), forgive me for believing so little of You, so little of what You really accomplished for me by Your sacrifice. Ruach Hakodesh (Holy Spirit), please help me, have me know the depth of what Jesus not only endured but accomplished. Have me examine myself and my faith and where it fails, oh dear LORD make it robust and new in Yeshua's name!

Day 6 The Profit of Faith

(Hebrews 4:2) *“For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.”*

In the Greek **sygkeránnymi** means to mix together or agree, thus in unity; it is a blending together into a loftier compound. Without this mixing, one is left in the pitiful dilemma of having heard His word, and yet embracing it not with faith. This condition of will is what leaves us stranded and shipwrecked, as well as without the fulfillment of His promises. Are we so stubborn as to consider that we need not faith in His word, but rather a quick demand of “Just “zap” me LORD? Faith, in truth, is indispensable and we are to guard, exert and stand in faith, not as its Author, but as its beneficiary. So, just as the Book of Hebrews, Sha’ul (Paul) was addressing, that we can “come short”, as the Scripture in Hebrews 4:1 admonishes. This not only entails missing the answers to our prayers, but being relegated to a place of unrest, and anxiousness, all based on mistrust. And we cannot minimize mistrust in GOD, for unbelief is sin, not a minor issue, to be ignored. Further in this chapter 4 of Hebrews, *unbelief* is called evil, not the usual excuse of “nobody’s perfect”, but something to eschew at all cost.

It is through faith and patience that “...we inherit the promises.” (Hebrews 6:12) Where these qualities and conditions do not exist, we are deluding ourselves and erecting our own disappointment of unanswered prayers. God is not at fault, for all that we need, desire and require is already made available to us through His promises. The catch is do we believe?

Father, forgive me for blaming you for unanswered prayer when, to be honest, I haven't truly believed Your Word. Ruach HaKodesh , please lead me and teach me the truth of Your Word. Show me how to walk in true faith and not turn back. Make me Your faithful vessel to be poured out as You see fit, in Yeshua Ha-machiach's name. Amen

Day 7 Entering His Rest

(Hebrews 4:3) *“For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.”*

Hebrews 4:3 refers to diligently seeking God and thereby we enter into His rest. The *rest* this scripture refers to means a dwelling place; to dwell as a matter of practice in His rest, a habitation, living there permanently. That is how we are meant to be as new creatures in CHRIST (MASHIACH) Not flailing about tossed by doubt and worry one day, and steadfast the next. We are to remain as Jesus said in Him, and His word remains (abide) in us. His word is His will, character and faithfulness revealed. But do we believe? If we are plagued by unrest, lack of peace, frustration, distress, we are assuredly not in His rest. What’s the solution for such unrest, in a word, TRUST. Whom are we to trust, the One who made us, died for us and now if we believe in Yeshua lives/abides in us. Perhaps a reasonable starting point to this dilemma of unrest is to admit we haven’t quite grasped the magnificent grace of our Creator who was not satisfied with simply allowing humanity to meet its demise, but instead took on the very repugnance of His own creation by bearing all sin, hurt, abuse, sickness, torment upon His own body. Perhaps we have become complacent in our assessment of this Savior, as if His sacrifice failed to accomplish our redemption, although the Word presents this with abundant clarity: “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* everyone that hangeth on a tree.” (Galatians 3:13). That word redeemed, in the Greek, *exēgorasen* means payment of the full cost to liberate a slave. We were slaves of self, sin and satan. Let’s live in the freedom Yeshua Hamashiach paid to redeem us.

Dear Father (Abba), forgive me for forgetting what my dear Savior accomplished for me on that cross (tree). Have me, Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit) truly understand what He paid for, and help to be and live as the redeemed everyday from this moment forward. I believe and receive that I am no longer cursed but blessed beyond measure by You who daily loads me with benefits, even the God of my salvation. (Psalm 68:18)

(Hebrews 4:3)

Day 8 New Creatures (Dead to the Flesh)

*2 Corinthians 5:17) “Therefore is any one be in Messiah, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, behold all things are made new.”

(You are welcome to read all three of these scriptures, connecting our liberty to Yeshua HaMashiach’s sacrifice: Romans 8:2, Galatians 5:20, 2 Corinthians 5:17)

Do we actually live as new creatures in Christ (Messiah), or is the more familiar, “*Well, I’m not perfect*” syndrome our ilk? What does it actually mean to be a new creation? In 2 Corinthians 5:17, the word new in the Greek is **kainós**, meaning new, fresh, and “not found exactly like this before.” That’s who we really are, but how often do we disguise ourselves in the flesh of our past, our mistakes, our consternation about future decisions? This is where unbelief still lurks in our minds and often in our hearts. Rather than trusting what God has said, if we are in Christ, we are a new creature or creation. The word creature/creation in the Greek is **ktísis**, meaning the act or the product created. This product is considered in the Greek translation to be “*founded from nothing*” . That is we are created as new creatures out of nothing. It is not that GOD uses the old and creates a new person or modified product from that which was, but that He literally out of nothing through the redemptive sacrifice of JESUS (YESHUA) makes us actually new! Old things passed away, behold all things are made new. How is this possible, well GOD created all things out of nothing (Hebrews 11:3), by His very word. He created from His word and the Word became flesh in Christ who took away the sin of the world and made us who believe in Him new creatures. It is still God’s word that holds the power of transformation in us; it remains God’s word that can be trusted, not how we feel or our sense of inadequacy, not our past, but RIGHT NOW, new, fresh created from nothing! What an impossible experiment! Yet, for God it is assured, guaranteed, never in doubt.

LORD, You are the GOD of the IMPOSSIBLE! I surely was someone whom others would look upon as never changing. I was someone even I didn't know could be transformed. Yet, there You pursued my heart until I relented and gave myself to You. By Your Word it is declared that I am a new creature, fresh, and something never before created, from nothing. I want to yield to this truth instead of holding to my past, my hurt, my mistakes, my foolish decisions and let YOU fully lead me Your way in Jesus name.

Day 9 Fear Not (the enemy/man)

(2 Timothy 1:7) *God has not given us a spirit of fear; but of power and of love and of a sound mind."*

We are told that we were not given a spirit of fear, which in the Greek is the word **deilia**, meaning cowardice, or timidity. It is interesting to note that Paul (Sha'ul) is somewhat, gently admonishing Timothy to not draw back, but move forward regardless of the potential persecution and relates this to his own current state as a literal prisoner. It appears, the Body of Christ (Messiah), in many regions, is more fearful of man and what humanity may do, than of God and who He is. This is also demonstrated individually as our not witnessing to the lost, or compromising for acceptance, or yielding to the spirit of fear and believing its taunts of intimidation, sickness, poverty, disaster, etc. The word, power in the Greek is **dunamis** (*miraculous*) *power, might, strength, powerful deeds*. This is the opposite of fear, timidity, and cowardice. How is it that believers believe more in fear than the Word of God which emphatically states we have access to God's might and power? Is it Church tradition, an unwillingness to obey His commands, or simply a lack of understanding? Whatever the basis, following this falsehood has caused many a believer to never fulfill God's call on their lives but instead to be a perpetual victim of fear and the enemy's usage of such. Fear is one of the prime weapons of satan and if he can lure you to take the bait, you have stepped into his realm. What is the solution, FAITH! Faith in what God has said; Faith in who God is; Faith in truth rather than lies.

We all have been given a measure of faith from the LORD and for it to increase, we need to act on our faith, walk in its direction and not draw back. With the soundness of mind the (ADONAI) LORD has bestowed upon us along with His power (not our power), we can conquer the devices of the enemy. The word for sound mind in the Greek is **sóphronismos**, which relates to self-control and being *safe-minded*, or sensible by God's terms, not ours. So, although God may ask us to do something we as yet do not understand, it will be sound and sensible in His kingdom. If we have symptoms, for instance, and the enemy taunts us with fear by repeating we will never be well; we can answer with the TRUTH, God's Word that says He sent His word and healed them, or By His Stripes we were Healed. This may to the natural man seem nonsensical, but God has already accomplished the healing and has clearly stated this to be true in His Word. So, in fact, fear is the unreasonable response. This is what we need to flip in our minds: faith is the sensible response, fear is nonsensical when you consider GOD's promises. The key is believing them for yourself.

ADONAI, forgive me for yielding to fear instead of faith in You, in Your Word, in Your faithfulness. Help me Holy Spirit to resist fear and submit to God. Whatever is abiding in me that allows fear to persuade me, remove it permanently, so that my life in all areas glorifies You ADONAI, in Jesus name (B;shem Yeshua), Amen.

Day 10 The Battle is God's

(2 Chronicles 20:15) *“Be not dismayed or afraid for the battle is not yours but God's.”*

The word battle in the Hebrew is **milchamah**, meaning war or battle and the word dismay in the Greek in this Scripture is **chathath**, meaning shattered, cracked. In the original Hebrew, the phrase *Yahweh says thus*, is **amar**, meaning to utter, assert, say, command. This informs us that God Himself has said, the battle is His; it is His very word, which is His promised guarantee. This does not indicate we simply sit back and have no involvement in the fight, but it does absolutely affirm the victory is definite, as God never loses a battle. If we could only truly trust this, and let unbelief in His faithfulness be a faint memory, how rich the glory of His presence and provision, hope and grace we would come to know personally. How did King Jehoshaphat gain this promise? He inquired of the LORD. He sought GOD's help. The king did not assume he, himself, had the answer to the threat of a great multitude planning an attack. He did not as a king with massive resources at his disposal, place faith in his horses, chariots, soldiers or weapons. He cried out to ADONAI, and acknowledged ADONAI'S magnificence. The king declared that their eyes were upon GOD, not even upon their enemy and the fear they produced. Remember, the LORD is enough for any battle we are engaged in or that threatens us. There is no victory without a battle and the LORD always causes us to triumph in Christ Jesus (Messiah Yeshua) 2 Corinthians 2:14. Guaranteed!!!

Prayer: Dear LORD (ADONAI), the battle is always Yours and You are undefeatable. Please, Holy Spirit (ruach HaKodesh) have me stop leaning on our own ability, talents, reasoning or power for in comparison to You it is less than miniscule. Give me revelation knowledge through Your Word and presence of just how good You truly are; forgive me for doubting the only One that will never leave, forsake or abandon us. Whatever battle we are facing, or will face, we thank You that it is YOURS and You are always Victorious in Yeshua's name.

Day 11 Trust In God is Liberty

Psalm 118:8 *“It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.”*

“Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.” (2 Corinthians 3:17-18)

Trusting man, including ourselves or our circumstances, possessions, abilities and talents, in general, leads us to mistrust God. In Psalm 11:8 the Scripture states that trusting God is better than having confidence in man. (Psalm 118:8) “It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.” The word confidence in the Hebrew, **batach**, means *to throw one down upon one’s face, or extend oneself on the ground*. What a graphic illustration of our tendency to believe in others or ourselves, placing our confidence (**batach**) there rather than trusting God. It is quite an indictment on our walk with Messiah. As we examine the word trust, **chasah**, in the Hebrew, it means to seek shelter or refuge. Very distinct from laying prostrate on the ground (yielding ourselves to confidence in self and other). Yet, trusting God is simply seeking refuge, to be sheltered by Him. One would think that we would lay prostrate on the ground before God, yielding to Him, the God of all comfort, provision, healing and life itself. Again, just as in the Garden, mankind chose to rely on itself, rather than the promises and provision and dictates of ADONAI. That independent streak is what destroys many of us or at the very least derails ADONAI’S plans and replaces them with what we believe are a better options.

So, what is the solution? The LORD is a Spirit and where the Spirit of the LORD is there is liberty. That liberty in the Greek is **eleutheria**, meaning freedom from slavery. What slavery? Slavery to self, sin and satan. If we yield to the Holy Spirit (Ruach HaKodesh) instead of self-confidence (laying prostrate) before our own plans, strength, reasoning and abilities, then we will find shelter or refuge from our chronic independence and the incessant lies of the flesh in partnership with the enemy. Let us come boldly to His throne of grace, not putting confidence in man, but trust in the GOD who knows all things and gave Himself for us. From surrender we begin to be transformed into His image from glory to glory. The very intrinsic worth and value (glory in Greek, *doxa*) of ADONAI becomes ours; we embody His value, worth, essence.

Dear Abba (Father), forgive me for believing I know better than You, as if that were even possible. I do not know how to surrender, as I am so tied up in the knots of what if, what was, and what may never be. That is no way to live a life purchased by Jesus Christ (Yeshua HaMashiach). So, although I struggle with trying to do things my own way, today and from here on out, I will lay everything out before You; I will lay internally prostrate before You instead of before man (including myself). TAKE OVER Holy Spirit for You are my Counselor, Teacher, Guide and the very One that rose Yeshua from the dead. You obviously have more power, knowledge and wisdom than I can

even imagine. You are the Spirit of Truth, so knowing that, I yield my life and plans, hopes and dreams and very future, my all to You in Yeshua's name.

Day 12 Going Your Own Way Leads to Death

(Proverbs 14:12) *“There is a way that seems right to a man but the end thereof leads to death.”*

We have a definitive warning in Proverbs 14:12, “There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” The LORD is always clear and direct in His word, if we but incline our hearts and allow the Ruach HaKodesh, whose sword the word is, to bring us revelation, life not death would be the way. Let us consider, how do we avoid going our own way? Do we trust His way? This is the more pertinent question. How do we know the difference between the two, His way or ours? It is not contingent on emotions or even reason, it is utterly dependent on a living relationship with the Living God and His word. Feelings are fleeting, and reason is limited by human constraints. There is another way, God’s way.

In the Greek, way is the word **derek**, meaning road, distance, journey, practice, manner. So it is not simply a direction, but, also, can be a habitual practice or way of thinking, doing, or being. The phrase of what seems right, in the Greek is **yashar**, meaning straight, right, but is applied as that which is pleasing in what is considered righteous. This illuminates the tendency towards self-deception; we may determine something is right because of our own personal judgment, it pleases us or we believe God will be pleased, not even entering the realm of sinfulness or selfishness but simply believing it is the best option. When we take action without God’s counsel, the way will never be truly right; it will miss the mark because He is omniscient and we are limited in our understanding. If we, as Proverbs 3: 5 instructs, acknowledge ADONAI in all our ways, He will make the path straight, smooth (*yashar*).

The issue stems from our independence from God, believing we know best or yielding to the flesh’s desires or satan’s taunts, rather than seeking the LORD of glory and His wisdom. If you have found yourself continually mistaking a direction, path, choice, or decision, look unto Him the Author and finisher of Your faith. This is where unbelief in His goodness is highlighted, for if we truly trust ADONAI, then attempting to make any decision without Him is seen as fool’s play and to be avoided fervently.

Prayer: Abba in Heaven, forgive me for thinking I know best when I am limited and need Your wisdom which is far above my own. Please shut the doors that are not from You and open those that are; I receive every good and perfect gift from You, My Father of lights in whom there is no shadow or turning, in Jesus (Yeshua’s) name. MAKE MY WAY YOUR WAY LORD (ADONAI) in Jesus (Yeshua’s) name. Amen.

Day 13 Waiting on God

Isaiah 40:31 *“But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”*

Our least preferred instruction from the LORD is oft times “Wait”. In one of the most well known Scriptures, Isaiah 40:31, the word wait in Hebrew is **qavah**. This means to wait for or even be entwined with; there are also other linguistic influences that have been applied to this word which are as follows: “*twist, stretch, the tension of enduring, waiting: Assyrian 𐤒𐤍𐤏𐤍, I. wait, 𐤒𐤍, cord; Arabic be strong, strength, strand of rope; Syriac endure, remain, await, threads.*” With this understanding and considering the Assyrian and Arabic influence, waiting is not simply an issue of time but of strength in endurance and patience; a tension is inherent in the need to wait until we surrender to the LORD (ADONAI). It has been conveyed that in the Hebrew this word **qavah**, *is an entwining of ourselves with ADONAI to be in step with HIM not our flesh.* We often falter in this area due to not just impatience but unbelief; a fear the LORD will not intervene or if He does that it will be less than to our liking. Waiting is active, not passive. We are promised in this Scripture that when we wait upon ADONAI, the reward far outweighs the challenge of waiting. We are guaranteed enhanced strength that is not natural, but allows us to go further than human strength; we are promised the ability to soar above, and most importantly this is all bestowed upon us by the Living God who does exceedingly abundantly more than we can think or ask. So, why wait? First, because He requires it, secondly, we will receive great rewards and most significantly it demonstrates that we believe, trust in and have faith in ADONAI’s word and character. Why is it so difficult to wait? Our flesh tends to be adverse to such a suggestion, let alone a direct instruction to wait to wait for a reward. Not waiting produces sin as we attempt to take charge of what is in HIS omnipotent and omniscient hands, seeing the end from the beginning. Our limited view when yielded to, generates fear, worry, doubt and even suspicion towards ADONAI. Waiting is a definitive sign that we actually trust HIM. This is the waiting that can not only replenish us, but provides His peace that passes all understanding, for instead of anxiety, we simply seek His counsel; we pray and thank Him, knowing His best is on its way.

Dear Father,

Forgive me for not wanting to wait, for running ahead of or away from Your plans, and for not trusting You enough to wait. You only give me good and perfect gifts, so waiting is for my best. Help me Holy Spirit (Ruach HaKodesh) to find waiting easy and yielding to You as natural, instead of a constant fight. I need Your help to stop relying on myself. You are more than enough, in Yeshua’s name! Amen

Day 14 Pleasing God With Faith

Hebrews 11:6 *“But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”*

Why is it impossible to please GOD without faith? Faith is the essence of our relationship with Christ (Messiah). ***Faith is the currency of trust.*** When God is trusted for what He has said in His Word, and is trusted for who He is, we are finally in harmony with the One who made us. In the Book of Hebrews, 11:6 states “Now without faith it is impossible to please God”, the word *please* in the Greek is **euarestéō** – to please (gratify) by giving what is acceptable: **Euarestéō** and faith (**pístis**) are directly linked. When we consider that Jesus (Yeshua) is the Author and Finisher of our faith, we are not in this alone, attempting to conjure up and force faith. Yeshua not only intercedes for us, but it is by His faith that we no longer live, but Mashiach (Messiah) lives in us (Galatians 2:20). This is the new creation that we have become (2 Corinthians 5:17). All these truths are by faith, not feelings, not sensations. Just as the moment of salvation is by faith. We may feel nothing in particular when we confess with our mouth Jesus Christ (Yeshua HaMashiach) and believe in our hearts that God (HaShem meaning the Name) raised Him from the dead. It is belief in His Word that brings forth what HaShem has said into our physical and spiritual reality. It is faith in HIM that pleases the One who made us and from this faith we are rewarded. If we lack faith, the enemy happily will reward us with destruction (John 10:10). The choice is ours and how often do we resist that responsibility, blaming God for our circumstances? It is a daunting liability that our faith depends on our willingness to believe, for HaShem has already provided the reward. The issue at hand is relying on ourselves, not ADONAI. It is the original Garden scenario of I can do this without ADONAI. We often believe more in ourselves and our abilities than the infinite wisdom, power and goodness of HaShem (the Name). Repentance is where freedom lies and the future ADONAI has planned for us.

Dear Father, Forgive me for trusting myself more than you, for placing my faith in others and my own abilities. Holy Spirit (Ruach HaKodesh) please release me from this lie and temptation to rely on myself, rather than you. Have Your Word of truth be made flesh in me in Jesus (Yeshua’s) name.

Day 15 Faith Works By Love

Galatians 5:6 *“For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.”*

Faith working by love is essential for we are told no matter how many gifts of the Spirit we possess, or how many great exploits we produce even by faith, without love, we are a clanging cymbal; we are nothing (1 Corinthians 13:1-3). The word *work* in the Greek is **energéō** (*en*, "engaged in") which then is intensified to **érgon**, "work") meaning to energize, and work in a circumstance bringing it from one stage to the next; this is similar to an electrical current working through a wire, causing the light bulb to illuminate. Interestingly, that is what Yeshu HaMashiach asked us to be, light in a dark world. How? By love, by His love, not human love which is limited, but by His love that seeks the welfare of others above oneself. Love or *charity* as translated in the King James version, means love, benevolence, goodwill based on the root of the word meaning a moral preference, preferring someone over ourselves (1 Corinthians 13:13). This is exactly what Yeshua commanded: "Love one another as I have loved you." How did He love us.....by laying down His life. This love is also transferred to ADONAI Himself, for our faith in Him works through love towards Him. We are conduits of His love, and His love has been shed abroad by the Holy Spirit into our hearts. Love is plentiful if we would only not be parsimonious with what the LORD (ADONAI) has poured into us. When we pray for others or say we will pray, let us be devoted to our promise, and do so with a heart of preference towards them as if they were us. That is faith working through Love.

Father (Abba), oh, forgive me for ever being cheap with your love, as if it is limited. Show me how, Holy Spirit, to let the Love from You flow like a river to those in need without restraint. Help me to not be afraid to reach out and believe you will heal, deliver and save those You send me to. In all this, please have my faith work through Your Love that it may manifest all that You have planned for others. Let me be Your conduit of mercy, grace and help in time of need in YESHUA'S name. Amen

Day 16 Don't Let Your Faith Be Bullied

James 4:7 "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

In James (Ya'akov) 4:7 submitting oneself to ADONAI in the Greek is **hypotássō** (from *hypó*, "under" and */tássō*, "arrange"): that is "under God's arrangement." When we submit to this arrangement of HIS plans, yielding and following it, we are guaranteed to produce the fruit the LORD has intended. When we walk our own way, the devil and our flesh, (devious playmates, to be sure), have lured us into a trap; that is our flesh by following selfish desires, and the devil by his smoke and mirrors of what if's, that are driven by fear, worry and doubt, or pleasing temptations. To submit to God's arrangement, or put ourselves under, as the Greek derivative designates, means we actually trust ADONAI with the outcome. Let us therefore admit our lack of trust openly before the LORD, so that He may heal us of the reasons behind our mistrust, whether childhood issues, current circumstances, or even traditions of man.

The word resist in the Greek is **anthístēmi** (from *antí*, "opposite/against" and *hístēmi*, "to stand"): meaning to take a *complete stand against*, complete opposition, a contrary stance to the position of the enemy; that is, standing your ground, since this word in classical Greek was applied as a military term, meaning to resolutely resist the opposing side. Imagine, if we actually ceased from double mindedness and withstood the enemy resolutely, how quickly he would take flight. It is not that the enemy, the devil has such immense power over us, since Yeshua our Savior dethroned him of such power by conquering sin and death, but it is our resolve to either resist (stand our ground no matter what), or surrender to our flesh with its aches, pains, grizzling, self-pity, victimhood, and the rest. We choose, not the enemy of our souls; let us be clear on that matter. It is in our hands, not the devil's. Which do we stand against, God or the devil, because we may not have it both ways; it truly is a black and white issue. There is no gray in the Spirit. We are either for Yeshua, as He said in His earthly incarnation, or we are against Him. The most lamentable aspect of all this is He is FOR US, but are we convinced? What would convince us if the Cross is not enough?

Dear Father, so many times I have chosen my own way rather than Your arrangement; so many times, I have then been trampled by the enemy. Please help me to resist the devil instead of You who is for me, not against me, in Yeshua's name. Amen

Day 17 Promises, Promises, Promises

Acts 2:39 “For the promise is unto you and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.”

The word promise in this verse, in the Greek is **epaggelia** (“an appropriate *promise*”) is applied to *God's promises*, and therefore guaranteed by His very Being, or Essence of faithfulness. This word **epaggelia** is utilized as a legal term applied to a sanctioned, official promise in the New Testament (B’rit Hadashah) and relates back to the Old Testament (Tanakh) prophetically, in most instances.

The LORD is essentially a Promise Keeper. The issue of mistrust is not based on His faithfulness, but our doubt. When we suspect Him and His word, faith is easily swayed, diminished and even substituted for the flesh. ADONAI provides us with a plethora of promises throughout His Word. Even before you were born you were given this promise for you were the ones that are described as, “...all that are afar off.” You were thought of by GOD, not an afterthought, but, even before the birth of the Church, the Body of Messiah as Peter preached the gospel to the House of Israel.

The Bible is overflowing with promises from ADONAI in all manner of areas, from justice, to healing, to regeneration, forgiveness, and so much more. The question is do we believe His promises, and even more confronting is why don't we? What is the foundational reason for doubting HIM? Is it past wounds, the betrayal of others towards us, our own failings, prayers not answered according to our timeline or preference? Let's be honest with ourselves and with HaShem, without faith it is impossible to please Him, because we are then implying that He is untrustworthy.

Dear Father, forgive me for relying on my own abilities and strengths instead of turning to You and Your faithfulness. Forgive me my doubt in Your goodness and love towards me. Please heal my wounds, Holy Spirit Ruach HaKodesh, that keep me from trusting You, so that I may enter into Your rest and believe in the precious promises You have given me. Cleanse me LORD (ADONAI) from ALL doubt, worry, fear and unbelief, for You are more than Worthy in Jesus (Yeshus's) name.

Day 18 Believe and Receive

“Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*.” (Mark 11:24)

The word receive in the Greek is **lambánō** (from *lab-*, which means "to actively lay hold of, or to take/receive). This is an aggressive action, actively receiving what is available by taking it for oneself. This word **lambánō** focuses on the will or volition, being assertive as the receiver. In other words, we are to be actively taking what the LORD has provided, promised and assured. The problem is not with ADONAI, but with a weak or flimsy faith in which we are waiting on HIM to give us what He said we are to receive (**lambánō**). He has done His job, His part, in offering, providing, promising; instead of blaming ADONAI or even the devil, let's examine ourselves and determine if we really are in the faith. This is the dilemma of many believers; they think they are believing but they have missed the crucial active requirement of receiving (or taking) what GOD's word definitively promises. If "By His Stripes We Are Healed" then we are to receive, take aggressively that truth as ours, rather than indecisively shake our heads that God will heal us one day (we hope), and when symptoms or troubles are no longer, then we believe; the evidence we need for faith is not the change of our circumstances, but a change of heart towards ADONAI. Let us take hold of HIS PROMISES aggressively, for we dare not let the roaring lion devour us as we sheepishly wonder and wander off into the fields of doubt and unbelief.

Dear LORD, forgive me for wandering off into the fields of doubt and unbelief. I realize that You actually approve of my aggressively taking what You have promised and provided; that is the truth about receiving. From this day forward I RECEIVE (lambánō) and take what is mine according to YOUR WORD in Yeshua's name, for Your glory and Your glory alone. Amen.

Day 19 Rest is a Gift From GOD

“For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God *did* from HIS.”
(Hebrews 4:10)

We often view rest as either unnecessary, inconvenient or as an expression of a lack of diligence. Yet, according to the LORD, rest is something He not only sanctions but expects as He “...ceased from His own works...”. We are not above our Master. If ADONAI rested, so must we; if Yeshua rested so are we to follow. The Ruach HaKodesh has been given as our Helper, promised to “...all that are afar off, even as many as the LORD our God shall call.” (Acts 3:39). So, why do we insist on DIY (do it yourself) faith, as if that is ADONAI’s requirement; such a policy and practice is the antithesis of true Christian/Messianic faith, which requires us to walk by faith not by sight. This demands full reliance on HaShem (The Name), not ourselves in every area, from mental understanding, to provision, to our decisions and actions. Life with ADONAI is not based on our abilities, skills and talents, but on His mercy, grace, generosity, wisdom, power and Love. We forsake these precious gifts if we keep Him from helping us in every aspect of our lives. The Holy Spirit desires to help those who belong to the Messiah. Ruach HaKodesh is our Teacher who will lead us into all truth and teach us concerning all things. The solution to such an impasse is uncomplicated; simply invite the Holy Spirit (Ruach HaKodesh) into everything from reading the Scriptures, to prayer, to decisions, to relationships, to even managing our emotions and beyond. Rest is from above (Heaven), constant action is from beneath (earth). IN fact, ADONAI instituted rest for the people of GOD through the Shabbat (Sabbath). This is not burdensome, but a sweet gift to stop all the flurry of activity and be truly with Him, our families and the present moment. If we take this time, weekly, as in Israel, to this day, we will find a new world of peace, (shalom) opens to our hearts, our minds and even to our bodies. This way we will no longer be driven to performance-salvation, or Believer workaholism to prove we are worthy, because earning His love and grace is impossible, and only Jesus Christ (Yeshua HaMashiach) accomplished that. It is finished.

Dear LORD, please forgive us for trying to be our own saviors and interpreting, working out our own salvation as if the other part of that Scripture were non-existent that God works in us to do and to will of His good pleasure. We repent and turn to You to be involved and invited into every area of our lives. Help us Holy Spirit (Ruach HaKodesh) yield daily to Your wisdom, goodness and power in Yeshua’s name. Amen.

Day 20 Yoked With ADONAI

“Be ye not equally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?” (2 Corinthians 6:14)

In His word the LORD admonishes us not to be unevenly yoked in 2 Corinthians 6:14, Paul asserts: “Be ye not unequally **yoked** together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?” Yoked in the Greek is **zygós**, meaning to join together two to a single plow. If we are yoked with our flesh, or the devil, how can we move in the same direction as ADONAI? It is impossible. It is not just people with whom we can be unevenly yoked, but with our very flesh, mental patterns, emotional impulsivity; consequently, we are then yoked with satan, for he and the flesh are ready partners of deception and operate to satisfy self, rather than obey the will of ADONAI. The LORD does not drag us along like a dog on a leash; He invites us to Follow Him, to be led by His Spirit and be yoked to His presence, as our Good Shepherd. It is a choice we must make. Trust Him or our flesh. We cannot have it both ways, one foot in the kingdom of darkness and one foot in the kingdom of His dear Son, means we really are in the shadows, not the Light. Compromise is not an option with HaShem (GOD). All in or not in at all is the truth of genuine faith in Yeshua HaMashiach.

Dear Father, let us be yoked to YOU and Your will, not our flesh. Let us not go the way that seems right to us, but leads to death; instead, have us follow the way of life that You have set out in Your Word so clearly. Father, forgive us for yoking ourselves to those we are unmatched with, whether it be people, ideas, desires, circumstances, or our own flesh. We repent and seek Your direction, Holy Spirit, for You lead us into all truth. Help us, have us Ruach HaKodesh, not to give in to and submit to our fleshly desires, but rather to yield to the desires of Your heart. Yoke us together to our Father, that we may glorify Him in Yeshua's name. Amen.

Day 21 Being Spirit Led

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” (Romans 8:14)

This is the question: Are we sons of God? What is the LORD’s definition? Those led by His Spirit, the Third Person of the Triune GOD, Ruach HaKodesh, are His sons/ daughters. If we understand, that the word *led* in the Greek is **agó**, meaning to lead, bring or carry as leading or bringing a person or animal and guiding them, this is the Good Shepherd of our souls. In this instance, of Romans 8:14, the word *led* (**agó**) relates to being “impelled or influenced in the mind”. If we consider that we are promised the mind of Messiah, this fits perfectly the paradigm of being led by His Spirit in whom we are indwelt. What we must consider is whether we are led by His mind or our own. When presented with decisions, choices and actions, do we consult with the Holy Spirit or do we proceed on human wisdom? We may even seek His counsel and yet still follow not His guidance, but what actually impels us, our emotions? The mind, or will and our thoughts follow the heart. The secrets of the heart drive our thinking, decisions in actions in so many instances. How often have we asked the LORD for His advice, direction, and will, only to revert to our own inclinations? Imagine, instead, allowing the One who surrendered all for us, as our lead. What is it we so fearfully doubt; that the LORD actually hears us, cares for us, loves us, will choose wisely? Or is it truly the garden effect of our ancient ancestors, Adam and Eve, wanting to be like GOD, in charge and self-determined? This of course, just leaves us battle scarred by decisions and choices never led by the Ruach HaKodesh, but instead driven by our flesh and the devil’s compelling. And yet, the choice is ours, repent, turn back and be led by the Spirit who leads us into all truth. In the Greek, the word sons is **hyiós**, one who is related through birth or adoption and shares the same nature as their Father. We are His children, heirs through His Son, Yeshua HaMashiach. When we are led by His Spirit (the Ruach), our nature matches that of our Father (Abba) in Heaven, thus we are His sons and daughters truly sharing His nature.

Oh dear Holy Spirit (Ruach HaKodesh), thank You for being so patient with us. Forgive us our hubris and arrogance, as if we know better than the One who is Truth. Please Ruach HaKodesh, as our Helper, Comforter, Counselor LEAD us as You see fit, and teach us to be at peace even when we do not understand why, where or how You are leading us. Please give us rest from ourselves, for we are so weary of being our own Masters. Take us by the hand as we reach out to You now, and say we will follow where You lead in B'Shem Yeshua (Jesus name). Amen.”

Day 22 If You Only Knew

“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear, but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.” (Romans 8:15)

Adoption in the Greek is the word, **hyiothesía** meaning the sonship of legal adoption. We are no longer slaves of sin, self or satan. God is our Father and we are His adopted sons (sonship applies equally to daughters in this context); simply stated, believers in Yeshua, (Jew or Non-Jew) are His. But it is clear this is something we must receive; as we believe, we receive it, and we shall have it, Jesus instructed. In this Scripture, Paul (Sha’ul) declares you have not received (**lambánō**) a Spirit of fear, but have received **lambánō** meaning to lay hold of and aggressively accept the offer of a Spirit of Adoption. **Lambánō** means we "accept with initiative"; this word focuses on the will of the receiver. Therefore, we as believers, are to receive actively, the Spirit of adoption, for it is the foundation of our unity with the Father. This is crucial to actually knowing the Father, being identified with Christ (Messiah). We either are His or we are not. It is not something we can fabricate, only something we must wholeheartedly surrender ourselves to as sons (and daughters). It is not enough to do wonderful works, including healing, miracles, prophesy; that does not a son make. As Yeshua warned repeatedly, many will say to Him, Lord, Lord, and He will not recognize them. That means those He illustrated and referred to in His admonition were not sons of God, but sons of this world, doing good works, miraculous works. Indeed, works in and of themselves does not equate with sonship. We, who actively receive Christ (Mashiach) according to the Word have been given conferred authority in John 1:12, to be called sons of God. The premise of our identity is always Christ (Messiah) and our relationship to Him, rather than what we can produce or use to justify a position. This right is not ours by demand or self-justification, but by simply believing the Mashiach Yeshua is who He has said He is, and receiving the most magnanimous gift ever offered, eternity with GOD ALMIGHTY (ELOHIM). This is the depth of His love.

Dear Father, please forgive us our foolishness of trying to prove we deserve eternity. Nothing we can do will ever pay the price paid on our behalf through Your Son, Yeshua. Instead, we ask for You, by Your Spirit, to fully fill us and reveal to us what this unfathomable gift of eternity really means and to love You more than we love anything else. We want TO BE KNOWN BY YOU and anything that hinders that or stands in its way, please remove and uproot Father, that we may truly know YOU in Jesus name (B’shem Yeshua). Amen.

Day 23 Believers Can (*but do they believe?*)

Phillipians 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ (MESSIAH) who strengthens me.”

The only means by which believers can do all things is through Yeshua HaMashiach. What exactly does that mean in the daily life of a follower of Christ (Messiah), and why do we often default into the belief that we are “only human”? This default mode belies the truth with which Messiah Yeshua has provided through His death and resurrection. Or is it simply easier to bemoan our limitations as if that is the finality of the matter? Do we realize when we resign ourselves to only the natural world and its limitations, we are actually denying the power and sacrifice of Jesus Christ (Yeshua HaMashiach)? For this, we must repent. We are to be His witnesses, imbued with His power through the 3rd Person of the Triune God, the Holy Spirit. This false humility of “being only human”, in actuality denies the reality that we are new creatures in Messiah (Christ), old things have passed away, behold all things are made new.

In the Greek, the word for strength is **isxyō** ; that is strength that is actively engaged in resistance. This refers to the believer being strengthened by the Messiah, with combative or confrontational force to overcome and obtain victory in all that He has led us to do. This strength is defined in the Greek as “strength, (absolute), power, might, force, ability.” Therefore not limited to the natural world or human limits. It includes the force or power to overcome resistance in the moment. This is the opposite response we as believers often execute when confronted with difficulties or challenges. **isxyō** refers to accepting and exercising the required resistance which results in what the ADONAI (LORD) considers victory in any given situation. The core of this willingness to resist in His **isxyō** is founded on faith in Messiah and His faithfulness. It is not our strength, but His that affords victory.

Dear Father, forgive me for mistrusting You, for relying on my strength, rather than Christ's (Messiah's). I yield to the truth that I cannot do anything without You and I can do all things through the Messiah (Christ) who strengthens me. It is Your strength, not mine that I shall rely on, in B'shem Yeshua. Amen.

Day 24 Faith overcomes Fear

(2 Timothy 1:7) For God has not given you a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love and a sound mind.

What has this Scripture to do with only believing? Well, simply put, fear is the most fierce and formidable enemy of faith. It is in fact named a spirit, not just born of our lack of courage, insecurity or personal limitations. Fear will convince us not to move forward in the will of God. Fear will disguise itself with reason, logic and good sense. Fear will deploy all its efforts to eliminate any willingness on our part to fight the good fight of faith.

In the Greek fear in this context is **deilia**, meaning cowardice or timidity. This always has a negative connotation and derives from the word **deidō**, describing being driven by fear and full of dread with the concomitant loss of moral fortitude, in particular in relation to the gospel as revealed in 2 Timothy 1:6, 8. This fear stands as a formidable barrier to faith, and the enemy intends to use it as a strategy to derail your obedience to GOD, to prevent you from fulfilling the destiny for which GOD created you. How many shipwrecked Believers are there that started with fervor, only to be despairing, despondent and splintered as a wooden ship of old on the rocks of fear, dread and cowardice? Do not underestimate the force and power of fear, for we are not fighting flesh and blood but spiritual wickedness. When you are in a battle of faith, the most crucial element is to not relent, back down or believe the lie of the enemy, but, instead as our Lord and Savior demonstrated in His 40 days in the desert, reply to the lies with the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of GOD. There is no other way to win when the battle is constant, relentless and long suffering. If we yield and believe the enemy, for instance in sickness, we decide yes, I inherited this, or yes, it's because of this or that and I just have to resign myself to this circumstance. The enemy WINS and prayers are useless because you have already conceded.

So how do we overcome this temptation to succumb to fear? Let's examine the spirit GOD provides us; one of power, love and a sound mind (safe-mindedness). The sound mind in the Greek is the word, **sōphronismos** meaning self-control, self-discipline. This word derives from the root **sōphrōn** (from **sōos**, "sound, or safe" and **phrēn**, one's "inner outlook" related to external behavior. Furthermore, it actually relates to the physical body; (**phrēn**) is the root of "**diaphragm**," the inner muscle that regulates physical life, controlling breathing and heartbeat. **Sōphro-** derives from **sōos** ("safe") and **phrēn** (that which *regulates* life). This is the safe inner outlook that calms our troubled souls, as we rely not on self, but Abba, our Father.

Let's consider this dynamic in regards to how our human body is designed with flight or fright, accompanied by the release of anxiety, stress hormones (cortisol) and the like. This soundness of mind (safe mindedness), safeguards us and results in a regular heartbeat, normal breathing and rhythm. Thus, when we are grasped or made captive by fear our heart rate accelerates, our breathing becomes shortened and we experience what is referred to as being stressed. Is it not amazing that the spirit of soundness of mind (safe mindedness) is actually offered and bestowed upon us by our Father in Heaven, so that we may overcome all FEAR except the fear of the LORD? His word provides the daily medicine we require to overcome any enemy, even fear.

ADONAI, cover and fill us with Your spirit of power, love, and safe-mindedness. Lets us not be victims of the enemy, fear or our own flesh. Give us Your strength to resist the enemy so that he flees and we are at rest in You. Give us chazak (courage) to fight this good fight of faith knowing we are never alone, but You are even our rear guard. Father forgive us for trusting ourselves more than You and restore us to wholeness being led by Your Spirit, not the enemy; in every aspect of our lives take over Ruach Hakodesh (Holy Spirit) B'shem Yeshua (in Jesus name). Amen.

Day 25 Faith Works

(James 2:17-18) "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so is faith without works dead also."

The word without in the Greek is **xōrís**, which is related to *xōra*, meaning "an open or detached space"; that is apart or, separated from; causing something to be invalid or valid. Therefore without works, faith is considered invalid, because faith in Christ (Messiah) inspires, motivates and invigorates one to action. Faith is not an unopened dusty book upon the mantle, never referred to or touched, where a false sense of confidence belies the truth that it has become antiquated and useless. As James adamantly declared, his works would demonstrate his faith; faith is the fuel of works. The word dead in the Greek is **nekrós**, a corpse, or a dead body; that which lacks life"; "not able to respond to impulses, or perform functions, powerless, not responsive to life-affirming influences or possibilities, in particular in this context in relation to GOD.; We must ask ourselves are we unresponsive to His promptings, are we in fact dead to His influence. Are we really led by His Spirit or by our own and the enemy's inclinations? How can we discern the difference? One is life affirming and one leads to death; death of hope, truth, faith and life. The Greek word works is **érgon**, meaning to work or accomplish a task, goal, or achievement. This ergon completes an intended purpose. We cannot confess faith in Jesus and do nothing about it. That is an oxymoron according to James (Ya'akov) Believers are frontline workers not sedentary bystanders. Dead faith is no faith, at all. Without works, we not only fail to please GOD by embodying faith in His directed action, but we in fact have no faith at all according to James. This is a very sobering reality.

Dear Father, Forgive me for any dead faith. Shake up my faith to doing works in You; works that are designed by Your purpose, that you planned before the foundation of the world, not for their own sake. Let me not miss what You made me for, but instead overflow with exuberant faith that flows to those to whom You send me. Let me be Your dynamite, unthwarted in my resolve to serve and honor you with my life and actions in Yeshua HaMaschiach's Mighty name. Amen.

Day 26 He Paid It All (for them too)

(2 Corinthians 5:21) “God made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”

Sometimes, perhaps oftentimes, we forget that Jesus (Yeshua) paid not only for us, but even for our enemies. This is one of the most misunderstood aspects of belonging to Yeshhua HaMashiach. Believers either submit in such a fashion to this truth that they fall into a feigned tolerance of what is highly questionable in terms of safety, boundaries and healthy human relationship, or they declare adamantly that they will not forgive until the alleged perpetrator asks for such in imploring style, as a beggar on the streets pleads for a morsel of food. Either way, this is not the intention of *He paid it all*. Truly, Yeshua summarily paid for our sin and the sin done to us; that is, the sin of the whole world. But do we accept this or do we hold grudges, fueling the flames of resentment? We are cautioned in the Scriptures to not allow a root of bitterness to spring forth. Why? Because bitterness is a sin in and of itself and according to Hebrews 12:15 causes not only trouble for the holder, but actually defiles them. Terrifying thought, for if we are defiled how can we see GOD when only the pure in heart may do so.

If GOD made Yeshua to be sin, to actually become sin, how can we who were pardoned demand others remain bereft of this glorious gift? In the Greek, the word **poieo** means I make, manufacture, construct; I do, act, cause. This is referring to the Father in Heaven making, constructing, causing Yeshua to be sin. This is the cause of the anguished cry, “Father, Father why have thou forsaken Me?” Sin and holiness are inextricably opposed; the antithesis of one another; the Son (of Man) is separated from the Father, for holiness cannot touch sin. This Savior who never possessed any mar, blemish, or spot is at once in that moment on the cross all blemish, spot and marred humanity. “It is finished” was His final cry. The debt paid for all, and, yet we often hold others to guilt and ourselves devoid of culpability in a multitude of scenarios. What if, as Jesus (Yeshua) directed, we prayed for those who spitefully used us, blessed those who persecuted us; this does not mean to allow continued abuse, for in some instances we must flee and separate ourselves from those intent on our destruction; but it does demand forgiveness, prayer for their repentance and welfare and for GOD in His mercy to bring them to His Son. Why do we resist? Because it seems unfair. That is the heart of human justice. ADONAI’S justice makes no sense to our finite understanding; it is only through the Holy Spirit we can comprehend the seemingly unfathomable love of ADONAI for us, let alone others, even enemies. Vengeance is the LORD’S territory, not ours; we make room for His wrath by not executing it ourselves. HaShem’s justice will not fail and neither will His mercy. We have all heard of the deathbed salvations of those for 70-80 years who suddenly face their own mortality and relinquish their false sense of control, falling into the arms of Yeshua. We would be wise to examine our reactions to such conversions. Are we horrified that a previously unrepentant abusive relative, vicious criminal, violent murderer, or maniacal terrorist suddenly receives the gift of eternal life; or are we enamored all the more with

the love of the Savior and His glorious sacrifice? Either way our heart is exposed for what lies therein.

Let us therefore relinquish our “right” to justice and pray that HE, the only One who is truly Just, takes our case and brings His righteousness to bear in each situation. Let us allow the LORD of Glory to know our hearts and search if there is any wicked way in us, that we may be led to the way everlasting.

Father, we are so apt to lay blame and hold grudges against others. Forgive us, for You commanded that if we did not forgive others, You would not forgive us. How often do we shun this truth with excuses and dismiss its virulence? But today LORD, now, we ask You to forgive us for our unforgiveness and to cleanse our hearts of all unrighteousness and lead us in the way everlasting in Yeshua HaMashiach's Holy name.

Day 27 We believe Because It's Guaranteed

(Hebrews 11:1) "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

The word or phrase "hoped for" in the Greek is **elpízō** meaning to *hope*, or actively wait for fulfillment via the faith God has planted within you, through the power of His love, for faith works by love. The problem is our hope is flimsy, founded on our own limitations, as if the LORD is limited. We replace His infinite power with our finite understanding of that omnipotence. In actuality, it is our understanding of the unlimited GOD that limits our faith (in Him). But what if, we actually believed His Word, His promises, His faithfulness? What if we believed He was true to His word? What type of life would we lead? One brilliant, radiating with the light of Christ (Messiah), shining before men, not hidden under a bushel. The word substance/assurance in the Greek is **hypóstasis** (from 5259 /hypó, "under" and 2476 /hístēmi, "to stand"), meaning to stand under an agreement that is guaranteed. This points to the faithfulness of God to fulfill His promises, His word. The word *evidence* in the Greek is **elegchos**, meaning a proof or test. It is related to the word **elégxō** which describes being convinced with solid and irrefutable evidence, often applied to proving something is incorrect. Interestingly, this word in the context of Hebrews 11:1 is used to expose God's faithfulness, not His fickleness. How often do we rather believe the LORD will not answer our petitions, prayers, needs? And, we know that if we ask in doubt, we can expect nothing from the LORD as James instructs in James (Ya'akov) 1:6-7. This is the walking by faith not by sight life we are meant to lead. The evidence is God's faithfulness in character, not in what we consider is possible, for nothing is impossible with HIM.

Oh dear LORD, help us to stop believing in our limited version of You and instead base our faith in Your faithfulness, nothing wavering. Teach us Holy Spirit how to walk by faith and not by sight knowing that the evidence is not what we see at present but who YOU ARE, in Yeshua's Mighty name. Amen.

Day 28 It's All Love

2 Corinthians 5:14 "For the love of Christ (Mashiach) constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead."

The word constrain in the Greek is **sunechó** and means to hold together, hold fast, to be seized (e.g. by illness), and pressing together, close, pressed on every side, confine, I urge, impel. When we are constrained by Christ's (Mashiach's) love, it is as if being hard pressed, pressured in a sense, not as one who is intimidated, but as one who is so drawn by the LORD's heart for others; we cannot but answer the call that is founded on Christ's (Yeshua HaMaschiach's) love for all. We are instructed in the next verse, that we should not live for ourselves, but for Christ who died and rose again. This is love constrained. We are compelled, driven, as it were, by Love Himself. Our lives, if we truly walk with the Messiah, are not our own. For instance, personally, after October 7th, 2023, I was compelled with a longing, compulsion, more accurately to help in Israel. The drawing of the LORD was irresistible; I fasted, prayed, questioned, wrestled and finally KNEW this was an Esther moment. I left the US for two weeks to pray, encourage, help and share the goodness of the Living GOD to the people of Israel, the Jews in the War. Often they would remark and question if I had visited Israel before, assuming I was familiar with the peculiarities of a nation often in conflict. I would respond, that no this was the first time and they would reply, with quizzical gazes, "but we are in War". I would assure them that is why I had come because ADONAI called me to come in exactly this time of War. It was as if I could not imagine not going. This is the constraining of the LORD, where refusing makes no sense, although, practically everything points to refusal. Now that I have returned, I can only say what a privilege it is to be called for such a time as this and although I did not in my eyes accomplish what I had planned, (usual miraculous ministry exploits) the LORD very clearly stated, "You went." He had told me before departure, to be a gentle rain". Very humbling indeed, for formerly I have been accustomed to very dramatic healings, restorations, transformations and salvation in ministry. This time, as He had instructed me before I left, to be "a gentle rain," I realized upon returning, speaking and praying for IDF soldiers in person, shop keepers, waitresses, ministry leaders, and Jewish believers in Israel was the *gentle rain of confirmation* that the Holy One of Israel is **FOR** Israel. HE came in the flesh as Yeshua HaMaschiach (Jesus Christ), and He lives in us in the flesh. So, when we obey the voice of the LORD and "Go, ye" His Spirit, in our flesh, speaks to those to whom He has sent us. We are His emissaries, ambassadors, living epistles, if we, but only allow Him to write upon us.

Dear ADONAI, What a privilege to be called Your living epistles (letters). Please take Your pen of truth and write upon us that which will call humanity back to Yourself. Let us not waste the time nor the lives You have given us for selfish gain or useless activity, but instead compel us by Your love to be Your ambassadors crying out to a fallen and lost world that hope is fully to be found in the One True God; a hope that does not disappoint because it is founded on the love You shed abroad through the Ruach HaKodesh into our very hearts. We pray for the shalom of Yerushalayim as Your time of returning comes nearer. Let us be ready, that we may hear, the King say "...unto them on His right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the

world: for I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye fed Me..." in Yeshua HaMashiach's Holy Name. Amen.