



Arthur Bailey
Arthur Bailey Ministries



Taking The True **Gospel Of The Kingdom** To The Whole World

MESSIANIC 301: PERFECTING YOUR FAITH "MATURING IN MESSIAH"



Arthur Bailey

**MESSIANIC 301: PERFECTING YOUR FAITH
"MATURING IN MESSIAH"**

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PART I

INTRODUCTION

I really sense in my own spirit that the spiritual climate is heating up. That's a good thing for people of faith, especially as we are becoming more and more in tune with spiritual things (the supernatural).

What I've realized is that people will do basically what you instruct. As we have been talking more and more about the supernatural, people are experiencing more and more and more of the supernatural.

You'll find that in whatever environment you're in and that you subject yourself to, you subject yourself to the spiritual climate of that environment. When you subject yourself to that particular climate and to that environment, you'll find yourself more likely to participate in that climate in that environment.

Whether you know it or not, this is a spiritual thing. It's extremely spiritual. When I talk about everything being spiritual, you really should hear what I'm saying. That's because everything is spiritual – everything. There is nowhere that you go and there is nothing that you do that does not affect the spiritual climate that you are in.

The thing about the Spirit is that the Spirit is like the wind. The Bible says that you can hear sound. You can't see it. You can't tell which way it's going. You can see the evidence of it. Have you ever had anybody just walk by you and you get the draft of their being or of their presence? You feel that draft. You can have your eyes closed. If someone walks by you, you can feel the draft of that person that just walked past you.

That is a natural but also a supernatural thing. For instance, if you were to go into any environment, you will find that you physically, mentally and spiritually adjust to

the environment that you're in. You just do this automatically. I can give you some examples.

When you get around someone who (let's say) is angry, they are venting their anger at you. You will notice that even though you may have been in a state of calm, the more they direct that anger at you, the more your spirit begins to respond to that anger that is being directed at you.

If they begin to elevate their voice, your voice becomes elevated. If someone begins to move toward you and they are speaking as if they are going to do bodily harm to you, you physically, spiritually and mentally react to that. It is totally something that happens that may not necessarily have been part of your plan. You just entered into someone else's spirit realm and you are now affected by their spirit. It happens all of the time, ladies and gentlemen.

I believe that this is one of the reasons why Father spoke very candidly. He says:

"Listen. I know."

I want you to hear this. He is with his people. His presence is in the midst of his people. He has instructed his people concerning his commands: how they are to conduct themselves, how they are to behave themselves, how they are to relate with one another and how they are to relate with him. Then he says something that is very subliminal. He says:

"Now listen. Do not, do not associate with those people that are not part of Israel. I don't want you going in among them. As a matter of fact, I want you to drive them out."

This is what he said to Israel. He says:

"I don't want you to let your sons marry their daughters. I don't want you to let your daughters marry their sons. These people will be

a snare to you. The influence of these individuals is going to affect you to the degree that even though you've got all of this knowledge, you've got all of this word, you have all of these commands and you even have me; the effect of those around you is going to have such an impact on you that they, by their own behavior, can lead you away from me."

Now, imagine that. How is that possible? And yet there are grown people who say:

"People don't influence me! They don't affect me! I'm my own person."

When you make statements like that, you're saying that the Father doesn't know what he's talking about. You are saying that you are much greater and more powerful so as to not be influenced by your surroundings, when he said:

"If you allow yourself to be in that surrounding, it's going to influence you."

Are you hearing me? It's spiritual! You may have some form of control from a physical standpoint, but when you step into someone else's spirit realm, their realm of spirit affects your realm of spirit. Your realm of spirit begins to affect your behavior, your emotions, your attitude and even your words. And you dare say:

"No one influenced me."

That's not true. We are *all* being influenced. It doesn't matter how old you are. It doesn't matter how long you've been in this thing. It doesn't matter how mature you think you are. It doesn't matter how much you know. **Father says that when you come into the company of those individuals and you begin to interact with those individuals, there is going to be an impact.**

Unless your spirit is so strong and dominant to the point where it controls the spiritual environment into which you go, you will be influenced by the spiritual environment you go into. He says:

“There are some things that you’re going to have to do. You’re going to have to remove some things out of your environment. You’re even going to have to get rid of people.”

This is especially so with people who make it a point to enter into the spirit realm: sorcerers, witches, people who are so in tuned with the spirit realm (but not people who are in tune with the Almighty).

These are people who go into the realm of the spirit. You have to eradicate the land of those people because there is such a spiritual influence in your environment. Without you realizing it, unless you are so in tuned with the Spirit, you don’t even know you’ve been affected by it.

Well, that is a bonus! It really is. I am more and more aware of these kinds of things. The more I become aware of them, the more I become sensitive to them. The more I become sensitive to them, the more it seems that I find myself withdrawing from society. I have to be more engaged.

Part of engaging is really equipping. We’re going to be talking a little bit more about that shortly. That’s because the more people that are equipped, the greater the impact is when we begin to engage. We really do need to engage. That’s why the Father left us here! **He didn’t save you so he can take you to Heaven. He saved you so that you can affect your environment and take dominion over your space and begin to occupy until he comes.**

That begins with you. You see, you can’t take dominion of your space if you haven’t taken dominion of yourself.

When you take dominion of yourself, now you can fully submit yourself to him.

For many of us, that means a detaching from the emotional realm that has such an impact on our spirit. The moment we tap into our emotions, we have tapped into *our* spirit. His Spirit is where we want to walk – those that are led by his Spirit, not by our spirit.

Do you know how people say:

“You know, I just sense in my spirit...?”

“Well, you know, that’s fine and dandy, but what are you sensing in his Spirit?”

It’s his Spirit that I’m interested in. I’m really not interested in what’s in your spirit, unless of course his Spirit has influenced your spirit. Do you know how I’m going to know? I’m going to know by what comes out of your mouth. Why? It is because the discernment of Spirit is in operation in me and should be in all of us.

PERFECTING YOUR FAITH

This message deals with perfecting our faith. I need to say that as we continue this journey that we are in, we’re supposed to be getting better. Do you know what I’m saying? We’re supposed to be improving. It is unfortunate that there are way too many people who are in the same place today in their spiritual walk as they were twenty years ago when they started.

They have the same old attitudes, the same old fire, the same old cussing. They’ll go off on you. We’re supposed to be *Maturing in Messiah*, but I realize that there are some things that hinder us in doing that. We have to address those issues, but first we have to point some things out. We’re going to begin in *Hebrews* chapter 6, verse 1.

Those of you who “endured” the teachings that I did on the *Foundations of our Faith*, know. We spent an enormous amount of time in the Book of *Hebrews*, and we’re not going to rehash. We’re not going to go into that. I want to get past a certain thing, but I need you to see the very first verse here in the Book of *Hebrews* where it says:

Hebrews 6:1 – “Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Messiah,”

That is leaving the principles or the elementary teachings. It says:

*“...let us go on unto **perfection**/maturity; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God.”*

When we talk about the elementary stuff, the principles; *Hebrews* tells us what those are, including the doctrine of baptisms. There are people who are still caught up here.

Hebrews 6:2 – “Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.”

Hebrews 6:3 – “And this will we do, if God permit.”

The laying on of hands; we went extensively into those. These are *elementary* teachings. These are *foundational*: the resurrection of the dead. You know, you hear people say things like:

“My mom is looking down on me.”

Really?

I hear people say things and it tells me doctrinally where they are even though they have heard all types of teachings. But that foundation has so permeated them that it is to the point where all of these teachings just bounce off. It’s unfortunate. By the time people get to us, by the time

people get here, by the time people hear the teachings that are going on from this place; their foundation has already been laid.

There is a necessity to go in and tear some stuff up. When you go in and begin to tear some stuff up, it's like this. Imagine someone going out into a field that hasn't been prepared and they start casting seeds. You're going to go out and plant your garden. You're just going to go out to that hard ground out there. That's any ground. You move into a space and go out there.

You have all of these wonderful heirloom seeds and you just go out there and start throwing them in your garden. See what happens. Chances are they are not going to take root. Chances are when it's time for that harvest to come forth, there is no harvest.

Why? It's because you threw these seeds on ground that had not been cultivated. There are people who come and bring their teachings. They bring their doctrines. They have their belief systems already established. It is very hard to get truth in there because you don't look for truth if you think that you already have it.

Eternal judgment – This we will do if Elohim permits.

Hebrews 6:4 – “For it is impossible...”

Now, I didn't write these.

“it is impossible...”

I see the result of trying to reach a person who used to confess Messiah; you know, a person who came out of the church? They came into Messianic Judaism. They wanted to learn the “pure” language. They find themselves in Messianic Judaism. Then they have to saturate themselves by being around people who speak the language. They find themselves in synagogues. They find themselves reading books of dead rabbis.

They begin to listen to individuals who tell them that:

“Yes, we are looking for Mashiach. We are looking for the Messiah and we know that he is going to come, but he has not yet come...”

You’ve got people who are sitting under this. Pretty soon they are taught out of their faith in Yeshua. That’s because they were never really grounded in the first place in their faith in Yeshua. They just passed through. Pretty soon they find themselves looking for the Mashiach to come, the one that they thought they had, but had been talked out of. It is a difficult thing. Any of you who know and who have friends who have gone into Judaism know that it is very difficult to try to convince them to come back to Messiah.

You see, that’s what “falling from grace” really is. It is that you had the truth, but seeking for a deeper truth caused you to leave the truth that you had to look for something to come. But in essence, you already had it.

It reminds me of a story I heard one time where there was a fellow who had a field. He had all of this land, this wonderful field. He wanted to go and search for diamonds. He heard about the “rush.” He left. He sold his field and he went. He traveled the world over and spent all of his income. Then finally, exacerbated, he comes home. He revisits the land that he once had. In the meantime, someone had bought the land that he once had.

There was a creek out back. They went out. They looked and they saw these rocks in the creek. They decided to take one, a nice one. They cleaned it up and put it on the mantle. It just so happened that a person who knew what diamonds in the rough looked like was visiting this individual. They asked him:

“What’s that on the mantle?”

Lo and behold, he came to find out that there's a creek full of them right out in the backyard. He said:

"Do you know what this is?"

Here you have a person who had a creek in the backyard. He set out on a worldwide venture to find the diamonds, only to find out that the land that he sold had them all over the place, right there in his backyard! **There are things that we are looking for, ladies and gentlemen, that are right here in front of us.**

I noticed something when I was teaching this past weekend. It was that sometimes people expect something visibly supernatural to take place when there is something supernatural taking place.

Think about this. Here's a woman who says:

"If I can just touch the hem of this man's garment, I will be whole."

She suffered for, what was it? She suffered for a long time. [Twelve years] She grabbed the tzitzits of Yeshua. The virtue ran out of him and into her. She was supernaturally healed and the people around her had no idea what had just happened.

I'm amazed at how the Spirit and power of YeHoVaH can happen right in the midst of people and people who are in the midst and who are not sensitive to the supernatural, have no clue as to what's happening right there in the midst of them.

How is it that the presence and power of the Almighty could be manifesting in the midst of us and we don't know it? Eyes but don't see. Think about the religious leaders, the Pharisees, the Sadducees and others who had looked for the Messiah to come. He was right there in the midst of them and they were accusing him of being a demon, of having devils and of blasphemy.

It is very possible that you could be right in the midst of the most supernatural, spectacular event on Earth and totally not be aware that it is taking place. That is because everything supernatural doesn't sound an alarm.

“Hey! Everybody! Guess what?!!”

You know? The clouds don't roll back. The beam doesn't come from Heaven. The Father moves in, touches, heals, and moves on looking for **someone else who's got some expectation**. Halleluyah!

Hebrews 6:4 – “For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,”

Hebrews 6:5 – “And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,”

Hebrews 6:6 – “If they shall fall away...”

What does it say? It is impossible.

Hebrews 6:6 – “If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.”

Now ladies and gentlemen, this doesn't just happen. A person today who is full of the Holy Spirit just doesn't decide:

“I'm going to walk away from the Almighty.”

It doesn't happen like that. It happens in little bits and pieces. It happens when we begin to allow ourselves to be in an environment where it is slowly etching away and slowly desensitizing us and introducing other teachings and doctrines and watering down our faith. The next thing you know, we have become like the world that we're supposed to be distinguished from.

Hebrews 6:7 – “For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God:”

What he is saying is that those people who went out there and cultivated the land and planted the seeds are going to receive the blessing. That’s because they are the ones who did the work.

Hebrews 6:8 – “But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected,”

In other words, if you don’t get out there and do the work to plant those seeds, then you’re not going to get the harvest.

“...and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned.”

The things that grow up in there are not even going to be worth anything. But look at what he says, because we’re going to look at this a little bit.

Hebrews 6:9 – “But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.”

Now, wait a minute. There are things that are supposed to accompany salvation? Do you mean there’s more to this “being saved” than just being saved?

Oh yeah!! Do you remember that in previous teachings we talked about *Messianic 201: Adding to Your Faith*? We noted the things and that when we add these things to our faith, there is a higher percentage that we will never fall from our salvation. We will never fall from grace.

SPIRITS SHOULD RECOGNIZE YOU

Everyone in this room probably knows someone who used to be “strong in the Lord” as they would say, and who has backslidden. They are folks who used to walk in power but who are now hanging out with people they have no business hanging out with. How do they get there? How can your faith be so strong at one point and somewhere [perhaps] five years later, people can act like they never even had a relationship with the Messiah? Do any of you know people like that? Let me see your hands if you do. [Arthur raises his hand.]

I’ve seen preachers fall. The prisons are full of them! I was amazed when I went into prison ministry, how many reverends were in there and how many former rabbis were in there. Jails and prisons are full of religious people.

Salvation is the process. It’s the beginning of the journey when we come into faith in Messiah. It’s the beginning. It’s not the end. There are things that we are supposed to be adding to our faith. There are things that are supposed to accompany our salvation. **These things are supposed to be visible.** Let me tell you that the things that detract from your faith and the things that diminish your faith are visible. How is it visible? You can hear it and you can see it.

Imagine seeing a saved sister operating in a spirit of seduction or a saved brother who lets his eyes go into places they shouldn’t be going. They are saying provocative things they shouldn’t be saying or acting in a manner they shouldn’t be acting. How can saved people act like that? How can people who preach with power be committing adultery? I’m not speaking anything that is foreign to you, ladies and gentlemen.

You see, a lot of things that people are displaying are simply lip service. They have the *form* of Godliness. They

are honoring him with their lips, but their heart is not with the game. I don't mean to call it a game, but let me say that if Paul can associate it with a race or with a fight; if it's something that we can attain as a prize, then we're not spectators! We're not on the sidelines. We are supposed to be actively walking out this thing called faith to the degree that when you show up, demons tremble – seriously speaking.

“We know YOU!”

“How do you know me? I haven't even...”

“Because we can see the anointing that is on you.”

You see, demon spirits recognize [the anointing]. How many of you have ever heard “game recognize game”?¹ A hustler recognizes a hustler. A player recognizes a player. A whoremonger recognizes a whoremonger. Do you understand? “Game recognize game.” Spirits recognize spirits. When you show up, because of the Spirit that is in you, **the spirits that are in that place are supposed to recognize that you just walked in!** They're looking for an exit, but they're just going to see if [you are going to see them first]. [Arthur gives a demonstration from the perspective of the evil spirit.]

“Okay. Are you going to let us hang out? Are you going to let us stay?”

Fathers, let me talk to you for a moment. Those of you who have children in the home, do you notice than when you walk into the house, you've got the ability to change the atmosphere? Everybody is playing. You know, Momma has checked out because she's tired of work. [Arthur

¹ To have “game” is to attract people of the opposite sex. “Game recognize game” is when a person who has “game” can see it in another.

laughs.] She's tired of trying to keep things in order. She's at her wit's end and Dad shows up. For a moment, the house goes quiet.

"Let's see what spirit he is in."

Once they recognize, it's like everything starts happening like it was before. That's it on a natural level. On a spiritual level, it's the same thing. You walk into the room. If demons are in that room, they're supposed to recognize if Messiah is in you. But if you're not adding to your faith, if you're not perfecting your faith – how dare demons feel that they can hang out in the same space that you're in!

There are...

Hebrews 6:9 – "...things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak."

Hebrews 6:10 – "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shown toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister."

Hebrews 6:11 – "And we desire that every one of you do show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:"

You see, this is not a journey we start and then find a seat somewhere. **This is a journey that we start and that we endure until the end because we are diligently, continuously seeking the Almighty.** We are diligently walking out our walk. We are diligently teaching our children.

This is *Hebrews* chapter 6. He reveals those individuals in *Hebrews* chapter 11. How do we get to the promises?

Hebrews 6:12 – "That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises."

You can have a lazy spirit. There are too many saints who are lazy when it comes down to their faith. They are hard workers when it comes down to their business. They are hard workers when it comes down to their jobs. They are hard workers when it comes down to their duties in performing around the house or performing in public. There are people who are very hard workers when it comes down to the natural things, but they become very slothful and lazy when it comes down to the things of the Spirit.

“You go study brother, and come and tell us what the word says. YOU go talk to the Almighty and come and tell us what ‘thus sayeth Yahweh/Yehuwah/YeHoVaH/Yahovah.’ You go do the work!”

I had to remind people that just as Yeshua is the same yesterday, today and forever; the Holy Spirit that we have today is the same Holy Spirit that was given at Shavuot/Feast of Weeks/Pentecost. It’s the SAME Holy Spirit. We don’t have a New Testament brand of the Holy Spirit.

We don’t have a latter outpouring of the Holy Spirit that is inconsistent with the initial pouring out of the Holy Spirit. It’s the same Holy Spirit from the apostles and the saints of old’s day. It’s the same Holy Spirit [that was there] when the shadows of those would pass and people got healed. It’s the same Holy Spirit at work in us today!

It’s the same. It’s not a diminished Holy Spirit. It’s not a deteriorated Holy Spirit. It’s not a modern day version of the Holy Spirit. It’s not a religious, denominational Holy Spirit.

Far too often people today don’t even recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit. They certainly don’t tap into the power of the Holy Spirit and are not looking to be led

by the Holy Spirit, because they get their day started without the Spirit.

As a result, we allow a lot of stuff to come in – stuff that shouldn't even be in the midst of us, like lust, perversion, fears, or phobias.

HOW WE WILL KNOW THEM

Hebrews 6:12 – “That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”

Those who **inherited the promises** operated in faith and they were patient. We are going to be talking about this *Perfecting Your Faith*, “*Maturing in Messiah.*” There are a few things we want to observe in these verses, just so that we can lay the foundation. First is this word “perfection.”

Hebrews 6:1 – “Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Messiah, let us go on unto perfection/maturity; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God.”

Perfection doesn't mean being a perfectionist. It actually gives the idea of maturing. That's why there are two tags or should I say there is the title *Messianic 301*. Then there is *Perfecting Your Faith* and then of course *Maturing in Messiah*. It is basically the same thing. It is just another way of saying it, but here's the deal. **We must go onto maturity.**

In the previous verse in *Hebrews 5* he talked about the difference between sincere milk and strong meat. You see, people who need to be fed are on milk. People who feed themselves, eat meat. We have to identify.

Here's the deception. Being grown doesn't mean being mature in the faith. There are a lot of babies who are old.

I'm talking about in their seventies and eighties. They're as newborn in the Spirit as a baby just coming into the world in the natural realm. We can't confuse maturity in the natural with spiritual maturity.

We were listening to a lady on the court [TV channel] the other day. She was making a statement. There are people who claim to be believers, who give ungodly counsel. You see, just because it's an old saint; an old saint can be a babe in Messiah. **You will know them by their fruit.**

This woman said to her niece:

"Listen. You've had nothing but bad luck with men. You should probably find yourself a woman."

Now, how can someone who claims to be a Christian utter such nonsense? I will tell you that in the last week or so, I've received stuff. There is an advent group out there that are targeting churches with Scripture and that have their base in the LGBT² community. They're taking Scripture all out of context. They are sending that to churches and to pastors. Some of these people are in churches. They are saying:

"You all need to back up."

They are even going as far as to say:

"God made lesbians and homosexuals."

They were "made" that way. They were "born" that way. I don't disagree with it. I believe that people are born lesbian. I believe that people are born liars. I believe that people are born gay. I believe that people are born full of lusts and full of demons. That is why we need to be born again!

² LGBT stands for: lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender.

We're born dead, ladies and gentlemen. Every person on the planet can make that claim because in essence, it's true. Yeah, you were born lesbian. If you give into that tendency, you will become one. Yeah, you were born gay. If you give into that tendency, you will become one.

You will become whatever you do not resist. If you don't see anything wrong with it, if you have no moral compass and there is no moral standard (especially if you disconnected yourself from the word), you are liable to allow anything to happen in your life.

The moment you start down that road – do you know that the heroin addict probably started out smoking a cigarette?

“Hey, do you want a puff?”

They had no idea that that first toke off of that cigarette would lead to marijuana or to Quaaludes or to LSD or to cocaine or to crack or to heroin. It started somewhere! Every murderer – a person didn't just murder. I think about Abel. Cain just didn't decide one day that:

*“Hey. I'm a murderer. What do murderers do?
They kill. Who can I kill? I can kill Abel. Why?
I'm a murderer.”*

No! There are things that come at us, circumstances, situations, disappointments. In some cases, abuse comes at us. These cause us to yield to ungodly tendencies; especially when you get to a point where that's just who you are.

“I'm tired of resisting these urges.”

“Well, you know, I've got an urge to blow stuff up!”

Some children give in to that. They start fires. They play with matches. The next thing you know, the whole house is on fire. They didn't try to start a house fire. They just had an urge to play with fire. You can give into your urge and the next thing you know, you have all kinds of catastrophe or calamity occurring in your space, all because you decided to give into an urge.

“Well, I'm tired of resisting!”

Mm hmm, and without the Holy Spirit, guess what? Just because you have the Holy Spirit doesn't mean that you don't have to resist. **Temptation comes to those who are full of the Spirit.** Now you've got help.

Leaving the elementary stuff, leaving the principles, let's go on to maturity. Let's go on to perfection. The word there is (5046) “*tel'-i-os*”. It means really, to be complete.

It is from (5056); complete (in various applications of labor, growth, mental and moral character, etc.); neuter (as noun, with (3588) ('o)) completeness: – of full age, man, perfect. It really moves into **entering into a state of being complete**. Also (5047) “*teleio 'thv*”, – “*tel-i-ot'-ace*”; from (5046) (“*t'eleiov*”); (the state) completeness (mental or moral): – perfection (-ness).

You're now growing up into the fullness of what you have been ordained to become. The beauty is that YeHoVaH already sees the end. He sees the potential. He sees you as you are supposed to be and he encourages you along that way. But while he's encouraging you and while he's wooing you and putting people in spaces like this to help encourage you, you have a whole lot more out there in the world that is aimed at pulling you in their direction.

That's because guess what? There's the old adage: “misery loves company.” It is true. People who aren't happy can't stand to see happy people. Do you know what I'm saying?

“How come you’re always smiling?”

“Why do you say it like that? ‘How come I’m always smiling?’”

“How come you’re always happy? I know that stuff happens in your life!”

“What’s wrong with you?”

That spirit in them is trying to attack the Spirit that is in you. The next thing you know, you don’t want to smile much because you’re not there to antagonize people. No! You should go in there beaming! Do not be surprised if the Spirit that is in you causes you to walk into a place and stuff starts manifesting. If it didn’t manifest, you should be concerned. There are demons in the world. There are people who are yielded to demons. There are people who are full of demons. There are people who are allowing demonic forces to operate in their life. When you show up, the demons take notice! They don’t know what your intent is.

“Are you coming here to cast us out? Are you going to act like you don’t see us? Are you going to ignore us? Are you going to leave us alone? What are you here for? Why are you here?”

Sometimes these spirits will speak out through the person who is hosting them.

“Why are you here? Who invited you?”

[Arthur laughs.] Do you hear what I’m saying? That may seem like a natural thing. People start manifesting because you show up. Now you get self-conscious.

“Oh, I don’t mean to hurt anybody. I don’t mean to cause problems. I’m not here to rock boats.”

Yes you are! You are a boat-rocker! You are here to cause problems! You are not here to cause problems for the

people who are on the side of YeHoVaH! But anybody who is not on the side of YeHoVaH, should have a problem when you show up. You've got to get used to it folks if you're going to walk in this thing called the Holy Spirit. You are going to cause problems. You just have to make sure that you are not causing problems in your flesh.

You walk in the Spirit. When you walk in the Spirit, everything that is not in the Spirit, those things that are in a different spirit than the Spirit that you are in are either going to work and try to quench your Spirit or they're just going to have to abandon it. It's like:

“Hey...”

[Arthur makes a both hands up motion.] They will throw up the red flag or the white flag or whatever flag they carry and just vacate the premises. That's because you're here and you aren't going anywhere. You're here to do some cleansing. Listen, ladies and gentlemen. **Your presence sometimes will clear out a room.** This is especially true if the room is full of things or people or spirits that don't have the right intent or motive.

Oftentimes folks, just like in a natural state – this is just in a natural state. We are talking about *Perfecting Your Faith*. In a natural state, the way that Father has designed this thing; he designed that every child that comes into the world comes into the world with a father and a mother. That's the way he designed it. Now, that's not how it [always] happens today.

In the natural realm, there are people who are having pre-marital relationships and children are coming into the world and the father [of the child] is not there. I mean, that's happening. However, that is a person who has given in to some desire. Children are born out of wedlock when we give in to some desire, some feeling, some emotion. The next thing you know, we are a mom with children and

the dad is nowhere around. You see, that's a work of the enemy. It is.

For those of you who have children out of wedlock, this is not a slam against you. This is a word of encouragement that you don't allow yourself to be victimized like that again. Remember. Be physically, mentally, emotionally connected to the pain of what has occurred so that the pain will keep you from making that same mistake again.

The way that Father designed this is for a man and a woman to be together to bring a child into the world. In the natural state, that man is like a cover for that environment. You will notice that young men are quicker to go after young ladies whose fathers are not around.

Then you have young ladies who don't submit to the authority of that environment. They want to sneak out because they think that their dads don't want them to have fun. They want to sneak out, establish a relationship and then try to bring something home they know their dad doesn't approve of.

The enemy is fully at work and will use those children to work on that mom to somehow either neuter dad, take his authority away from him or usurp that authority and ultimately drive him out so that the children can become the spoil of the enemy. This is what Yeshua said!

The only way a strong man can come into another man's house is that he first has to bind the strong man. Once he binds the strong man and moves the strong man out of the way, he can come in and take that whole house. He just spoiled the whole house. Moms were never designed to be [both] the mom and the dad.

Too many moms, even though they have dad in the house, have rendered dad into simply being a bill payer. As soon as he goes and tries to bring discipline, they get between that child and the dad. They get between them.

“No, you’ve got to go through me. These are MY children!”

“Oh, they are? Huh. Really?”

There’s a new one.

“Listen. I have to protect them from you!”

“Oh, you do? Really?”

It causes that contention. It causes those issues. Pretty soon dad feels like:

“You know, I’m a hostage in my own house.”

So what does he do? He goes missing. He’s there, but he’s missing. Now he’s not involved. Here comes the other onslaught:

“How come you’re not involved?”

Oh yeah. I’m coming at you!

“How come you’re not involved? You don’t do anything with the children.”

It is like:

“Wow. So everything that I want to do, I have to get your permission? If you don’t approve, it’s like who’s the daddy here?”

Hebrews 6:1 – “THEREFORE LET us go on and get past the elementary stage in the teachings and doctrine of Messiah (the Messiah), advancing steadily toward the completeness and perfection that belong to spiritual maturity. Let us not again be laying the foundation of repentance and abandonment of dead works (dead formalism) and of the faith [by which you turned] to God,” [Amplified Bible]

In the New American Standard Bible it says:

Hebrews 6:1 – “Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Messiah, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,”

In many of the other versions that you will look at, this word “perfection” is “maturity.” You’ll see the word that is there. Let us move on to maturity. The *Hebrews* writer implies that there are things that should accompany our salvation. This is what he implies. He said something. Later on we had it underlined. We dealt with this in detail in *Messianic 201: Adding to Your Faith*. In *Peter* he talks about adding to your faith, these things; that when we do this, that we will never fall. How do you add to your faith?

WE WILL BE TESTED

Everybody here today and every person who hears the sound of my voice [whether on screen or in words in a book] hear this. Everything that I’m sharing with you today, you are going to be tested on. It’s not like we’re going to be handing out pencil and paper. Some of you are going to be tested in the whole area of mom and dad relationships as it relates to the children. Some of you are going to be tested on things as they relate to relationships.

You know, it’s something that in my house, I say to my children:

“Listen. If there’s somebody that you’re interested in...”

Neither my sons nor my daughters should be interested in someone to the point where their emotions have attached to someone that I’ve never met. How is it that you can allow your emotions to attach to someone?

“Well, they’re ‘just’ a friend.”

“No, it looks like it’s more than ‘just’ a friend.”

“Well, I don’t bring them home because – I’ll bring them home when I think that they’re ‘the one.’”

Well, you are attached to them. How did you get attached to them? How is it that your emotions are so attached to this person? And how is it that you allow yourself and your emotions to get attached to a person that you already know that your dad or your mom may not approve of? How is it mom, that you can communicate with your daughter and even encourage these attachments, knowing that your husband is not going to approve of this relationship?

“I can talk to you mom, but I can’t talk to dad!”

“Oh yeah honey. I know. I can’t talk to him either!”

You see, that’s psychological warfare that is demonically influenced. This is how a house gets divided. There we go again. I know right now that there are feelings and emotions because people want to be physically connected to somebody else. Listen. You are better [off] alone than to be physically, emotionally and even thinking about being sexually attached or connected with someone that does not put Him first.

You are setting yourself up for failure. You are setting yourself up for a fall. You are setting yourself up to be hurt. You are setting yourself to be left with baggage. I don’t mean to call children “baggage,” but those of you who have children know that sometimes they feel like baggage. They feel like extra weight. If you are honest with yourself, you’ll admit that sometimes you see the children and the children have held you back from accomplishing some of the things that you want to accomplish.

“You can’t do “that” any more.”

Why?

“Because I’ve got a baby.”

“You can’t do “that” any more.”

Why?

“Because I’ve got a baby.”

“I can’t go.”

Why?

“Because I’ve got a baby.”

Every time, you say that you can’t do something because of the child and because you can’t find a babysitter. There are all of these kinds of things that you have to deal with and live with. It’s an admission that this child that you have, which is a gift from YeHoVaH...

“You mean a child born out of wedlock is a gift?”

Children are a blessing, period! Children are a blessing that comes from YeHoVaH. But how many of you are willing to admit that they don’t always feel like a blessing? I love my children! Listen to me. I know that you all (as parents) love your children, but there are some times where it is like:

“You gave me eight children. Sometimes I want to give them back.”

Sometimes there are some children you want to give back. I’m not even going to ask you to raise your hand on that one. It’s like:

“Man!”

They might have told me.

“They tried to tell you, you just wouldn’t listen.”

Hebrews 6:9 – “But beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.”

When we begin to deal with this thing that accompanies salvation; the *Hebrews* writer states further that when it comes down to it:

Hebrews 6:11 – “And we desire that every one of you do show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:”

Hebrews 6:12 – “That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”

We need to know what these things are. Paul writes to the Corinthians. He says:

1 Corinthians 2:1 – “And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.”

1 Corinthians 2:2 – “For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Yeshua Messiah, and him crucified.”

1 Corinthians 2:3 – “And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.”

*1 Corinthians 2:6 – “**Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect:** yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:”*

We speak wisdom among them that are perfect. How many of you have ever heard counsel that you knew came from Heaven and yet you did something that was contrary? I mean, we know it’s the right thing to do and we know that

Heaven has spoken. But sometimes when Heaven speaks, it goes against what we want. And we'll find justification to do what we want, even though we know that it's contrary to what Heaven has spoken.

THE ENEMY IS WATCHING

1 Corinthians 2:6 – “Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:”

1 Corinthians 2:7 – “But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:”

1 Corinthians 2:8 – “Which none of the princes of this world knew:”

Which none of the princes of this world knew. You see, the enemy cannot read your mind, nor can he read your spirit, nor can he discern your spirit. **He can only watch your actions.** He watches your behavior. He responds to your words. He responds to what you let out, what you communicate. You see, Father looks upon the heart. **He knows what is in you. The enemy doesn't.** But how does he know what you like? When you are involved in something that you like, you are speaking.

Have you ever seen a child? They're just sitting there. Maybe they're eating some ice cream and they're just kicking their legs. They're just engaged in eating that ice cream. They're whole body is saying:

“I am loving this moment right now.”

Now, they have no idea that they have all of these communication mechanisms going on and here you are, standing on the outside. You are just watching the

happiness and the joy and the appreciation for that which they are engaging in. They are totally oblivious to the fact that you are watching them. You see, our actions are just like that child. The enemy is sitting back and watching our response and our actions toward that which we are engaged in.

You can see when someone has a distaste for, or they don't like something that just happened. You can see when someone is infatuated or when something just occurred or when something that was said brings a sense of joy. You can see sarcasm. You can see joy. Joy is a word, but you can see it. You can see anger. You can see sadness. All of these are spirits.

There's the spirit of joy, the spirit of happiness, the spirit of anger. These are all spirits. The only way that you know that that spirit is on that person is because they are displaying it. The enemy is watching you. It's not just the words you speak. What is your body saying? What are you communicating with your gestures, your hands, your eyes or your head? Do you follow what I'm saying?

YeHoVaH is actively at work in the Earth. Do you know what he says?

"Now, the devil thinks he's smart, but in essence he's a fool. I'm going to do my work right here in plain sight where everybody is going to see it and nobody is going to know it."

1 Corinthians 2:7 – "But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:"

There are some things that he ordained and initiated before the world that you and I are supposed to tap into, that the demonic world, the forces of evil don't even know are at work. That's why they're watching you! That's why

they're seeing how you're going to react to their presence. They don't know! It says:

1 Corinthians 2:8 – “Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”

I can see YeHoVaH saying:

“See there, sucker?! I got ya, didn't I?! You didn't even see that coming, did you? Nah nah nah nah...”

[Arthur laughs.] I don't think he was like that, but think about it. The devil had worked feverishly to stop the Mashiaich from ever showing up. Had he known that he was playing right into the Master's hand, Yeshua would have died of old age. Yes he would have. But no, the devil was set up! Absolutely! He was set up for your life as well.

There is a wisdom that comes from YeHoVaH. It's not worldly wisdom. This wisdom is when you are in tune. This is the reason why the baptism of the Holy Spirit is so important! It is because now you are immersed in the Father's Spirit. There's a connection between you that you are moving in and out, destructively in the spirit realm. You are a sniper in the Spirit. **You are a spiritual weapon of mass destruction.** Wherever you go, there are things. You are just knocking them out. Do you understand? He says:

“Had they known it, they never would have crucified Yeshua.”

This is the word. I'm not making this stuff up.

Ephesians 4:7 – “But unto every one of us is given grace according of the measure of the gift of Messiah.”

Ephesians 4:8 – “Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.”

Ephesians 4:9 – “(Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?”

Ephesians 4:10 – “He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)”

This is what the Father did. You see, for a long time, I ran from my calling. I’m beginning to see the spiritual force (if you would) that Father empowers those who embrace what he has called them to do. Now, you’ve got to understand something. The enemy is actively working to keep you from ever embracing it. That’s because the moment you embrace it, the moment you embrace who you are, is not always the moment you recognize who you are.

Sometimes the Father will reveal to you who you are and what he’s called you to do and it will scare you. It scared me. It literally petrified me. Again, you’ve heard me say that I can identify with when Father told Moses to go and talk to Pharaoh. He didn’t just choose anybody. He chose a specific person. He said:

“I want you to go in and I want you to tell the most powerful leader on the planet to let my people go.”

Moses was like many of us. We try to talk ourselves out of what he has called us to do. That’s because we see the enormity of the task and we say within ourselves:

“I’m not qualified to do that.”

The Father is not calling you because you’re qualified. He has called you and selected you because he’s going to equip you to do the job that he’s ordaining you to do. All you have to do is yield yourself to him and allow him to do the work in you and guess what? You *will* be an Earth-shaker. You will be one who moves mountains in the

lives of people. **It's not you. It's him working through you to accomplish what he has called you to do. But he can't do this through you if you resist him.**

The moment you embrace who he has called you to be; some people are going to accuse you of being arrogant. They're going to accuse you of being prideful. They're going to accuse you:

"Who do you think you are?"

"Why are you asking? Why should who I am matter to you? What's the problem? You didn't call me. I don't have to answer to you in the sense of the calling that he has given me."

Now I'm accountable, because guess what? He didn't just call apostles. He called apostles. He called prophets. He called evangelists. He called pastors. He called teachers. He called helpers. **Which one are you?**

EMBRACE THE CALLING

I know when he first spoke to me that I was called to be an apostle. It took me five years to embrace it. Five years! Some of you all don't know how difficult this is. My name (again) is Arthur Bailey. My son, my fourth son is called "Apostle Arthur Bailey." My son is a marker, a reminder of what I had to go through to embrace the calling on my life. That's why he is called that. Naming him was me embracing my calling.

I remember. Some of you have heard this. I was in the barber shop back in Grand Rapids, Michigan, after he was born. I was speaking to the guy in the barber shop who was cutting my hair. There were a couple of people in there. They asked me what I named my son. I told them:

"Apostle Arthur Bailey."

One fellow in the barber shop went "off" on me.

“How DARE you name your son like that! You can’t give your son that kind of name!

It was like:

“What? YOU don’t have to feed him! Why are you going off like that?”

The Father was showing me. You see, I already knew. I already knew. This is what I was going to have to deal with, in the spirit realm (and especially here in the Messianic community).

“‘Apostle? Apostle?’ Why don’t you call yourself ‘Rabbi?’”

“He didn’t tell me. He didn’t call me to be a Rabbi.”

“Well, why ‘Apostle’? Why not ‘Emissary?’”

“Because the Bible that I read didn’t say ‘Emissary.’ It said ‘Apostle.’ I’m called to be an Apostle.”

If you don’t like it, get over it. That’s the attitude I have right now. I didn’t always have that attitude. Let me tell you something. **If you’re not willing to embrace the call and all that comes with the call, you’ll never walk in the power.** That’s as long as you run from the name or the title. In the name is the authority and the assignment that comes with the name, the title. I’m not into titles.

If my work doesn’t prove who I am, then hey, no biggie, but I know this. I’m not going to back down from who I am or what I’ve been called to because you’ve got a problem with it. Get over it! I got over it. It took me five years.

I don’t know how long it’s going to take you, but it took me five years to get over it, so I understand! It’s not going to happen overnight. You just get used to it. It’ll

grow. Maybe you'll have to name one of your children, if you are still having issues.

Ephesians 4:11 – “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;”

What for?

Ephesians 4:12 – “For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Messiah:”

Now you see, part of figuring out something is this. There is a term that is called “deductive.” You have to deduce. You have to eliminate that which you know are not possibilities. You have to just eliminate those. Now here you are. You are left with the options.

When we begin to deal with deductions, then I come to a conclusion like this. Okay, if it's going to take apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to perfect the saints; what if the saints are not exposed to apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers? What if they're just exposed to teachers? They won't be perfected. What if they're just exposed to pastors? What if they're just exposed to evangelists?

You see, the work of the Almighty is perfect. He desires to do a perfect work and he is saying:

“Listen. In order for the perfection of the saints to occur, the saints have to have access to the apostles, to the prophets, to the evangelists, to the pastors and to the teachers. They have to be exposed to all of the gifting.”

I remember several years ago. He was putting this in the same context as a father and mother. There are moms out there who can do wonderful work and have done wonderful jobs as a single parent raising children, but that

was not the Father's plan. You see, even though they have raised well, respectable and honored members of society, there is something in that child that is missing. That child wants to know who their daddy is. You can keep that from them all you want to, but at some point they are going on a search to find "daddy."

"I'm not looking for him so he can give me something. I'm not looking for him for some inheritance. I'm not looking for him to make him feel guilty because I think he owes me something. I just have some unanswered questions. There's something that's missing in me and I just need to know. I don't feel like I'm going to be complete to some degree until I know."

When they come into contact with dad, they say:

"I just have a couple of questions. You don't owe me anything. I'm not looking for anything."

Some of the basic questions are:

"Why did you leave? Why did you abandon me? Was I not good enough? Just explain it. You don't have to make excuses. I'm just trying to bring resolution. I'm just trying to bring closure. I'm not looking for a relationship."

It's the same thing in the Spirit, in the house and in the faith. The one who is growing up minus these aspects that the Father says are requirements for the saints to be perfected; if they're not exposed to these things, they may become powerful and well-rounded (in a sense) and productive members of the spiritual community, but there is something in them that lacks.

I didn't put this stuff together. I understand the warfare of why it is hard to embrace some of these things. I'm thankful. I'm thankful for brother David and for brother

Efraim and for those of you who are going to rise up and take your rightful place in the Kingdom. That's because personally I cannot fulfill the fullness of the calling that is on my life without these brothers.

I can't do it. They don't intimidate me and I certainly don't intimidate them. We're not competing with one another. We add to each other. The body of Messiah is not going to be perfected until the saints of YeHoVaH embrace the call and step out in that call so that the body can minister to the body and build the body up.

Every last one of you has a role to play in this thing, so we have to create an environment where people feel free and safe to stand up and to step out and to embrace. I remember how afraid I was to even let these words come out of my mouth because of the environment, the spirit.

I knew that the moment – when you sit up in places, you have people who have issues. They've got personal issues. They've got complexes. They feel easily threatened by someone else and their gifting and abilities. It's like a Saul. You have a David and here you have a Saul who is throwing javelins and who is trying to take David out. David wasn't Saul's enemy. Saul was Saul's enemy. You can be your worst enemy. I certainly am mine!

The devil wasn't keeping me from embracing my calling. I was. Nobody is holding you back but you. So you can say:

"I had a child out of wedlock."

So did Mary.

"But that's different. She was the mother of Yeshua!"

It doesn't nullify the fact that YeHoVaH chose her. And guess what? Listen to me. Mary had to embrace it. You see, this is for you single moms out there. You could have had

an abortion, but you didn't. You've taken on the responsibility to raise a Godly member of society. You didn't have to take on that responsibility. You could have gone off into obscurity and used that as an excuse for the rest of your life to live a sinful, ungodly, unholy life; but you didn't. Do you understand what I'm saying?

Don't allow your past to keep you from embracing your present and your future with power and authority. Just remember that you are not that person.

Mary had to endure what people thought and said. They knew because it was public knowledge that Joseph had not had a relationship with her. They knew it. Now, we can spiritualize it. We can spin it, but Mary had to live it; and imagine Yeshua.

If you read your Bible in the context in which it is in, when those Pharisees were saying:

"Listen. We know who our daddy is."

We can take that into the spirit realm, but they were saying:

"Do you know what? We know that you are a bastard child. You don't even know who your daddy is."

That's the derogatory term. That's what they were saying.

"You're mama..."

That's what they were saying.

"How can they say that about Yeshua?"

They said a lot worse things than that! He had to back them up. He said:

"Listen. I know who your daddy is!"

Can you imagine telling somebody that their daddy is the devil? You see, Yeshua didn't let other people define him, even though he came up in "questionable" circumstances. I believe it was intentional. I know it was intentional. [Arthur now changes his voice to imitate that of a Pharisee or Sadducean leader of Yeshua's day.]

"After all, if G-d [God] is going to send us Mashiach, he's going to be raised in the House of David. He's going to come from a royal lineage. He's going to be raised as a privileged one."

That's what they were looking for. They didn't know that the "bastard" that they were calling a "bastard" was the one that YeHoVaH decided to send them. He sent them what they perceived to be a bastard child. As a result of their own laws in their eyes, they couldn't see the Mashiach that was right there in front of them. That's because they were looking for him to come another way.

There are too many people looking for the Almighty to come in their life in another way. That is how we can be in the presence and the power of the Spirit and not recognize that the Spirit is present.

WORK ON YOURSELF

He gave these apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. When I look out here, I see future apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. That's what I see.

Ephesians 4:12 – "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Messiah:"

The word here is (2675) "katart'izw," – "kat-ar-tid'-zo"; from (2596) (kat'a) and a derivative of (739)

(“artiov”); to complete thoroughly, i.e. repair (literal or figurative) or adjust: – fit, frame, mend, (make) perfect (-ly join together), prepare, restore. (2677) “katartism’ov” – “kat-ar-tis-mos”; from (2675) (“katart ízw”); complete furnishing (object): – perfecting.

This is the word “perfect,” the perfection. The Father desires to completely furnish you with everything you need to fulfill the call that he has put on your life.

One of the biggest challenges I had was this. I didn’t have the education. I came up in a bad environment. I used to use drugs. I had a lot of stuff working against me and yet it was like I remember having the conversation:

“Surely you can find somebody better than me. I know you can. You can find somebody who doesn’t have nearly the flaws that I have. Don’t you know what I’ve done? Obviously you don’t know what I’ve done. You don’t know the destruction, the damage, the harm that I’ve caused. You don’t know the sinful life that I’ve lived.”

Those were all distractions. Everything that you’ve gone through that has been negative has been attempts by the enemy to try to discredit you, to try to disqualify you and to give you fodder for never ever embracing the call that he [the Father] has put on your life. I remember one of the most profound statements [I have heard].

***Whenever the devil reminds you of your past,
you remind him of his future.***

You flip the script.

*“Well, I know where I’ve been, but I know where
you’re going!”*

Do you understand? You’ll see the devil do one of these numbers [Arthur turns aside as if he is going to walk away.]

“Yep. That’s true. I ain’t denying it. Yep, I’ve been there. Yep, did that too.”

That’s where I’ve been. That’s not where I’m headed. That’s not my future. While we’re talking about the future, let’s talk about yours.

*Ephesians 4:13 – “Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God [Elohim], unto a **perfect man**,”*

You will find in the King James, this word “perfect” and “perfection” used. In many of the places it is used, it means to complete, to furnish thoroughly, to make one mature, to bring one into full age. This word “perfect” falls into that. It says:

*Ephesians 4:13 – “...unto a **perfect man**, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Messiah:”*

There’s that word (5046) “*t’eleiov*,” – “*tel’-i-os*”; from (5056) (“*t’elov*”); complete (in various applications of labor, growth, mental and moral character, etc.); neuter (as noun, with (3588) (’o)) completeness: – of full age, man, perfect. (5047) “*teleio’thv*”, -- “*tel-i-ot’-ace*”; from (5046) (“*t’eleiov*”); (the state) completeness (mental or moral): – perfection (-ness).

It means to bring into full age, to make mature, to make perfect, to complete. Father desires to complete you. He’s not trying to find you a mate. He’s trying to prepare you so that when he brings a mate to you, you don’t run him off or fail to recognize him or her. If you already have a mate, he’s trying to open your eyes to show you why you chose that mate.

You will notice that people who have been married for awhile are trying to look for an exit strategy (not all of them). Father comes in there and takes all of the exit signs

down. Now, I know that's against the code. [Arthur chuckles.] He just takes the exit signs down and puts blinds on the doors. You're not stuck. He's just trying to remind you how you got into this in the first place. Verse 14:

Ephesians 4:14 – “That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;”

This is the thing. He is trying to protect and perfect us so that we move out of childishness. I'll be the first one to admit that a lot of the behaviors that I've displayed in the past; when I really look at them, they are childish. You know, you don't get your way or you feel that somebody did something that they shouldn't have done. Think about it. In most of the arguments where we were ready to “take someone out,” we can't even remember what started the argument. We can't even remember.

Father wants us to grow up. That means that I have to let you be you and you have to let me be me. I've decided that for some of the people who don't want to let me be me, I will say:

“Do you know what? I disqualify you from having that choice. You have no say over whether or not I can be me. I don't need your permission to be me. I'm going to choose to be me and if you don't like me, get over it. But I refuse to relinquish control and authority to you.”

Now, I give this to him. I don't give it to you. Listen. That's not a slap in the husband's face. It's not a slap in the wife's face. Any husband or wife who is really on YeHoVaH's side will come to the conclusion at some point

in their life that they will be better served (as a man or woman) if they let the person they married be themselves.

Let them alone. Let YeHoVaH mold them. Let him shape them. That's because they will be a whole lot better person if you let him shape them than they will ever be if you continue to try to shape them. Do you hear what I'm saying? This is liberty. This is freedom.

Ephesians 4:14 – “That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;”

Ephesians 4:15 – “But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Messiah:”

Ephesians 4:16 – “From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”

We are designed to build the body up, not to tear it down. To build it up – that's our purpose. That's our calling. I'm going to do my part. *I'm going to do my part.* You need to do your part.

PART 2

INTRODUCTION

This is part two. We started this series off in *Hebrews* chapter 6. We did a teaching. We haven't put this teaching onto a DVD yet, but it is on our web site. It is *The Foundation of our Faith* where we did (I believe) a six-part series on the Foundations of our Faith found here in *Hebrews 6*. [This series has subsequently been created as an eight-part DVD set.]

We are going to pick up from there. I am going to give you what I can today. I believe you will be encouraged and inspired. I believe you will be blessed.

Hebrews 6:1 – “Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Messiah, let us go on unto perfection/maturity;”

We noted that word “perfection” there is “maturity.”

“...not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works,”

We should have that. We should be able to recognize dead works in our lives. Therefore, the more we recognize dead works before we do them; we don't have to do a lot of repenting of dead works.

“...and of faith toward God.”

We all should be moving in faith.

Hebrews 6:2 – “Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands,”

All plural, understanding that there is more than one baptism and there's more than one need or reason why people get hands laid on them. We went through all of that.

“...and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.”

Hebrews 6:3 – “And this will we do, if God permit.”

Hebrews 6:4 – “For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit [the Holy Ghost],”

Hebrews 6:5 – “And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,”

We went through all of that, ladies and gentlemen and explained that.

Hebrews 6:6 – “If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.”

Hebrews 6:7 – “For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God:”

Hebrews 6:8 – “But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned.”

*Hebrews 6:9 – “**But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.**”*

The *Hebrews* writer here is letting us know that salvation is not the end-all. There are things that are supposed to accompany our salvation. It is too often that people are only concerned about a salvation issue. If it's not a salvation issue – for many (not all), a salvation issue is anything that I have to do besides confessing faith in Jesus.

There are things that accompany salvation. I encourage you to look at *Messianic 201*. As we looked at in that teaching, there are things that we're supposed to add to our faith.

Hebrews 6:10 – “For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shown toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.”

Hebrews 6:11 – “And we desire that every one of you do show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:”

What he is saying here is that we've started a journey. We've started a walk. Those who endure to the end shall be saved. *Those who endure to the end shall be saved.*

You see, people can get off of this journey at any point, and some do. So when Paul addresses this issue here in verse five, he says:

“Listen. Don't get off the journey. If you get off the journey...”

I believe that he specifically – the book here is the Book of *Hebrews*. He is talking to Hebrew people. He is talking to individuals who understand the Hebrew Scriptures. Here is the thing that I believe he is communicating. We see the evidence of this in the Bible.

When the word of YeHoVaH came to the Hebrew people after Paul left, there were those who came in and who wanted to bring a Jewish version of Jesus or a Jewish version of Yeshua. This Jewish version came in the form of Judaism; which means that you say that you're saved, but it's impossible for you to be saved without first converting to Judaism.

That's because “only” the Jewish people can be saved. In order for you to be “saved,” you have to become one of

us before you can accept this Jewish Messiah. After all, he's a *Jewish* Messiah. He's not a Gentile Messiah. He's not a Greek Messiah. He's of the tribe of Judah. The only way you can accept the Messiah that comes from Judah and that was prophesied for the Hebrew people is that you "have" to do like everybody else prior to Yeshua coming. If you want access to this God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, you "have" to convert, you see.

Yeshua comes along and says:

"That used to be the way that it was. Now all you need is faith in me."

As a matter of fact, in his address to the Hebrew people who put their faith in the Law, he said to them:

"Listen. You have had access to this God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, but let me tell you that the only way you can have access to this God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is through me. No man can come to the Father. No man."

No man can come to the Father except through Yeshua, so it's a game changer.

Hebrews 6:12 – "That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises."

Now the faith in Yeshua is going forward and there are those who continue to reject this Yeshua. They say:

"No! He doesn't have the authority to change access to God. We always had that authority. We will always have that authority and therefore this man is a false prophet. So we now have to do what we've had to do to all false prophets. We have to kill him."

Thus the crucifixion and thus the wisdom of the Almighty. He knew that when religious people who had

been given his commandments turned his commandments into traditions of men and began to teach those traditions of men as commandments; they have diminished from the commandments and added to the commandments. Therefore they have made the commandments of God of no effect.

But their wisdom is different from the wisdom of the Almighty. He hid the plan from those he gave the oracles to, and he said:

“If they had known (the rulers of this world)...”

We can take that a couple of ways. At some point, there were those who were true to the God of Heaven who were of Hebrew origin and who recognized at some point that they had made a big mistake crucifying Yeshua. Thus, three thousand souls were added to the body of Messiah, and guess what? They were not Gentiles! They were of Hebrew origin.

Over the course of time, even synagogue leaders, rulers of synagogues, priests, Pharisees and former Sadducees all began to profess faith in Yeshua and thus [we have] the Book of *Hebrews*. Now, notice there isn't a Book of *Greeks*. There isn't a Book of *Gentiles*. It's the Book of *He-brews*. Hello!

The Hebrew people need to know the Messiah that was prophesied in the Hebrew Scriptures. Thus the Book of *Hebrews* is saying:

“Listen guys. You all need an adjustment. You need a shifting in your thinking. The way the Almighty operated in times past, he is now still operating, but he is operating just as he spoke to our fathers through the prophets. He is now speaking to us through the one that the prophets prophesied.”

It's not something new, because the prophets prophesied that it would happen. **This is the fulfillment of the prophesy that was prophesied of old, so the New Testament is the Old Testament.** The prophesies of the prophets are being fulfilled. Now that this prophesy is being fulfilled, you need to adjust how you see the Bible.

We need to see the Bible through *the* Prophet, not through the prophets, but through *the* Prophet. The prophets knew in part. The Almighty would give this prophet a part and he would give this prophet a part and he would give that prophet a part, but none of them had the sum total.

The Prophet had it all because the Prophet was the word made flesh. He didn't need to read the prophets. He was the prophets. He didn't need to read the writings. He was the writings. He didn't need to read the Torah. He was the Torah!

The Torah, the Law, the prophets, the word, is made flesh and he's dwelling among the people to show them how they were supposed to be living, all along. Instead, those who were responsible and who had been given the authority to teach the people, made servants of the people. Thus Yeshua says to his apostles, to his prophets, to his evangelists, to his pastors and to his teachers:

"Don't let anyone call you 'Rabbi.'"

What is he saying?

"Don't let people make you a master."

That's because when you make a master, here's what we do with masters.

*"Master, can I do this? Master, can I go here?
Master, can I do this?"*

And thus you have people who are part of congregations and who hide from their master. They sneak off to go and listen to somebody else that the master said:

“You can’t listen to...”

The master. But *the* MASTER says:

“Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy.”

The master says:

“That’s been ‘done away with.’”

The MASTER says, but the masters say. The masters of the day of Yeshua felt threatened by the true Master, who had not been brought up under their mastership. He didn’t listen to them like the people did. They had made the people so afraid of being kicked out of the synagogue, of being rejected, of having no part in the life to come.

You see, this is what rabbis do! You’ve “got” to wear a kippah. You “can’t” go a certain distance without a covering on. You can’t do this and you can’t do that, you see, and ultimately they become the masters.

Yeshua says:

“Don’t become peoples’ masters.”

But let me take it a step further.

“Don’t let people make you a master. Let no man call you ‘Rabbi.’ Do not be called ‘Rabbi.’ You only have one Rabbi.”

If we only have one Rabbi, why are there so many Rabbis in the Earth? Do you understand what I’m saying? That’s a sign! I tell people all day long:

“It’s a sign. If your minister is telling you that you need to call him ‘Rabbi,’ you’re in the wrong place.”

They don’t like hearing this stuff, but they don’t like hearing what Yeshua taught, either. They come up with their own doctrines.

Hebrews 6:10 – “For God [the Almighty] is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shown toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.”

And you are continuing to minister. What is he saying?
He is saying:

“Listen. You all are the apple of the Almighty. You’re the apple of his eye. He’s not going to forget all of the things that you’ve done. He knows.”

I would dare say that he is talking to them and to their ancestors and to their fathers. By the time you get to *Hebrews 11*, the writer of *Hebrews* brings all of them into focus as he begins to talk about the faith that they walked in. Understand:

“We know that you are zealous about the things of the Almighty. We know that when it came down to the temple services and to the synagogue services and trying to preserve and protect the oracles and to keep it from being diluted and to hold people to a high standard as I commanded; we’re not going to forget any of that.”

You have to understand that YeHoVaH dealt with his people through a system. But they began to focus on him through the system, when what he wanted was for them to focus on him, not filter his word through a system. It was not to filter his word through denominationalism. Do you understand?

WE HAVE THE AUTHORITY

Every one of us has the authority. We've been given the authority. We've been given it by the Almighty. Now you don't have to go to a high priest. You don't have to get a sacrifice and bring it to the temple. You can come boldly into the Holy of Holies (which was forbidden). You now have access to the same Elohim as Moses, as Abraham, as Isaac, Jacob, Noah, and as all of the prophets and all of the apostles.

You have been given the ability to hear straight from Heaven, so why are you dependent upon some man? Why are you dependent upon some system? Now, understand that the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers are for equipping, not for leading. The leading is the Holy Spirit's responsibility, but we've put men and women in the place of the Holy Spirit. Although we may not call them rabbis, they become our masters. That's because we put them in that place. This is not to diminish apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers.

You can't diminish it. The Almighty gave it to us and he hasn't changed what he gave to us. He says:

"If you want to be equipped, if you want to be perfected, you're going to need these gifts. If you want to walk in the power of the Spirit, you're going to need these gifts. If you want to live a successful life in the Kingdom of YeHoVaH, you're going to need all of this. You can't just rely on faith."

You're going to have to not only come to God in faith, but now you have to add these things to your faith. Now you have to perfect your faith. From the time you start this journey until the time you breathe your last, it could be

fifty, sixty or seventy years; which is a lot of opportunity for you to abandon the faith. The Bible says:

“Many will depart from the faith.”

Many of them! The Bible says:

“Except those days be shortened, even the righteous, even the elect will be fooled.”

This is what the Bible teaches. I’ll tell you. I believe what the Bible teaches. People say:

“Well, once you’re saved brother, you’re always saved.”

Okay. The Bible says:

“Those who endure to the end shall be saved!”

What about those who don’t? I think it’s self-explanatory.

Hebrews 6:11 – “And we desire that every one of you do show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:”

Hebrews 6:12 – “That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”

Again:

“...followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”

The Bible gives us a list in *Hebrews 11* of those who actually saw it and those who entered into it. There are many who never got to see or to experience the promise, but they had faith and they had faith until the very last day of their life. That’s what he is calling us to, so we’re going to talk a little bit about that.

When we talk about maturing in Messiah and perfecting your faith, there are a couple of things we need to observe. Then we're going to move on.

First, we need to look at this idea of perfection, because there is a difference between perfecting your faith and having a perfectionist mindset. There are people who are perfectionists. They don't allow themselves to make any mistakes. They are so hard on themselves. They are harder on themselves than the Almighty or anybody else can be. They make a mistake and they can't live it down.

Then there are people who are so much of a perfectionist that they don't let other people live down their mistakes. Let me tell you something, ladies and gentlemen. As long as you've got breath in your lungs, there's a good change that you're going to mess up!

You can minimize your messing up by following the very instructions that the Scriptures have given to us and not stopping at the door talking about faith and faith alone. There are people who say:

“You know, faith is all. Faith and faith alone. If you do anything else, you're adding. You're adding to faith. It's works.”

Well, if you don't have works, your faith is meaningless. You will know people's faith by their works.

The word here is (5046) *“t'eleiov,”* – *“tel'-i-os”*; from (5056) (*“t'elov”*). It means to be complete (in various applications of labor, growth, mental and moral (character, etc.); neuter (as noun, with (3588) (‘o)) completeness: – of full age, man, perfect.

(5047) *“teleio'thv,”* – *“tel-i-ot'-ace”*; (the state) completeness (mental or moral): – perfection (-ness) It also carries the idea of mental and moral perfection. We're going to talk a little bit about this moral as well as

this mental [perfection]. The *Hebrews* writer implies that there are things that should accompany our salvation. We talked about these in *Messianic 201: Adding to Your Faith*.

What the *Hebrews* writer is talking about in the first few verses again, we dealt with in *Messianic 201*, so we won't go through all of that again. But here is something that we have to pay attention to. That is the things that accompany salvation.

I as well as you have to be able to gauge where we are. You have to be able to intelligently and independently of everybody and everything else, gauge where you are on your path. Now, most of us do that, but may not necessarily hold it to the standard of biblical proportion.

Because we do that in the secular, it's okay to add to "you" in the natural, but it's a violation of the word when you start adding to your faith. Now the moment that you start adding to your faith, you're into works. Let me tell you something, ladies and gentlemen. If you go to work and don't work, I don't care how much faith you've got.

"You can't fire me. Jesus gave me this job!"

The Messianics would say:

"You can't fire me. Yeshua gave me this job! I'll call fire down from Heaven if you terminate my employment!"

Mm hmm, and Heaven is looking at you and saying:

"Really? Okay, I'd like to see that myself. Go ahead."

[Arthur is joking and laughs.]

There are things that accompany salvation, but there are some people who don't get beyond their pet gospel Scripture. Most denominationalism is based on a verse here, a verse there, a verse here and a verse there, not on

the whole of Scripture, which you really have to look at and take account of.

You see, people who don't take account of the whole find themselves in situations. Now I tell people this. Those of you who are not married; let me give you a piece of advice. Look at your future mother-in-law and you'll see what you'll have in a few years. If you don't like your mom-in-law, there's a good chance that you're going to have to work through some things.

That's because most women (not all) become the product of their mother or their dad. Wives, you had better meet that future father-in-law. What if you can't? Well, then you're taking a chance, because chances are that unless there is some intervention by the Almighty, that's what you're going to end up with.

I remember when my wife started sounding like my mother-in-law! I look at her at certain angles and guess what I see? That's a confirmation from Heaven, right there. See? [Arthur laughs.]

So where do we find this? We're going to look in a book that I can tell you many people don't look in or read. It's the letter that Paul wrote to the Thessalonians. We're going to identify some things that may be lacking and things that must be done to perfect or to mature our faith in Messiah.

A little history is this. We know that there was something written about the Thessalonians in the Book of *Acts*. Paul had just left a place called Berea, and he went to Thessalonica. In *Acts 17* it says:

*Acts 17:10 – “And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto **Berea**: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews.”*

Acts 17:11 – “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica”

This statement tells us something.

“Okay. The people that I’m dealing with now are more noble than the people that I was dealing with.”

How is that distinction being made? What criteria is being made for the person to write this particular statement? It says:

“They received the word with all readiness of mind.”

Did the Thessalonians not receive the word with all readiness of mind? And:

“They searched the Scriptures daily.”

Did the Thessalonians not search the Scriptures daily? Now, there’s a difference. We get the idea of studying the Bible. You can’t study the Bible without study tools. You can’t! You can’t search the Scriptures unless you’re searching for something. All you are doing is what most people do: read. They read the Bible. They don’t search it. They don’t research it. They don’t study it. That’s not everybody, because some people do. But the vast majority of people who claim to be followers of Messiah simply read the Bible, not search the Bible.

You don’t have to raise your hand. Just ask yourself. You be the judge of that. You see, when you begin to assess yourself, you know where you stand. You know your beliefs. You know where you stand on abortion. You know where you stand on homosexuality. You know where you stand on the government. You know where you stand on politics. You know where you stand.

All somebody has to do is let you talk for about fifteen minutes and they'll know where you stand. Just let them talk! Folks will tell you, so listen. Don't listen with your normal ears. Listen with the ears of the Spirit if you've got ears to hear. You are not supposed to be surprised five years later or two years later or six months later when you let your heart go out to a snake. You're supposed to know it's a snake before you let your heart go out to a snake.

If you don't know it's a snake, you weren't listening. You weren't paying attention, because a snake will tell you that it's a snake. It'll show you it's a snake. When our nose gets opened, as they used to say:

"Boy, that girl's got that boy's nose open!"

What they are saying is that the nostrils of his nose are so big that they have blinded his eyes. He can't see past his nose! When people "fall in love," they can't see straight. That's because now they're talking out of their emotions.

Imagine someone who has parents that have invested their entire life in them. They didn't leave you at some hospital. They didn't drop you off on somebody's doorstep. They didn't give you up for adoption. They didn't have an abortion.

They brought you into the world. They nursed you or even bought formula. They changed your diapers. They fed you. They made sure that you had decent clothes to wear. They tried to send you to a good school. They went to the school and enrolled you in the school. They went to the P.T.A. meetings. They tried to get you into some extra-curricular activities. They paid the fees. They took you to the doctor. They brought you home. They took you to the dentist. They invested themselves.

I know that most parents (especially mothers) end their career to raise their baby. Then one day out of nowhere, they come home saying:

“I’m in love.”

In a moment’s notice they are ready to abandon that parent who has invested their lives, for some joker they barely even know. All of a sudden they’re smarter than their parents! Hello somebody! They’ve got the nerve to wonder why their parents are upset.

“You just don’t want me to be happy!”

“No, I’m upset because you’ve made a choice and then you are in love with somebody we don’t even know! How did that happen?”

“Well...I...uh...come on in Billy. I want you to meet Billy. Mama, Daddy, this is Billy.”

Billy is about to get a “beat-down” up in here. This joker has converted my daughter or this person has converted my son. All of a sudden my son or daughter looks at me like I’m stupid and I’m supposed to say:

“Okay Billy. Welcome to the family.”

I don’t even know Billy! This is why YeHoVaH says:

“Don’t let your sons marry their daughters.”

You see, if you don’t know the parents – and God forbid if you do know the parents and you know that the parents have not trained them like you’ve trained yours. They have some problems. Even if the parents have trained them like you’ve trained yours, it doesn’t mean that they aren’t going to have problems, but they’ve got a foundation to work with to work through their problems.

The Thessalonians searched the Scriptures. They didn’t just take the preacher’s word. We can find out a little bit about these guys in *Acts 17*. I think it would be helpful if we just took a moment and read it. In *Acts 17* we learn a little bit about these people in Thessalonica. If you want to understand this, a lot of the letters that Paul wrote to

individuals in the Bible; we find out about some of them mostly in the Book of *Acts*.

In *Acts* when Paul first encountered them, it gives us a little insight as to who these people are. In *Acts 17* he says:

Acts 17:1 – “Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews:”

Acts 17:2 – “And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,”

Acts 17:3 – “Opening and alleging, that Messiah must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Yeshua, whom I preach unto you, is Messiah.”

Acts 17:4 – “And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few.”

We see here. Where is Paul at? Where is Paul ministering? It's right here, ladies and gentlemen. It was his manner to go into the synagogue. I don't understand people who, for some reason or another, get the impression that the first believers are Gentiles. You see, **a Gentile is an unbeliever! You can't be a Gentile and be a believer.** People say:

“Well, I'm a Gentile.”

How can you be a heathen? How can you be a nonbeliever? Let me tell you something. There are some unbelieving believers, as we discovered the last couple of Thursdays during our *Manifesting the Gift of Healing* teachings.

There are people who believe in Yeshua, that don't believe Yeshua. There are people who believe in God, but don't believe God. They are satisfied with believing in. But you can't believe in him and not do the things he says. You can't do that, but there are people who believe in him, and that's all they need.

"I believe in Jesus."

"I believe in Yeshua."

"I believe he's the Son of God, and according to Paul, that's all I need. I don't need anything else. I don't have to do anything, just believe."

Now, that's not what Paul said, but if you only read a verse of what Paul wrote and not read the whole letter, then you can come to the conclusion that:

"Yes. That's exactly what that verse says."

But look at the context of the verse! **Understand what the verse is actually saying.**

THE ORIGIN OF EVANGELISM

Here he is in the Jewish synagogue. Who are the first believers in Thessalonica? Some of them believed and consorted with Paul and Silas. This happened everywhere. Everywhere Paul went, it was his custom to go into the synagogue. Why? Because in the day of Paul, there were synagogues all over the place whenever YeHoVaH's people went into a community or a city.

Where do you think the idea of evangelism came from? It didn't come from the Gentiles. Wherever the Hebrew people went, what would they do? They would establish a fellowship, a home group. Ultimately that home group fellowship evolved into a synagogue, which was a meeting place for people of faith.

Therefore in *Acts 2* they are coming from all over the known world up to Jerusalem, and what are they? They are Jews. After Pentecost, they go back to their homes where they came from. The reason why they came was because **they were practicing and keeping the Torah! They were honoring and obeying the word of Yah!**

But when they went back into their respective cities, now there is a faith in Messiah. When they come to their synagogue and those in the synagogue reject them, they establish their home groups with those that received the word.

Paul went into these cities. It was his custom that before he went to the heathens – the Hebrew people had the Hebrew Scriptures. The heathens didn't. The non-Hebrew people didn't have the Hebrew Scriptures. The only way they could even hear about the Hebrew Scriptures was if they went among the Hebrew people.

When he comes into a city, the first thing Paul does is go among the people who are supposed to know the Scriptures. He knows that those who know the Scriptures should be open to the message. His role is to present it in a way so that they get it. Wherever Paul went, some people got it, but some didn't. Why? It was because **they were entrenched in their religious mindset.** It is like that today, just as it was in the days of Yeshua.

How can you wait and look and preach and teach for generation after generation after generation that a Messiah is coming; and when he is standing right in front of your face, you don't even recognize it, even though you see the works that he did and the message that he's teaching?

There were those who weren't religious. There were those who weren't partly sold out to that system, who said:

“Do you know what? This man doesn't teach like the Rabbi. He sounds like he knows what he's talking about!”

They're making a distinction between what he is saying and what they're being taught.

“This man teaches as one who has authority.”

They were afraid, but it didn't stop some of them from believing. Ultimately you have Pharisees. One in particular was named Nicodemus. He believed and came out of the synagogue “closet” in broad daylight. Where did he go? He went among the Jews.

Acts 17:4 – “And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few.”

GENTILE OR GREEK?

Now, what is a “devout Greek?” Does anybody know what a “devout Greek” is? I'll tell you what a devout Greek is. A devout Greek is one who has a devotion to their belief. What do they believe? And guess what? Where are they? Where is Paul at? He's in the synagogue. You see, you don't hear “Gentile” when you hear the word “Greek” (although some people do).

Now we have Jews and Greeks. Where are they? They're in the synagogue. They're not referred to as “Gentiles.” They are referred to as “Greeks.” Can I take you somewhere really quickly? *Acts 6*. This is one of the problems. Listen to this:

Acts 6:1 – “And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.”

What's a “Grecian?” A Grecian is a Greek who, according to this verse and this passage, is a Greek-

speaking Hebrew! How can you be a Greek-speaking Hebrew? Well, imagine being taken into captivity into a Greek-speaking nation for seventy years and losing the language. What do you do? You learn their language.

There are people in this country that came from other languages, from other nations. They spoke a different language. At a certain point in our history, one of the first things they wanted to do was to get rid of the accent from where they came. There are people who have worked at getting rid of their accent so they can fit in and assimilate without being recognized.

I speak to people. Their parents' motivation so that their children could be successful in this new land was to learn English as fast as they could and to develop an English accent so that it would minimize the racial tension and prejudice that people would have against them (being a foreigner).

They get rid of the accent. Imagine growing up in America. You learn English. If you grew up in a certain neighborhood, you learned ebonic [Black] English. You learned "hood" English. Now there's a whole other English where people don't even use whole words anymore. "LOL" [Laughing Out Loud]. [Arthur laughs.]

It's like with the English language, the *Webster's Dictionary* said:

"Do you know what? If you can't beat 'em, just join 'em!"

The standard of Webster has embraced the culture. There's no such thing today as "proper" English, unless of course you are in England. England = English. You know that the Americans weren't the first ones to speak English.

"Wow! That's a revelation."

[Arthur is joking.] You do understand that, right? So now you have people who don't know the language, yet they know the God of Israel and they're Greeks. For those of you who know about the Maccabees, know that there was a Greek culture. Our society has been influenced by the Greeks, by the Romans, by the Babylonians, by the Egyptians and by the Assyrians. Israel was under the dominating control of these people.

Therefore when they were taken into captivity after Solomon; the Bible tells us that in Nehemiah and Ezra's day, the people couldn't even speak the language of the Bible. Now for the first time in Israel's history, they have to have the Hebrew Scriptures spoken to them through an interpreter.

By the time Yeshua comes onto the scene, those who were raised in the Greek culture and who learned the Greek language but who were Hebrew by birth, didn't speak the Hebrew language. They spoke the Greek language, but they received the Hebrew Messiah. They were considered to be Grecians by the Hebrews, based on their accent or their language.

So you've got a language barrier. Thus what do you have? Prejudice. So, what happens? Now there is a murmuring among the Grecians against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration. The people brought their resources and laid them at the apostles' feet. This is one of the things that happen in Messianic Jewish communities today, ladies and gentlemen.

Those of you who have ever been in a Messianic Jewish synagogue where you have Rabbis and some Gentiles who want to be Jews; you will find that if you're not Jewish, you're "second-class." They don't make "no bones" about it.

If you look at those who are in leadership and those who are making decisions; if the leader is Jewish, chances are that the entire paid staff except the janitor [are Jews] and everybody else is probably Gentile. This is what was going on here. It is still going on today. That was *Acts 6*. Now back to chapter 17, verse 4:

Acts 17:4 – “And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks”

These are Grecians who were part of the Hebrew community. They were devout:

“...a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few.”

Acts 17:5 – “But the Jews which believed not,”

Do you see? There are Jews who believed and there are devout Greeks. Here the term “Jew” actually deals with a **Judean**.

Acts 17:5 – “But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy,”

Now they got angry.

“...took unto them certain lewd fellows”

It wasn't hard to do because all they had to do was to incite them...

“...of the baser sort,”

These are individuals who wanted recognition. You know, you'll find that when people have been kicked around, overlooked, looked down upon and you give them the opportunity to maybe do something and to be recognized; the Bible says that these are:

“...of the baser sort,”

These are “lewd” characters.

“...and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.”

Acts 17:6 – “And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, ‘These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also;’”

Acts 17:7 – “‘Whom Jason hath received: and these all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, one Jesus [or Yeshua].’”

Acts 17:8 – “And they troubled the people and the rulers of the city, when they heard these things.”

Acts 17:9 – “And when they had taken security of Jason, and of the other, they let them go.”

Acts 17:10 – “And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews.”

Now we get an insight into who these Thessalonians were or to the influence that Paul had to deal with when he went there.

1 Thessalonians 3:1 – “Wherefore when we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left at Athens alone;”

1 Thessalonians 3:2 – “And sent Timotheus, our brother and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Messiah, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith:”

“To comfort you.” Why would they need comforting? I’m going to tell you. When you are going through persecution, when you’re going through rejection, when you’re going through alienation from people who love you, you find yourself at odds.

When you’re going through loving someone and living with someone who doesn’t see things the way you see them or their values are different than your values; the direction that you want to take your family, your house, your life is in a different direction than what they want to go. Again, you find yourself at odds. There are times when your faith gets challenged. Now you have to figure out how to get through this.

“What do I do? I need someone to talk to, to encourage me. I just need to be told that what I’m doing is right. I know it’s right, I just need, from time to time, a reaffirmation, a reconfirmation. I know it’s right and I’m not going back, but at this particular time, I really could use an ‘Atta boy. You’re doing the right thing. Keep it up.’”

Paul is writing. He says:

“Listen. I need to establish you and to comfort you concerning your faith.”

1 Thessalonians 3:3 – “That no man should be moved by these afflictions:”

They are obviously going through some stuff.

“...for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto.”

“We’re with you!”

1 Thessalonians 3:4 – “For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should

suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know.”

We’re going through. You’re going through. Everybody is going through. The enemy wants to isolate you and make you think you’re the only one going through. The only way you know that you’re not the only one – sometimes knowing that other people are going through the same thing really isn’t that much encouragement. [Arthur laughs.] But it does help from time to time to know that you are not the only person who is dealing with this.

So you know.

“...when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know.”

1 Thessalonians 3:5 – “For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith,”

Paul is saying:

“My faith has been so tampered [with], so attacked, that I just need to know that there’s someone out there who is actually still holding to the faith.”

You see, Paul has gone to Thessalonica. Now he’s writing to them. As you see in his letter, he’s saying:

“When I came to you all, you have to remember that I was literally chased out of town, folks. It’s not like there was a welcoming committee. There certainly was a departure committee! There were people who were more anxious to get me out of the city than those who welcomed me when I came. So when I could no longer forbear the things that I was going through...”

“...I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain.”

“I need to know that there are people standing firm, that there are people standing in faith as a result of the work that we’ve been doing.”

1 Thessalonians 3:6 – “But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and [your love, your] charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also to see you:”

1 Thessalonians 3:7 – “Therefore, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith:”

“What comforted us was hearing that your faith was strong.”

1 Thessalonians 3:8 – “For now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord.”

1 Thessalonians 3:9 – “For what thanks can we render to God again for you, for all the joy wherewith we joy for your sakes before our Elohim;”

1 Thessalonians 3:10 – “Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?”

Some would take that and say:

“Okay, See? According to the word, you should pray twice a day: in the night and in the day.”

But what about when Paul says that we ought to pray “without ceasing”? You see, people can take a verse of Paul and turn it into a doctrine, ignoring all of the other

verses that Paul taught. “Praying without ceasing” doesn’t sound like two times a day to me. It contradicts this. What he is saying is:

“We’re praying without ceasing. We’re praying night and day.”

“...exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?”

You see, when Timotheus came (according to verse 6):

1 Thessalonians 3:6 – “But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity,”

It wasn’t all positive. It doesn’t say that here, but it does say that we know now that there are some things that are lacking.

1 Thessalonians 3:10 – “Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?”

Is that in your Bible like it is in mine, as a question mark? You see, it takes on the question. It is like basically the things that are lacking in your faith – we know that there are some things lacking in your faith. Do you know that there are some things lacking in your faith?

There are some things lacking in your faith! Well, what are these things? What’s lacking? How does Paul know there are some things lacking? He’s not even there! He’s getting a message from Timothy, concerning them.

There are those who will be among you who, on the surface, look like they have it all together. Talk to their wives. Talk to their husbands. Talk to their children. Talk to their neighbor. Talk to their in-laws. You see, there are people who live in our lives and who, if they trust us

enough, will give us the skinny or should I say the low down (and in some cases, the down-low).

OVERCOMING TAKES TEAMWORK

The reason why some people don't want to deal with counseling is because they don't want people to know this stuff.

"We can work this out amongst ourselves."

Well, wait a minute. It was you working it out amongst yourselves that got you to the point where you realized:

"This isn't working."

So you need some help. You need some intervention. If you keep doing it the way you are doing it, it's not going to get any better unless there's some change, unless there's intervention. How are you going to get the intervention or the change if you don't think you need it?

You see, week after week, people come in here and in congregations around the nation with their Sabbath face, and with their "Shabbat Shaloms." On the surface, everything looks fine. It does! It looks fine! They're smiling. They're grinning. But they're evasive or non-directed. They want to talk about "non-spiritual" issues. If you get into that which is meaningful and of the heart, then now we have to expose that:

*"Hey, I'm not all that it looks like I might be.
I've got some cracks. I've got some flaws."*

Let me tell you something, ladies and gentlemen. Those who hide their cracks and their flaws don't get better. You see, **YeHoVaH is light. In him there is no darkness.** We must come to the light. Let the darkness be exposed!

It's like me. It's hard for me to preach. My wife and I go around on this. It's like:

“You know, you preach, but it seems like you talk more about yourself than Yeshua...”

She says this. You know, I can't tell anybody else's story. I know the accuracy of what has happened in my life, so I can't tell your testimony. If you don't tell your testimony – you can write your testimony out and still miss a great deal of your testimony. I can tell you mine. I know that over the course of my life, as I'm lacking so much, I realize that I need help in a few areas.

I learned how to be a man from my Dad, and he wasn't a good man. He was a hard-working man, so I learned how to be hard-working. I have no problem rolling up my sleeves. I will work! I'll work folks under the table. Seriously! So I have no problem with work, but where it comes to relationships, that's where my Dad lacked, you see. He drank and he gambled. All of his friends were drinking and gambling buddies.

If you want to learn about what kind of person you are, just look around you when you're having fun. Look at what's around you when you are [enjoying yourself]. You will tell what kind of person you are by those you hang around.

“Birds of a feather flock together.”

We are guilty by our association. How can you tell me that you're not like that when those are the kinds of people you like hanging around? You can't convince me that you're not like that if that's where you like to be. What is it in you that you like being there? I say that is because if you didn't like being in that environment, **you wouldn't be there**. So there's something in you. Don't tell me that's not who you are, because who you are is going to show.

Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth is going to speak. When the mouth speaks and the actions align with

what the mouth says, then I'm going to tell you that you'd better believe what you're hearing and seeing.

"But that's not who I am!"

Huh? Then change. Be who you are, because who you are is what I see.

Some of the things that were lacking were of a practical nature, such as moral (4:1-12) and disciplinary matters (5:12-24). Others were doctrinal, such as confusion over Messiah's return (4:13-5:11).

No one can discipline you. I remember. My mom – they beat the snot out of me, literally. I'm telling you. My nose was snotty! And all of that crying and whooping and hollering when they were beating me – I'm talking about tears and snot flinging everywhere! Those of you who know what I'm talking about, that's a "beat-down." Today parents go to jail for that kind of stuff. All of that beating didn't change me. I just got slicker.

Do you understand what I'm saying? You can't beat what's in a person, out of a person, but you can show them that you're not pleased with what you're seeing. Now what do you do? You change what you present, but it doesn't change who you are. You just get slicker about doing it and try not to get caught.

For some of us, you know what I'm talking about. You've got your excuse before you even commit the crime. You've already figured out what you're going to say before you've done the act. There are disciplinary issues. No one can hold you accountable if you don't want to be accountable. Even accountants can't hold an organization under account if the organization is not presenting all of the information.

So even accountants can't hold an organization under account unless it has all of the access. This is where the IRS comes in, because these guys are trained to find the

assets. Do you know how they know? They've dealt with so many people who have tried so many ways to hide stuff. It is to the point where they come in and start looking in all of the places where they've found stuff before. There's a term for it. It's called "forensic accounting." Forensics.

There are disciplinary issues. You see, your parents can correct you. Your husband can try to correct you. Your wife can try to correct you. Your boss can try to correct you. They can put you under disciplinary review.

There are disciplinary actions they can take against you. They can give you a day off. They can give you three days off. They can give you a written warning. They can give you a verbal warning. They can give you all of these warnings before they terminate you.

But these warnings and disciplinary actions are not going to change your character. It's not going to change your nature. Sometimes as hard as we've tried to change our own nature, we can't do it. There are people who are drinking but who don't want to drink. There are people who are doing drugs and they want to quit. There are people smoking cigarettes and they wish to God that they could let that stuff go.

They're doing everything. They're chewing gum. They're taking shots. They're putting on patches. There are folks who are going into rehabilitation centers. They are doing all kinds of stuff to change their behavior.

The one who is able to change our behavior is the Almighty. He is the only one. But we have to dare to submit ourselves thoroughly to his word. The only time we'll see the change come is when we've done all that we know to do and have resisted in faith, on every count. The Bible says in our weakest moment, his strength is made perfect.

You've got to deny and deny and deny until it hurts. That's because if there's anything – you've got to come to a place where you say:

"I would rather die. I would literally rather die."

Some of the things that you try to overcome bring you to a point where you think that you are going to die. That's what causes people to relapse. It is because it is so agonizing and painful.

"Why am I putting myself through this when I can end this torture now by simply taking a drink, taking a hit off of a cigarette, taking a hit off of some marijuana or by putting some kind of drug into my body and all of this will go away, just like that?"

The quick fix. The Father is saying:

"No, this is not going to be a quick fix. This is going to be you resisting unto the point of death. Are you willing to die to quit?"

Some people say – what was that commercial?

"I'd rather fight than quit."

Some people aren't willing to deny themselves to the point of death. This is where the *Revelation* writer lets us know that we overcome by the blood of the Lamb, by the word of our testimony and that we love not our lives unto death.

"I would rather die than put another one of those things in my mouth. I would rather die than take another drink. I would rather die than take another hit off of a cigarette. If it kills me, I'm going to resist this thing because I believe that when I cannot take any more, he's there

with me and he's going to give me the strength that I need to overcome it."

At some point, something breaks. Now do you know what you've done? You have literally gained the victory. The victory was all yours from the beginning, but now you have gained that victory. You are going to walk in that victory because you have overcome something and you did it in your own strength with the help of [the Almighty]. He's not just going to deliver you without you.

"God, take this away from me."

If it was that simple, it would be gone already. You are a co-laborer with him. He's not going to force you to lay hands on anybody. He's not going to force you to prophesy. He's not going to force you to share your faith with anyone. But he said:

"If you open your mouth, I'll fill it."

He's not going to force you to open your mouth, but he'll give you the words if you choose to do it. He will be with you, but he's not going to force you. He doesn't operate that way.

WE ARE SET APART

When it comes down to the issue of moral conduct, the issue of disciplinary actions or self-discipline (which is a fruit of the Spirit), and understanding doctrinal issues; the doctrinal issue that Paul is addressing almost 2,000 years ago is one of the most prevalent doctrinal problems that we have in our society today among religious people. Do you know what that is? It is end time prophecy.

"When is the end coming?"

This is what Paul was dealing with way back here in Thessalonica among the Thessalonians. Let's look at some of this.

1 Thessalonians 4:1 – “Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Yeshua, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please Elohim, so ye would abound more and more.”

You are supposed to be growing more and more every single day. You can't stop this process. Don't you think for a moment that you have arrived. This is a constant, every day walk. Guess what? All of those spirits that left you last week will probably come and check on you next week.

“Yeah. How are you doing?”

That's what they do. [Arthur knocks on the desk with his fist.]

“Anybody home? Have you all gone on vacation? Have you backslidden? Have you slipped just a little bit? Can I come in and have tea? Let's reason together. You see, I know, I know, I know. Last week you were strong and resisting and things were going good. Life was looking up for you. But you see, you told me to leave. Now the person you were with has left you. I know you're feeling bad! I know you need somebody to talk to. You see, nobody understands you like I understand you. I'm not going to condemn you. Can I come in? I know. Look, I'm just going to listen. I'm not going to talk. I know you need a shoulder to cry on.”

That gets so many people. People pry or prey on the weaknesses of other people during moments of vulnerability. We make some of the most detrimental mistakes of our lives when we are our most vulnerable,

when we're weak, when we're sad, when we're going through, when we're dealing with loss.

Have you ever wondered why, after the funeral, people go and get drunk? It is a means by which in some communities, people handle loss.

"I don't want to feel it."

Or some people go into a mode to the point where now, twenty years later, they're still grieving.

I have found that for myself, the hardest part of being delivered from addiction was remembering. You've heard the idea that drugs and alcohol and all of those things and television are a means by which we escape. If I am left to myself without any crutch, without any hindrance, without any addiction or anything to take my focus off, I'm in my head and I'm thinking.

What am I thinking about? I'm thinking about either how things could be or how things are. If things are not that good, those aren't pleasant thoughts. When I think about how things could be, and for a moment I get some pleasantries and I'm brought back to (as they say) reality, then now I'm looking at how things are. If things aren't that good, it could take me into a state of depression. Nine times out of ten, if things aren't that good, now I have to assess my role.

Because I am (we are) so quick to shift the blame to someone else, now I can focus what is not going well in my life onto somebody else. Nevertheless I also have to deal with the fact that I have contributed.

"Maybe if I hadn't done this. Maybe if I hadn't said that. Maybe if I had done this. Maybe if I had said that..."

Now I'm beating myself up. I'm condemning myself. It's like:

“Man. I can’t take this. I need a drink.”

Those are the things that cause a person to relapse. It’s not that the drink or the drug has such a hold on them. The reason why they are drinking and drugging is to escape the reality of life. That’s because life in its real form is “too difficult” to deal with, sober (for many people, unless of course you’ve overcome).

If you’ve overcome, you’ve had to face some real issues. And fear, for the most part is unknown. The idea of experiencing fear is the idea that I have to face something that is too difficult for me to face. Fear keeps me in this mode where I never really have to deal with that. This is what drugs and alcohol and any form of crutch that we use, does. It keeps us from having to deal with things.

This is why, when it comes down to the Holy Spirit, we now have the Spirit that brings self-discipline and the ability to say:

*“No. That is not good. That is not good for me.
That is not healthy. The outcome of this is not
going to be pleasant.”*

I have to learn how to say “no.” Worse yet, if I’m being pressured, then I have to really mean it. If I say “no,” it means that the environment that I am in is ultimately going to reject me. I can’t stay in this environment and keep saying “no.” So what happens? The pressure of being in this environment sometimes causes me to give in to things that at first I thought weren’t right, but after awhile they become accessible. You learn how to cope.

*1 Thessalonians 4:2 – “For ye know what
commandments we gave you by the Lord
Yeshua.”*

1 Thessalonians 4:3 – “For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:”

Your sanctification states that you have been set apart. As a sanctified, set apart person, no, you don't fit in! He didn't set you in. He set you apart. Now your job is to stay set apart. If you don't stay set apart, you'll set in.

You will compromise who you are. You will compromise your values. Pretty soon you will make excuses for the things that you are doing, even though it is hurting everything in your life. It's hurting your family. It grieves those who love you. It's hurting you.

1 Thessalonians 4:3 – “For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:”

1 Thessalonians 4:4 – “That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;”

You have to sanctify yourself. Your body is a temple of the Almighty. You cannot put your body in just any environment. When you put yourself in environments that the Almighty has set you apart from, you are compromising your values. It's only a matter of time before you fall and everything around you falls.

He set you apart, but you have to set yourself apart.

You have to set your eyes apart. You have to set your ears apart. You have to set your hands apart. You have to set your feet apart. You have to set your body apart. That's your job. He's done his work. His work is finished. His work is finished. Yours isn't.

This is what Paul writes. This is the same Paul who writes:

“By grace we're saved. Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

Yeah, he wrote that, but that's not all he wrote. I mean, if you based Paul's ministry on *Ephesians 2:8* or *Romans 3* or *6*; read the whole letter.

1 Thessalonians 4:4 – “That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;”

Do you know how to “possess your vessel?” Are you possessing your eyes? Your ears? Are you letting people speak things into your ears that you shouldn't be listening to? Are you watching things you shouldn't be looking at? Are you putting yourself in places you shouldn't be? Why would people put themselves in places where they are tempted?

I know adults.

“Nobody influenced me.”

“You're a liar. Yeah, I said it. You're a liar.”

If you think that you can put yourself in an environment and nobody will influence you, guess what? You would be rejected from that environment. If they welcome you in that environment, it's because you're under influence. The moment you start standing for righteousness, you'll see that your environment will turn on you.

How do you think you are going to go into the same environment that Yeshua was in and his environment turned on him, but yours won't turn on you? The reason why you are able to hang out in certain environments is because you aren't representing [Yeshua]. Let's just get down to it. If you are representing, you're not representing Heaven. Halleluyah somebody.

We're talking about *Perfecting Your Faith: Maturing In Messiah*.

PART 3

INTRODUCTION

This is part three. We started this out in *Hebrews 6*:

Hebrews 6:1 – “Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Messiah, let us go on unto perfection/maturity;”

We identified that word there as “maturity.”

“...not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God.”

Hebrews 6:2 – “Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.”

Hebrews 6:3 – “And this will we do, if God permit.”

Hebrews 6:4 – “For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,”

Hebrews 6:5 – “And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,”

Hebrews 6:6 – “If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.”

Hebrews 6:7 – “For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God:”

Hebrews 6:8 – “But that which beareth thorns and briars is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned.”

*Hebrews 6:9 – “**But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.**”*

Hebrews 6:10 – “For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shown toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.”

Hebrews 6:11 – “And we desire that every one of you do show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:”

Hebrews 6:12 – “That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”

In order to understand what the *Hebrews* writer was speaking of, we looked at *1 Thessalonians*. We looked at several verses. We ended with this particular verse. What Paul was identifying to the Thessalonians is very similar to what he kind of identified in many of the letters that he wrote.

We looked at how Paul came to Thessalonica. The Bible says that the Bereans were nobler of character than those in Thessalonica because the Bereans received the word.

We identified that in Thessalonica there were a lot of issues that Paul was dealing with. It was one of those places where not only did Paul visit, but he wrote a first letter and then a second letter.

You’ll find that in many of the places that Paul went, he didn’t write a lot of letters. He wrote *1* and *2 Thessalonians*. In *1 Thessalonians 3* he wrote:

1 Thessalonians 3:10 – “Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?”

As a Baptist and as a Lutheran and of course as a Christian Reformed, the idea of the doctrine of predestination, the idea of “saved by grace through faith” and the idea of “faith alone” are predominant doctrines in many mainline denominations. “All” you need is faith in “Christ” or faith in “Jesus.”

When it comes down to salvation and our relationship initially being established in faith in Messiah, those words are very, very true. However if you are going to walk this thing out, there are some things that we are going to have to do if we’re going to be effective and successful in the Kingdom.

WE HAVE WORK TO DO

For some reason last night, I was dreaming. I had this conversation with a prominent minister who was asking me why I was teaching on the Torah and keeping the commands. As I explained to him, keeping the Torah and following the commands of the Almighty is NOT so that I can be saved.

One of the ways that I put it is this. I’ve put it here in the same way in times past. We have to understand that we live in two different kingdoms at the same time. We are not just a physical being. We’re also a spiritual being. Our physical being is a product of this physical world. Our spirit man, the man that has been born again, is a product of Heaven.

Thus I, as a person who has been born again – Heaven takes up residence in me. As the Bible says: “For the Kingdom of Heaven is within me.” My spirit man within

me becomes a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven. My physical man is a product of this earthly realm and is from the Earth. That which is earthly is earthly. That's the physical me. That which is spiritual is spiritual. That's the spiritual me. That is the new man that has been regenerated through faith in Messiah, saved by grace.

Now there is a work [to do]. Somehow I've got to get my natural man in line with my spirit man. Or my spirit man is going to go along with my natural man. You see, I acknowledge that I am two persons in one body. Therefore as a citizen of the Earth, I am obligated to abide by the laws of the Earth.

I'm obligated to obey the speed limit, even though I don't always obey the speed limit. I'm obligated to make sure that I don't damage someone else's property. I'm obligated to try to be a good neighbor to those who live around me. I'm obligated to be a law-abiding citizen, knowing that there are institutions around me that are for non-law-abiding citizens.

I have no right to be in those unless I'm going to do the Kingdom's work. These institutions are called juvenile "homes" or juvenile detention [centers]. There are jails. There are state institutions and there are federal institutions. Then there are law enforcers.

There are university police. There are city and county police and the jail and county sheriffs. There are state police. These are all physical entities called law enforcement, to help me be aware of the fact that I'm living in this earthly kingdom where there are laws that I'm supposed to abide by.

The same is true in the Kingdom of the Almighty. There are laws that govern. Any place where there are no laws, there is chaos. People do whatever they want to do. There are people in the Earth realm who confess faith in

Yeshua and who believe that they are only obligated to the law of the land.

There's one way that I'm to conduct myself in the Earth. There's another way that I'm to conduct myself in the Kingdom. Understand that in the natural realm, we're not aware of the supernatural unless of course our spirit man is in tune with the Spirit. It is the Spirit of YeHoVaH that is trying to lead our spirit. It is his Spirit that bears witness with our spirit that we are of Heaven.

The steps of the righteous and the flesh do not become righteous. It's the Spirit that brings the flesh under subjection so that we as an individual can walk and live a righteous life in this ungodly and adulterous world that we live in. So there's a dilemma.

In the natural, I can learn. I can get knowledge. Knowledge will increase my learning, but it can also puff me up. If I rely simply on the knowledge – I can do well to rely on the knowledge, but it is not going to assist me in the supernatural.

We have an enemy! We have an enemy! This enemy is bound to make sure that as many of us don't make the connection as he possibly can [prevent]. If we do make the connection, then it takes warfare to a whole other level to keep you from walking in the knowledge.

Paul addresses the individuals in Thessalonica. He says:

“Listen. There are some things that I know that you are lacking.”

How do you know when someone is lacking something? All it takes is some conversation. If you listen to a person and their conversation, you can learn a lot about them. It's hard to learn a lot about people when you're doing all of the talking. It really is.

One of the things that I've worked on in my own life is listening; just listening. I can listen to somebody for fifteen

minutes and they'll tell me pretty much everything I need to know about them. Can you listen to somebody for fifteen minutes without thinking about how you are going to respond to the first thing they said?

I mean, if you pay attention to yourself, you'll notice that even while you may not be saying anything, you've got some stuff to say. You're just waiting on them to be quiet so that you can say what you have to say. That says that the whole time you have been waiting on them to be quiet, you aren't hearing what they're saying.

That's because if you heard what they said, sometimes you wouldn't even ask the question. You wouldn't say the thing you said because they've already answered the question you were going to ask. Or they've already confirmed the thing you were going to say to seek confirmation, but you weren't listening. People will tell you who they are!

Paul has insight on the Thessalonians. First, he had been there with them. Then he's got individuals, just like in Corinth, who are telling him about things that are going on in Thessalonica. That is why he is writing the letter. He is writing the letter because he's not there. He *was* there, but now he's getting information. He's responding to the information in the one letter. Then he gets more information and he responds to that information in another letter.

Do you follow me? He identified that there were some things that were lacking in their faith. The question is: how does he know, and what is lacking? What's lacking in their faith has a lot to do with what may be lacking in some of ours.

Some of the things lacking were of a practical nature, such as moral (4:1-12) and disciplinary matters (5:12-24). Others were doctrinal, such as confusion over Messiah's return (4:13-5:11).

Don't raise your hand, but since you believed, have you masturbated? Oh, we're just going to come right out at you! This isn't a warning. Don't take the children out of the room. Have you? Have you committed fornication since you believed? Fornication is having sex with someone who is not your wife or your husband. Have you? Have you committed adultery since you believed? Have you lied? Have you covered up your lies since you believed?

You see, these are things that people who have faith, don't do. If you do it, then you're not aware of the consequences. That's because the wages of sin is death, whether you confess to be a believer or an unbeliever.

SIN IS SIN. There is no sin that believers are going to get a pass on that unbelievers aren't. So, just because you confess "Jesus" or Yeshua, or Yahuwah or Yehoshua or however you call it; don't think that for a moment that because you are a believer that you can do these things that those who are not a believer are going to have to pay the price and the consequences for.

Do you understand what I'm saying? Don't think for a moment. If you're doing things that are a violation of his commands, there must be a lack of understanding or a lack of knowledge concerning the fact that the wages of sin is death.

Understand that the day YeHoVaH told Adam that the day he eats of that fruit he will die; he didn't die a physical death. He didn't drop dead, but let me tell you something. The first thing that began to go to work in him as a result of death operating in him was the fact that he was embarrassed and ashamed. So what did he do? He hid.

When we do things that we know are not of YeHoVaH, guess what? Embarrassment sometimes sets in. Shame sometimes sets in. Guilt sometimes sets in. We feel badly about what we did, and guess what? The enemy is now at work trying to master that opportunity. As long as he can

use those things against you, he can continue or keep you from ever walking in the fullness of life.

If you're not walking in the fullness of life, you're not walking in the fullness of authority. You're not walking in the fullness of power and now he has therefore usurped your authority. It's exactly what he did to Adam. He took his authority away from him. It's hard to walk in authority when you're full of guilt. You'll start making statements like:

"Well, do you know what?"

You'll start making excuses for other people's sins.

"Well, when I was that age...Look at how long it took God to reach me!"

"Well, you know, they're boys!"

"Well, you know young people. They just do..."

We say all of these things and start making excuses for the immoral behavior of other people instead of holding them to a higher standard. The reason why we don't hold people to a high standard is because we don't hold ourselves to a high standard. When you start holding yourself to a high standard, you now begin to hold other people to a standard. That is an act of compromise.

YeHoVaH is not looking for compromising people. That doesn't mean that we're judgmental and critical and cynical. No. That's not what I'm getting at. Before you can hold someone to a standard, you must first hold yourself to a standard. This is not some false standard.

There are people who hold other people to a standard that is higher than the one to which they hold themselves. Here is how it manifests.

"Well, you know. You're a preacher. You're going to be held to a higher standard than us."

Where did you find that at in the Bible? Show me that Scripture. Or:

“That’s a preacher’s son. That’s a preacher’s daughter. Oh my!”

Let’s look at your sons or your daughters! You start holding other people to a higher standard than you hold yourself.

“Well, you know. That’s different. You’re supposed to represent God.”

“Don’t you?”

“You teach the word, don’t you?”

There are people who are not even aware that they’re supposed to be maturing and perfecting, but they hold other people to a standard and a level of maturity and perfection. I’ve witnessed that some of the most critical people on the planet are the most sensitive. They are. Oh, they are critical when it comes to somebody else, but the moment that you say something about them, they’re over in the corner “boo-hooing.” It’s like:

“What?”

MORALITY: POSSESS YOUR VESSEL

There are too many people in the body of Messiah that are having sex with someone who is not their spouse. Or they are lusting and thinking about it and are looking for the opportunity to do that. Do you hear that? There are disciplinary issues. You see, before you start to discipline other people, you need to first self-discipline.

Then there is doctrinal confusion. One of the major issues is this. All of these are issues that we deal with today. Let’s look at some of them. Paul writes:

1 Thessalonians 4:1 – “Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Yeshua, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.”

“as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk...”

“What do you mean ‘how ye ought to walk?’ How ought I to walk? I’m saved. I don’t need to look to you as to how I should walk. I’m saved! That’s all that matters!”

Is that a salvation issue? Now, these are the people who came to faith through Paul’s ministry. You see, Paul didn’t tell people that you get saved by grace and that’s all you need. **Paul never said that!** Paul never said:

“You know, faith...”

He said:

“Listen. I’m not ashamed of the gospel of Yeshua; for therein is the power of God unto all who believe to the Jew first, and then to the Greek.”

We are the people who are supposed to live by faith. We are those who are just, the justified, those who have been saved, those who have been set apart. Those who call themselves believers are now supposed to live their life by faith – by faith! What is your faith in? Your faith is in the fact that if you stand on the word, the word is not going to let you sink.

“Why do I need to stand on the word?”

Well, guess what? Why do some people have sexual relationships with people that are not their husband or wife? Yes, we’re going to hit this “sex” thing a lot today.

That's because that is an abomination in the body of Messiah. A whole lot of folks are doing it! They are justifying it and they're singing in the choirs. They are leading worships. They are preaching from the podiums or eldering or deaconing or pastoring or bishoping.

Young people are doing it. Old people are doing it. Middle aged people are doing it, and really young people can't wait until they get to do it. It's just crazy in the body of Messiah! It is. People are saying:

"I'm in the youth group."

And you get pregnant. You didn't get pregnant by yourself! I've only known one immaculate conception! Hello?! So there's a way that we are supposed to walk.

1 Thessalonians 4:2 – "For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Yeshua."

1 Thessalonians 4:3 – "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:"

I used to have to explain that fornication is having sex with someone who is not your husband or your wife. I'm not talking about your future wife! I'm not talking about your fiancé!

"This is my fiancé."

"Your fiancé? How many fiancés have you had?"

"Well, we're engaged to be married."

"Are you married yet?"

"Well, no, we're not married."

Then abstain. That's not your wife. Being betrothed does not mean that's your wife. It means that this person

has been set apart to become your wife. The wife part comes through the consummation. That's when the vows occur. There are folks who are just making vows.

“Let's just vow right now. Come on, let's vow. Make a vow. We're just going to be just us two.”

It's like:

“Where are your witnesses? Who can vouch for this?”

By two or three witnesses, every word should be established.

1 Thessalonians 4:3 – “For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:”

1 Thessalonians 4:4 – “That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;”

What vessel? This is a vessel [Arthur holds up a cup], but he's not talking about this cup and he's not talking about those crock pots back there. He's talking about this body. This body is a vessel. **This body is the vehicle.** Listen, ladies and gentlemen. **It carries the Spirit of YeHoVaH that dwells in you.**

Every time you join yourself with something that is not of YeHoVaH, you've just hijacked the body. If you go and take somebody's car, they call that “grand theft.”

When you hijack this body, you just became a thief. You just took that which is holy and associated it with something that is not holy. How do you think the Almighty feels about that?

You are believing on him for a husband, yet you are sleeping with somebody who is not your husband. Every time you violate his commands, you put off his plan. That's what you do. It's no different than Mr. and Mrs. Adam.

There was a plan of the Almighty for preparing that place for them. When they violated his plan, they were no longer able to enjoy that which he had put in place for them to enjoy.

There are too many people who are hijacking their vessel and altering the plan of the Almighty that he has for them. Why? It's because they can't wait. They can't wait for him to bring Mr. or Mrs. Right. They have to "help" in the matter. Then we have these ungodly, so-called saints who say:

"You know, you have to give them a little taste of what they're going to get."

You have foolish people running around here.

"Why would I commit myself? I need to know what I'm marrying! What if I marry them and I don't like the sex?"

Well, how are you going to know? Are you going to try it before you "buy" it? Is that faith? People of faith are doing some crazy, stupid, dumb stuff. Yeah. I'm trying to make it sound as bad as I possibly can, so that you'll feel like an ignoramus if you do it. There are too many people who are doing this, and as a result, it is hindering the walk of the Almighty in their lives. They are racked with guilt. They are racked with shame. They have to get free, so:

"Let me indulge."

1 Thessalonians 4:5 – "Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:"

Paul is dealing with this issue. Now, you're not saying that there are some Gentiles who don't know God. He's saying that the Gentiles don't know God. They're heathens. They're pagans. You can't be a person who knows the Almighty and be a Gentile, because a Gentile is an

unbeliever. They are a heathen. They are a pagan. That's what they are!

When you become a believer, you are no longer a Gentile. You are now engrafted into the commonwealth of Israel. Paul wrote that! This is the same Paul who said that you are saved by grace. That's what he wrote in *Ephesians* 2. Read it for yourself. I'm not making this up.

These individuals had the lust of concupiscence. This is a vile lust. This is one of those things that is immoral, regardless of what it is; but it usually has to do with sexual immorality. He says:

"Don't indulge in that."

1 Thessalonians 4:6 – "That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified."

One of the commentaries that I was reading on this particular verse went into some things. It was like:

"Do you know what? How do you defraud your brother in any manner, looking at the context?"

What is he talking about here? First he is talking about fornication, vessels, lust, his brother and uncleanness. I mean, there are all of these words in this context. Here is what one of the writers said. When you have a sexual relationship, you are now engaging in a relationship with someone that is going to become someone else's husband or wife. It's like:

"What?"

You are saying that as a young person, if I'm having sex with this person and that's not my wife and I don't marry this person and they end up being married; then I've just defiled that person or that person defiled themselves. You

have defiled yourself and defrauded a future brother by giving him damaged goods.

“Man, that’s some heavy stuff!”

I know one of the regrets that I have as a husband is that I wasn’t a virgin when I got married. I’m just telling on myself. I wish I had. I WISH I could go back and undo that, but I can’t. Whenever you have a relationship, you seem to judge every other relationship by that one.

Now, I know I’m not going to get a whole lot of “Amens” in here, because folks don’t want other folks to know. A husband doesn’t want to know that you are judging him by your first boyfriend. A wife doesn’t want to know either. They don’t want each other to know, especially if your first one was a “freak” and the one you have “ain’t no ‘freaky deaky.” Aw, let’s just cut it down the middle!

You’ve got a calm partner now, when the one you had was “all up in that.” They’d try anything. Now you try to bring some of that stuff into your relationship. Don’t be looking down at the floor! You know I’m talking about you! I told you that we’re going for the jugular [vein] today! [Arthur laughs.]

Listen folks. **We need to repent! That’s just the bottom line.** We need to get all of the stuff out of us so that the Father can truly make us over and we can be the best husband. We may not have been the best husband in times past, but we’ve got the ability, with the Father’s help, to be the best husband that any man can be.

We may not have been a good wife, but with the Father’s help, we can be the best wife to the same husband that we’ve got. Do you hear what I’m saying? Halleluyah. This is not a message to condemn you. This is a message to hopefully bring you to repentance.

1 Thessalonians 4:6 – “That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.”

*1 Thessalonians 4:7 – “For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto **holiness**.”*

This word “uncleanness” seems not to resonate in the Christian Church. I’ve not had a minister or a person who confesses to be a believer answer the question.

“What is uncleanness?”

Paul who wrote this says:

“For God has not called us to uncleanness but unto holiness.”

What is “holiness?” Holiness is not about how long your dress is, but for some people, that’s holiness. Holiness is not about how long your tzitzits are. To some people, that’s holiness. Holiness is not about your covering or your head covering or what kind of stockings you wear or whether or not you have a swim suit or a bathing suit.

Holiness is a heart issue. It really is a heart issue. Paul here uses this word. The Greek word is (167) “*ak-ath-ar-see´-ah*”; from (169) impurity (the quality). It deals with physical or moral uncleanness.

We know that physical uncleanness deals with involving ourselves with things that are unclean, but how do we know what is unclean? How do we determine what is uncleanness? How do we determine that from the Bible? The New Testament doesn’t define uncleanness.

Yes, we can get the Greek definition, and yes it is impurity. It is physical or moral uncleanness. What did that tell me? It says physical or moral uncleanness. I still have to figure out what is physical or moral uncleanness. I

looked at the Greek word and that is as far as the Greek word is going to go.

You'll find this same word in *2 Corinthians 6:17* where it says:

“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,”

Unclean, unclean. It's the same word. What is the unclean thing that I'm not supposed to touch? How do I define it? How do I find that out; especially “under grace?” That's because grace seems to indicate (by the definition of many) that I can touch what I want. I can eat what I want because I'm saved and it doesn't matter. All I have to do is pray over it.

I heard one minister. It was like:

“Do you know what? God has forgiven you for every sin you will ever commit.”

Now, let me tell you what he has done. The Almighty has dealt with every sin that the world can commit. That's not an issue. The Messiah was the Lamb that takes away the sins of the world. The sins of the world have already been dealt with, so every sin that you will ever commit has already been dealt with. Messiah is not going to come back and die again because you sinned.

Let's take a step back and look at what the *Hebrews* writer says. He says:

Hebrews 6:4 – “For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,”

Hebrews 6:5 – “And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,”

Hebrews 6:6 – “If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.”

You see, when you commit sin, when you violate the commandments of YeHoVaH, you are now crucifying the Messiah all over again and putting him to an open shame.

“What are you saying?”

It is that he doesn't have the ability to deliver you. He can save you, but he can't deliver you. He can save you, but he can't stop you from lying. He can save you, but he can't stop you from committing adultery. He can save you, but he can't stop you from doing anything.

“Really?”

His salvation brings to us the power to live holy in the Kingdom of YeHoVaH, but it means that we have to confront this vessel. We don't want to put the Almighty to an open shame.

The other thing is this. In the Bible, there is no sacrifice for intentional violation. When you intentionally violate the commands, what are you saying? You are saying that what he did was for naught. Now, the good news is that most people don't do this intentionally, but there are some. So he says here:

*2 Corinthians 6:17 – “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate,’ saith the Lord, ‘and touch not the **unclean** thing; and I will receive you,”*

2 Corinthians 6:18 – “And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters,’ saith the Lord Almighty.”

2 Corinthians 6:19 – “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse

ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of Elohim.”

What's filthiness of the flesh? Filthiness of the flesh are those things that we do in our natural state that we know are not of YeHoVaH, like self-gratification and pornography. These are things that we do to gratify our flesh that we know are not of YeHoVaH; which is why you do it in secret.

People do it in the darkness. They don't want other people to know. You're just a flat-out pervert if you masturbate publicly. People don't do that in public, do they? They go into some room, close the door, hide from everybody else. That's because they know it's wrong.

I know some Messianic Jewish people who are in Messianic Judaism who say that it's all right. Really? Do you know what is even better? It is better if you abstain and don't allow yourself to have these ungodly and unholy thoughts. The way you prevent yourself from having these ungodly and unholy thoughts is that you don't give yourself in to things that bring unholy and ungodly thoughts.

For example is if you are watching movies. One of the reasons why is this. The chances of you watching something that is ungodly and unholy is greater with the ratings. You folks who like R-rated movies know. They show physical, bodily parts in some precarious situations where people are acting. Some of it is soft pornography. There are those of you who like watching and looking at it.

The ads on TV are just getting crazy. Now I'm watching the whole – what are these people called? *Victoria's Secret* [lingerie] commercials have become so commonplace that now you have Target and Kohls [with similar ads].

They are showing women with their bras. They are all in bras. It is not a one-size fits all [model]. They are all flaunting their stuff on TV in front of you and your

children. Now, your little girl may not have much of an issue, but your little boy sitting there watching that, may. It's already opening them up, you see. Then parents; what many people don't realize is that when you let your daughter go out there and be a cheerleader, that's soft pornography (especially some of the moves they are making). [Arthur demonstrates some moves.] What's that? Do you hear what I'm saying? What's all that about?

They are out there "twerking"³ on the football field, in front of everybody. You're just preparing them for the cameras. Now they have to get their "shots." They have to get their pictures taken. They have to get their portfolio together. Some of the little cheerleaders; their goal is to be with the Dallas Cowboys or some other big-time entity where they are now adult cheerleaders, dressing scantily.

There is stuff that we are opening our children up to and even opening ourselves up to. We are sitting and watching that stuff right on our TVs via *Netflix*, *Hulu*, and all of the other entities. Then we give our children cell phones and data plans. Now they have access to it and you don't even know what they're looking at.

I challenge you! Go through some of your children's phones and look at their history. Go through some of their computers and look at the history. That's if they haven't erased it, because some of these children are slick! Yeah, you're slick. I know you're slick. I have some slick ones in my house. You have to be slicker, but you'd be better off not even exposing them to that.

What does a twelve-year old who never goes anywhere need a cell phone for with a data plan? Oh, here's the idea:

"I want to play games."

³ "Twerking" is a modern slang term for supposed "dance" moves which include sexually provocative movements or motions.

Mm hmm. I'm sitting up in the movie theater with a PG movie trying to hang out with my son with the *Box Trolls* and they have some box troll cross-dressing. It was like:

"What?! Let's get up and get out of here."

I wish I wasn't so upset, because I would have got my money back, but here was a box troll; a transvestite box troll! This is a cartoon! I think it was G-rated. I don't know what *Box Trolls* was rated. Now, they didn't show you that in the previews, because if I'd seen that mess, we never would have been in there.

"Dad, you're too old-fashioned."

Well, I'd rather be old-fashioned than to open you up to some stuff that's going to cause you problems later. If you are a young pervert, if you're exposed to perversion at a young age, you'll become an old pervert. Now you're seeking God for deliverance! [Arthur gives an example.]

"You know, I've got problems with pornography."

Yeah you've got problems with pornography. You've had problems with pornography when you were little. You just didn't know it. I told you. We're cutting to the chase. Is that alright? So:

2 Corinthians 7:1 – "...let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh..."

Why do we need to do this? If you are asking the Father to use you, he wants to use you. His desire is to use you mightily. Those who know their Elohim shall be strong and do exploits. They shall! But we have to address the things. What is holding us back? There are things holding us back.

We seem sometimes to be more concerned about what people of this world think about us than we do about what

Heaven thinks about us. We want to be so accepted by the world.

*2 Corinthians 7:1 – “...cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh **and** spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”*

1 Thessalonians 4:9 – “But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.”

1 Thessalonians 4:10 – “And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more;”

1 Thessalonians 4:11 – “And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;”

WE HAVE ISSUES

I want to touch on a little area here in *2 Thessalonians 3:10-15* because Paul is alluding to something in this particular letter that he just flat-out addresses in the second letter. You see, one of the things about the people of Thessalonica is just like many people today. When a person comes into the knowledge of the Almighty, they become aware of their current state. But they also somehow become aware of a future state and the relationship of those who have gone before them.

One of the biggest challenges that I have had; and any of you who talk about the commands, you'll probably get this question (if you haven't already).

“Are you trying to tell me that those people who died and didn't keep the Sabbath are going to

Hell? They went to Hell? Is that what you're trying to tell me?"

"Are you saying that every person who died – because my grandmother, she was a saint! Are you telling me that my grandmother went to Hell because she didn't keep the Sabbath?"

This is where people go. When you start talking about the Law, they now start looking. What a person is doing, is this. They are trying to find a legitimate reason to not do what you're saying. That's what they're looking for. They're going to bring everybody: grandma, grandpa, auntie, uncle, the kitchen sink, the bathroom tub; instead of embracing it. My response is:

"I don't know where your grandma went. It really is none of my business. That's between her and God."

The Bible tells me. It doesn't say whose going to go up and who's going to go down. I'm not that judge. That's for the Judge to judge. Where your grandma and grandpa are; right now I'll tell you. They're in the grave. That's one word used, but they're in the grave.

Somebody wrote a comment on one of my posts on *YouTube*.

"You know, I love your teaching brother, but I just have one issue that I disagree with. A person who dies, they're not in the grave. They're with the Lord, for Paul wrote that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord."

Okay, well, I'll tell you what. You go to the graveyard where that person is. Dig up that coffin and see if there is anybody in there. If there's nothing in the coffin, then chances are that somebody buried an empty coffin.

Somebody dug it up and emptied the coffin, but chances are, they are in that coffin.

“Well, what do you mean?”

You see, Paul is going to tell us that the dead in Messiah are going to resurrect first and those who are alive will join them in the air.

“What do you mean they are going to resurrect first? Aren’t they already gone?”

These are some perplexing issues that Paul had to deal with 2,000 years ago. On this side, people are now taking Paul’s words and are trying to make them fit their theological doctrine. Paul addresses this issue, but before he gets to this issue, let’s look at another issue that he also addresses.

2 Thessalonians 3:10 – “For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.”

“...if any would not work, neither should he eat.”

2 Thessalonians 3:11 – “For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.”

You see, there are people in the body of Messiah that are freeloaders. That’s what they are. They expect you to feel sorry for them, to feel compassion for them, and to support them. I’ve met several of them. In one of the neighborhoods I lived in, there was a fellow who claimed to be a Levite. His job was to pray and to write letters to get God’s people to support him and his family.

“Really? You believe that’s your calling?”

“Yep.”

Now he has a lawn consulting business. Wait a minute. Did God change His mind? If a man doesn't work, neither shall he eat. I didn't write this stuff. Do you all have your Bibles open?

2 Thessalonians 3:10 – “For even when we were with you, this we commanded you,”

Paul commanded them. He says:

“...that if any would not work, neither should he eat.”

2 Thessalonians 3:11 – “For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.”

They're not working. If they're not working, then what are they doing, because they have a lot of time? If they're not working, what are they doing? They don't have to be causing trouble. I mean, that's true, they do. Chances are that they are going to end up causing trouble somewhere. They're "spiritual." They're really super-spiritual. They might even seem like they're on "a mission of the Lord." It says:

2 Thessalonians 3:12 – “Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ [Yeshua Messiah], that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.”

2 Thessalonians 3:13 – “But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.”

2 Thessalonians 3:14 – “And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man,”

Note him. Mark him.

“...and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.”

Now, it seems like Paul doesn't have a lot of compassion for certain people who want to live off of the work and labor of others. It seems like that is what he is saying. How do you deal with them? How do you recognize them? I have met a lot of them. It is so easy. They're like these guys that stand at the corner with the sign:

"Hungry. Will work for food. Help. God Bless You."

Really? That's your job? I knew people. There was a couple who were a part of our ministry back in Grand Rapids. That was their job! That was their job. They'd go into different segments in the city and they would take turns. He would work a shift and she would work a shift. That's how they paid their rent. That's how they got their crack, their alcohol and their cigarettes.

It's something when you walk up to one of them and you see them taking a break and they're smoking a cigarette that somebody else paid for. That's because they're not working. There are people who go from church to church and from community to community. They go from city to city and from state to state, living off of the community. I knew one guy back in Michigan. A church bought him a car. They bought him a new car, a Hyundai. He came to us:

"Look at what the church bought me, pastor."

Really? Most people know. If you want to find some really gullible people, go to church. There are a whole bunch of them in there. They're full of compassion. They want to do good. They're goodie two-shoes. Have you ever heard that term?

If you sit down and talk to them, just keep your compassion. Make sure that your compassion is not

misguided or misdirected. Sit down and let them talk to you for about fifteen minutes. Just let them talk. Don't talk. Don't try to minister to them. Just let them talk and they'll tell you who they are. They'll tell you. If you need to, ask them direct questions. I've done that. I've heard people say:

"Yeah pastor. You know, Such and Such, we need to help him."

"Do we? Do we really need to help him? Why? Let's talk."

YeHoVaH has vowed to meet the peoples' needs. Most people's needs have been met by the Almighty. What did they do with the resources YeHoVaH put in their hands? Now sure, there are poor people, but poor people are not going from city to city and from state to state and from country to country, unless they're hitchhiking.

Paul says that if a man doesn't work, neither should he eat. Now, if I opened up my home to you and you come and stay in my home, I expect you to do something. Chop some wood. Mow the lawn. Paint the house. Pick up the trash. At least make up the bed, you "bum."

"You're being mean."

"I'm not being mean!"

Earn your keep. I had freeloaders. You know. For you parents who have children in your house, you're letting them stay up late at night and sleep all day and you're washing their underwear. Shame on you. What you're doing is raising a bum. Just like they live off of you, they're going to go and find some other innocent victim to live off of and to freeload from. We aren't raising bums. Paul says that if a man doesn't work, neither shall he eat! I'll tell you what. There's something about hunger that motivates you!

WATCH AND BE SOBER

1 Thessalonians 4:12 – “That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.”

1 Thessalonians 4:13 – “But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep,”

Now Paul begins to deal with something. This upcoming year for example, people want you to focus on “blood moons.” They want you to focus on end-time events. They want you to focus on prophecy. Part of this creates fear.

“What are we gonna do? What are we gonna do?”

The next thing you know, you have people who are not hoarders, but they’re “preppers.” There are people who are prepping. They are preparing for the great end times tribulation, the Great Tribulation. There are people who are invoking fear. There are people who are taking this seriously and they have timelines. I’ve got several timelines at home, and based on all of those timelines, they all have Yeshua coming back at a different time. It is like:

“Wow.”

But should we really be concerned about when he is coming back? Yeshua said something to his disciples in *Acts 1* because this was a concern. I’m not trying to minimize it, but you should live your life as if he is coming back today. What makes you think you’ve got time? In *Acts 1*, the question of the day came from his disciples. Verse 6:

Acts 1:6 – “When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, ‘Lord, wilt

thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?’”

Acts 1:7 – “And he said unto them, ‘It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.’”

So I guess it’s for us to know the times! It wasn’t for them, but it’s for us. He said:

“It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.”

In his own power. Now you have this person saying:

“Well, God showed me and here’s the timeline.”

Then there is this person:

“Well, God showed me and here’s the timeline.”

Do any of you know any of these people? [Arthur raises his hand.] Have any of you ever been affected by these “timelines”? Have any of you ever had fear come upon you because you think:

“Okay...”

It’s just like this guy Harold Camping, who predicted [the end] several times. None of it came to pass. There are others out there predicting. You know, folks are going to predict into the future. That’s what they’re going to do. That’s what they do. They were predicting way back here in Paul’s day. They were predicting in Yeshua’s day. This is what Paul says:

1 Thessalonians 4:13 – “But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.”

1 Thessalonians 4:14 – “For if we believe that Yeshua died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Yeshua will God bring with him.”

*1 Thessalonians 4:15 – “For this we say unto you by the **word of the Lord,**”*

Now, we don't find anything. There's no reference here for “word of the Lord,” so I anticipate that this is something that Paul received when he was in the Spirit.

“...that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.”

So they are asleep.

“For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord.”

The doctrine mentioned here of course is not recorded in the Gospels and was most probably a direct revelation to Paul by Yeshua.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 – “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Messiah shall rise first:”

The dead in Messiah shall rise first. He shall descend from Heaven with a shout. It's not going to be some secret Tribulation Rapture. The world is going to know when he comes. Now the questions are these. Are you going to be ready, and when is this coming? The Bible says that he will come like a thief in the night. We don't know! You don't know, I don't know and those that claim that they do know, are guessing.

There have been many who have guessed in times past. Up to this point, they've all been wrong. There were some who are [were] predicting 2016 or 2017. And in the process of two years from now, they're building and trying to get

some momentum. There are folks who have tried to latch themselves on here because they're looking for a foundation. They're looking for a platform. They're looking for someone that they can latch onto and who has some kind of audience so they can perpetuate this doctrine.

And guess what? If I know the time of the end and you don't, you have to depend on me to share with you; not only to share with you, but also to tell you what you are supposed to do until then. Guess what? You're now looking to me. That's who you're looking to.

Live your life as if he's coming back today. If there's something wrong, get it right. Clean your act up! Clean your life up.

1 Thessalonians 4:17 – “Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air:”

And go where? That is not clear right here. Folks say:

“Well, if he came from Heaven and we're going to meet him in the air, then we must be going to go to Heaven and walk around Heaven all day on streets of gold.”

“... and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

1 Thessalonians 4:18 – “Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”

1 Thessalonians 5:1 – “But of the times...”

1 Thessalonians 5:1 – “But of the times...”

1 Thessalonians 5:1 – “But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.”

1 Thessalonians 5:2 – “For yourselves know perfectly”

Really?

“...that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.”

1 Thessalonians 5:3 – “For when they shall say, ‘Peace and safety;’ then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape”

1 Thessalonians 5:4 – “But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.”

1 Thessalonians 5:5 – “You are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.”

1 Thessalonians 5:6 – “Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.”

Why do I need to watch and be sober if I know when he’s coming? Just watch and be sober on that day! Well, what are you going to do in the meantime?

“Whatever I want.”

If I don’t think he’s coming until 2016 or 2017 [or later], I’ve got a whole lot of time to get all of my little devilment in and start cleaning up my act somewhere along a month or two before he returns. I’ll give myself a week or a few days. That’s because you know, we like waiting until the last minute. Let us watch and be sober.

1 Thessalonians 5:7 – “For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.”

*1 Thessalonians 5:8 – “But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the **breastplate of***

faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.”

Now, Paul here seems to use some different language than what he uses in *Ephesians*. In *Ephesians*, he’s talking about the breastplate of what? The breastplate of righteousness. Here he’s talking about the breastplate of faith and the breastplate of love.

If a person is simply guided to the full armor of God there in *Ephesians*, then what is he talking about here? Is this something that Paul comes up with on his own? The answer to that question is no, it’s not something that Paul came up with on his own. It is something that he got straight from *Isaiah 59*. This is what it says:

Isaiah 59:17 – “For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak.”

What he is using here is imagery. We don’t put on a breastplate. And wait a minute. How can I put on the breastplate of righteousness if there is none righteous; no, not one? What he is saying here is this. The Almighty has already equipped us with his word so that we can now be able to walk in righteousness and we can maintain our salvation as if there’s a helmet of some sort.

Now we are walking and clothing ourselves – basically in him. That’s the bottom line. We are depending upon him to be our righteousness, to assure us of our salvation.

The way we do that is that we live according to his word. But it’s not just the New Testament word. It’s his word, period.

ASK AND YOU SHALL RECEIVE

Let's look further. *Ephesians 6:10-20*. We're talking about *Perfecting Our Faith: Maturing In Messiah*.

Ephesians 6:10 – “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.”

Ephesians 6:11 – “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against...”

What?

“...the wiles of the devil.”

What are the “wiles” of the devil? Name some of them. That's because you see, I memorized this Scripture. I never asked. They said:

“Memorize Ephesians chapter 6...”

But I don't ever remember asking:

“What are these wiles? What are these schemes? How do I identify these schemes in my life?”

How does he trick you? How has he tricked you in the past? Temptation, fear, guilt, greed, accusations, accusing, offenses, embarrassments, shame, rejection, loss. I mean, I've seen situations where people are mad. They are angry because somebody said:

“I'll never leave you.”

Yet they died. They can't get over the fact that the person died.

“They promised they would never leave me.”

“What?”

“Yeah. They promised they would never leave me.”

“So you thought that they would live forever?”

I mean, really.

“They will never leave.”

There are people right now. They are hurt. They are angry at God. They accuse God of taking their mom or their dad or their wife or son or daughter. We need to be able to identify what is it that the enemy uses to cause us to accuse the Almighty. I hear people say:

“You know, my parents didn’t protect me. God wasn’t there when I needed him.”

“God wasn’t there when I needed him!”

“He wasn’t there when I needed him.”

Do you hear what I’m saying?

“He...wasn’t there...when...I...needed him.”

You see, the whole goal of the enemy is to cause you not to trust God. Do you want to know another goal of the enemy? It is to make you think that you do, when you know that you don’t.

“Oh I trust God. I trust God to meet my needs.”

“Really? Then how come you’re boo-hooing because you lost your job? Why? If he’s going to meet your needs, maybe that wasn’t his plan for you. That job was not his plan. Is that possible?”

“Did he tell you to buy that house? Did he tell you to move to that state?”

Let’s look at our motivations because oftentimes we’re blaming God for stuff that he doesn’t have anything to do

with. Many people don't pray and ask him and seek and wait on him. They put out fleeces.

"Well, that door opened, so it must be God."

"Just when I was waiting and needing him and then this happened, so I know that it must have been him."

"What if he's using this to do that?"

"Well, what if? What if? What if?"

When you have a relationship with him and you know that you have developed an ear to hear his voice, you don't have to rely on "what if." Now what you are looking for is confirmation to what he said.

That's why it's important to be in the company of people who are spiritual and who know how to hear from him. These are people who are not ministering out of their flesh but out of their Spirit. That's why prophets and apostles and evangelists and pastors and teachers and the gifts of the Spirit are so important. So we...

Ephesians 6:11 – "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

These include: guilt, shame and abuses. If you've ever been abused, imagine. Many people who have been abused, feel to some degree that it's their fault. Once they get over the fact that it is not their fault, then they accuse someone for not protecting them. Now they've got resentment and anger towards someone.

If they get married to someone and they've got these expectations that are unreal and the man or the woman they are married to doesn't live up to those expectations; now they're disappointed. We go through life looking for other people to meet our needs when YeHoVaH says that he's the one who does that.

We're putting our need meter, bowl, jar or vessel into the hands of someone else and we get disappointed when they don't meet [our needs]. YeHoVaH never intended for you to look to someone else to meet your needs.

This is the danger. I remember. People would say:

"I'm just like my daddy."

There are some people who are proud to be just like their daddy. Some people are proud.

"You know, that runs in my family."

"Oh yeah? Really?"

Is that a good thing? I mean, it's a good thing. Is that a good thing?

"Well no, it's not a good thing, but that's just the way we are."

Really? Seriously? Is that approved by Heaven? That's because it sounds like there's a conflict with the way you're earthly father and family are, compared to what Father is saying that you as a Spirit-being are supposed to be. So now we've got a problem.

We've got our heavenly, spiritual family and we've got our natural, carnal family that we seem to be more connected to, than we are the family that the Almighty [gives]. You see, the Almighty has now placed us into a family. It may be different than the family we were born into. Now there needs to be some disassociation. Yeshua showed this very clearly:

"Who is my mother?"

He knew who his Father was, so he didn't have to question who his Father was. If you notice, he didn't say:

"Who is my father and who is my mother and my brother?"

He knew who his Father was. He said to his mother when he was a little child:

“Why are you all looking for me? Didn’t you know I would be about my Father’s business?”

He knew from childhood what he was sent here to do. Father revealed to most of us when we were a child, what we’re supposed to be doing, but the enemy comes in and brings all kinds of stuff at us. He brings abuse and ungodly relationships. He brings “pretty boys” and “pretty girls.” He brings jobs and careers and opportunities and multi-level marketing. He just brings all kinds of things at us. The next thing you know, we’ve bought into it. Now he’s trying to disconnect us from it, but we’re so connected to the things of this world, that it is hard to disengage.

The world is in trouble. One of the biggest issues that the world is dealing with right now is sexual perversion. I think that is the biggest issue that the world is dealing with right now. That’s why there are all of these gays and lesbians coming out of the closets. That’s why they’re all making their announcements.

It seems as if these announcements are timed at certain intervals. This person came out of the closet six months ago and now the talk has died down. Here comes another one. Now people are talking about that. When the talk dies down, here comes another one and the people are talking about that. The next thing you know, it’s all over *Facebook*. It’s all over social media. Folks are “liking” and “sharing.”

I decided I’m not going to put that junk on my page. My page is going to be used as a page to bring forth the good news, not just to show everybody what the world is doing, like the world doesn’t know what it’s doing. Do you understand what I’m saying?

All of this stuff is designed to desensitize the people of YeHoVaH to become more sensitive, more caring and more civil-rights active. Father doesn't care about your civil rights. He really doesn't. I don't think he does. I think he cares about your righteousness, not your rights; but your righteousness. Your civil rights are not going to make you in good standing with him. **It's the righteousness of Messiah that you embrace.**

You can be a voice for civil rights or you can be a voice for righteousness. When you are a voice for righteousness, even those who claim their civil rights:

“Yeah, you've got a right to be a lesbian. Yeah, you've got a right to be gay. But is that the right that the Almighty is going to honor? I doubt it. I don't think so!”

So I'm in the world, but I'm not of the world. Are you? Folks in my community are talking about how:

“People should be able to live however they want to.”

Yes, they should. Everybody has a right. I don't think that anybody should go against people because of them exercising their rights. But when you start trying to throw your rights in my face and shove it down my throat and make me accept your ungodliness and your perversion, then you are now infringing upon *my* rights, and I'm going to call it out.

We live in a society where the government, the federal, state, local governments and all of the institutions that receive funds and recognition from that government are going to begin to put pressure on all of us to accept this immoral behavior.

This is part of the desensitizing of the world so that “unless the days are shortened, even the righteous, the elect.” Father has to shortened the days, just to save some

people. That's because the longer we are here, it is getting more and more difficult to address this ungodly perversion. Anybody who steps out against it, the next thing you know, they have protesters.

They have articles in the paper and CNN camping out at their door; trying to make them recant or throw fire on the whole situation. Now they want to shame you into the closet. The gays are coming out of the closet and the believers are going in.

Ephesians 6:11 – “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

Ephesians 6:12 – “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood...”

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood.”

My final remarks on that particular issue as we're dealing with this whole subject of *Perfecting Our Faith: Maturing In Messiah* is that it is so easy to see people as our problem. People are not our problem.

There have been people who have hurt me, but there are people whom I've hurt. You may be a victim, but you're also a perpetrator. It is easy to play the victim.

Think about the damage you've done. Think about the hurt you've caused. Think about the things you've done to other people. Don't just focus on those who have wronged you. Now you can be able to show compassion; especially when you first acknowledge:

“I'm guilty. The very thing that I'm accusing other people of, I'm guilty of myself.”

That which I am saying that other people are doing, I myself have done. Therefore I have to first acknowledge my guilt. When I acknowledge my guilt and seek the forgiveness of the Almighty and receive that forgiveness,

how dare I go and hold others in unforgiveness. Messiah says:

“What are you doing? Now, you do know that if you don’t forgive them, then the forgiveness that you just received is void. You cannot receive forgiveness and then not forgive. So when you stand brother, forgive those who have wronged you. For as you forgive, your Father in Heaven will forgive you. When you’re forgiven, then you should feel some compassion because you recognize that you were in a state of damnation yourself and the Almighty did not hold your sin against you. What right do you have to hold someone else’s sins against them?”

When you come to that place, you can release people. You realize that you are not struggling with people. Your struggle is not against flesh and blood. We’re dealing with the wiles of the enemy and those who have not submitted to the will and word of YeHoVaH. If you’re not submitted to the will, the word and the Spirit of YeHoVaH, then you are a prime candidate for the wiles of the devil to be manipulated and to manifest in your life.

Don’t be a candidate. *Don’t be a candidate.* Don’t let the enemy work through you. One of the ways he works through you is to cause you not to forgive others; to hold other people in bondage or captivity or to be the victim.

You’re not a victim. You’re a conqueror. You’re not a victim! You’re a conqueror! But you will never embrace being a conqueror as long as you are playing a victim role. So you have to let all of that stuff go. You’re not mad at the devil. You’re mad at people. You’re angry at people. It’s not the devil who needs your forgiveness. It’s the people he used and manipulated to do the things in your life that you gave place to.

Of course if you were abused as a child, then of course you can't be responsible for that. If somebody forced you to do something and you fought against that, then of course you cannot take responsibility for that. But if you played any role, acknowledge your role. Once you do that and receive the forgiveness and the compassion of the Almighty, guess what? That forgiveness and compassion of the Almighty that is flowing through you should flow out of you to others.

Our struggle is not against flesh and blood. Let your mom go. Let your grandparents go. Let your ex-husband go. Let your ex-wife go. Let your neighbor go. Let your college professor go. Let your high school coach go. You just have to let people go. Find people you've held hostage in your heart. I'm not talking about physically finding them. I'm talking about allowing the Almighty to search you.

These are the things that are in us and that hinder us and cause us to hold onto this self-protection mode. The reason why some people don't step out and allow the Almighty to use them is because they don't want to be embarrassed.

"Why are you afraid of being embarrassed?"

"Because I don't like being embarrassed."

You have an issue with being embarrassed. Really? Let's talk about that. How have you been embarrassed before in your life? Name some moments when you were embarrassed. Have you overcome those embarrassments?

Have you gotten over those moments of embarrassment, or are those moments of embarrassment dictating to you today? Are they preventing you and causing you to protect yourself from being embarrassed, even if it means rejecting and resisting the leading of the Spirit? Do you see how that works?

PART 4

INTRODUCTION

This is part four. I am very encouraged by the message I have been given for this section. We're going to be concluding *Messianic 301 – Perfecting Your Faith: Maturing In Messiah*.

I believe that Father wants to take us to a place of perfection. That's not perfectionism or becoming a perfectionist, but a place of perfection or spiritually and biblically, a place of maturity.

In *Hebrews 6* we started this teaching off with:

Hebrews 6:1 – “Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Messiah, let us go on unto perfection/maturity; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God.”

Hebrews 6:2 – “Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.”

Hebrews 6:3 – “And this will we do, if God permit.”

Hebrews 6:4 – “For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,”

Hebrews 6:5 – “And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,”

Hebrews 6:6 – “If they should fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.”

Hebrews 6:7 – “For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God:”

Hebrews 6:8 – “But that which beareth thorns and briars is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned.”

*Hebrews 6:9 – “**But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.**”*

We identified that there are some things that accompany salvation. Our first Messianic teaching, *Messianic 101* dealt with the basics, the essentials. In *Messianic 201* we dealt with adding to our faith the things that we need to add to our faith. The Bible says that if we do these things, we will never fall. We will never stumble.

BE LIKE MESSIAH

What Peter says seem to contradict the things that we’ve been taught in the churches; that we can live a life if we do our work, if we do what is required of us. You are going to see here. We are going to be looking at some Scriptures where the Bible is actually encouraging us to be like Messiah.

You and I are supposed to be Messiah-like. That’s the place we’re going. The more we become like him, guess what? The less of us we become. That means, as John says:

“We decrease that he may increase in our lives.”

That means that we have to let go of some stuff that is holding us to this world. Yeshua, although he was brought up in a family; you need to understand this. Yeshua did not exercise any authority other than the authority that the

Father gave him. **It is the same authority that he has given all of us.**

We have not been sent to die for the sins of the world. That's the only difference. Messiah was the Lamb of God who died for the sins of the world. We are lambs of God. When he sent his disciples out, he said:

*"I'm sending you out as lambs among wolves,
as sheep among wolves."*

He said to his disciples:

"Feed my lambs. Feed my sheep."

We are the sheep of his pasture. We are lambs of God. The only difference between you, me and Messiah is that he took away the sins of the world through his death. The works that he did, we are supposed to be doing!

Therefore just as he walked; being tempted by the very things you and I are tempted by, yet he did not give in to those temptations.

It would be a travesty, a serious travesty for us to think in our minds that we cannot be like Messiah! The moment that you have that idea in your mind – this is exactly what the church taught me:

"You're not Jesus!"

*"No, I'm not, but I'm supposed to be like him!
He said that the things that he did, I shall do.
Did he not? So, who are you to tell me that I
can't do the things that he said I can do?"*

This is where man has inserted himself between us and the Almighty. Now [we value] man's opinion of us, our religious leader's opinion of us or that of our bishops, our apostles, our prophets, our evangelists, or our teachers. It seems like we have to get their permission to do what he said! Something is wrong with that! That, ladies and

gentlemen, is the very “doctrines of demons” that Paul talks about. That is people who are departing from the faith giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons. That’s because men would much rather please other men than to please the Almighty.

We should be honest with ourselves! We spend our lives trying to please other people. We try to get promoted. We try to get a raise.

“Well, I’m not going to have to break the Sabbath too long. I might just have to break the Sabbath for a year. I just have to put up with this for a little while until I get some seniority.”

And God “gave” you that job? Now, I know that this is not pleasant! I know it’s not, but let me tell you that we rationalize within our minds. We come to the conclusion that surely God understands; and guess what? He does. He sincerely does, but every time we compromise his word, we lose ground. *We lose ground.* We may not lose our relationship, but we certainly lose ground. Now we begin to slide backwards. They used to call it “backsliding.” I say:

“Slide forward.”

When you walk with the Almighty, the world is going to turn on you. You might as well accept it. The world will turn on you; even the religious world. Pilate and Herod were not responsible for Messiah’s death. It was the religious leaders. It wasn’t the Romans. The Romans didn’t put him to death. It was the religious leaders who wanted him dead. It’s the religious leaders and the religious spirits that we’re dealing with today.

The world around us doesn’t care whether we keep the Sabbath or not. They don’t care whether we go to church or not. The only people that you are having a hard time with are those people who go to church on Sunday and who try to tell you that you are “going under the Law.”

The world doesn't care what day you go to church! It could care less; or whether you go to church at all. Think about it. The people you are having the most difficult time with are the folks who are rejecting you the most, the people who are accusing you of trying to earn your way to Heaven. It's not the world. It's the same religious spirits that are operating in this generation.

One of these days I'm going to preach a message on how to live biblically in a modern world. That's because that is basically what we have to do. We have to try to live out this 2,000-year old book in 2014, 2015, 2016 and however long it is until Yeshua returns. We have to live out this book, this old book.

The New Testament may have been new when it was written. Now it's the *old* Testament. Halleluyah somebody. Folks are trying to live a New Testament, 2,000-year old book. It's old! [Arthur laughs.]

So there are things that accompany our salvation.

"But wait a minute. Are you saying that we're supposed to add to our salvation? Doesn't the Bible say that we're not supposed to add to or take away?"

No. It says that you should not add to the Law or take away from the Law. The Bible encourages us, or as a matter of fact, commands us to add to our salvation. Halleluyah! People want to apply Old Testament principles to New Testament words, but they reject the Old Testament from where the principles come.

"I'll take the principles, but leave the word."

You can't have the principles without the word. You can't have the blessings without the Law! You can't! You can't take *Deuteronomy 28:2-13* and leave the rest of *Deuteronomy!* You can't! You'd have to ignore *Deuteronomy 28:1!*

“If you diligently hearken to keep all of these commands that I’m giving you today, then all of these...”

People say:

“But I’m the head and not the tail.”

No you’re not!

“I’m above only and not beneath.”

That’s Old Testament! **That’s if you keep the Law!** How are you going to be the head and not the tail if you do not keep the Law? You’d be the “butt end” of the joke. You’re over in *Deuteronomy 28:15*. [Arthur laughs.] I tell you that there is so much deception going on in this religious world that we live in. Folks want to take the part of God that they like and leave the rest of it.

No! You can’t divide him up like that! You can’t slice and dice and take what you want and leave what you don’t want! It’s all or nothing.

Hebrews 6:10 – “For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shown toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.”

Hebrews 6:11 – “And we desire that every one of you do show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto...”

When?

“...unto the end:”

Hebrews 6:12 – “That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”

WE MUST ENDURE

We have a whole list of them in chapter 11. The things that they had to endure – you are going to have to endure some things.

In the last section we touched on some of this. We began to look at the things that were lacking. We know that there were some things that were lacking in the faith of the believers. We have to look at ourselves and ask what is lacking in us. Now, I'm going to ask you a question, and probably every hand is going to go up in this building.

How many of you have “arrived?” So there's work to do, right? There's work that needs to be done. What is the work that needs to be done in you? I can look at myself. I can't look at you. Well, I can look at you and tell you what I think you need to do. [Arthur laughs.] As a matter of fact, I've got a list of things! But my list of you is not what's important. It's your list.

If you're trying to satisfy my list, I'm not the one you should be trying to satisfy. The one that you should be trying to satisfy will give you a list. Now you have to work through that list; not your husband's list, not your wife's list, not your childrens' list, not your parents' list. It's the list that he gives you, because he'll say to you:

“This is where you're lacking.”

It is just as he wrote to the seven congregations in Asia. He says:

“Listen. Here's where you're lacking. I like this, but I don't care for this. What are you going to do about this?”

Stop making excuses for those areas in your life that you know are not right. Stop making excuses! Every time you make an excuse, you give place to the enemy to hold

you back. You will never move into the fullness of what the Almighty has for you as long as something is holding onto you in this world. There is a lot of stuff to hold onto.

So what's lacking in your faith? I can assess what's lacking in my faith. Trying to deal with the stuff that's lacking in me is a full-time job! It really is. Some of the things that were lacking concerning the Thessalonians (are the same things that are lacking in us today). There were disciplinary issues.

Are you lacking discipline in your diet? Are you lacking discipline in your appetite? Are you lacking discipline in your thoughts? Are you lacking discipline in your actions? Where are you lacking discipline? If you just take time and think about the things that you are thinking about, you can assess your thoughts. Assess your behavior. Assess your responses to things that come at you that you don't like.

A major doctrinal confusion was/is when the Messiah will return. Then morality is a problem. How do you feel about "alternative" lifestyles? How do you feel about people who choose to live their life contrary to the word? How do you feel about things that you are against and dealing with these individuals? How do you deal with people on your job?

You see, I'm not going to my job trying to conform my workspace. I know that I'm going into the enemy's camp; even if they are a Christian organization. That is because a Christian organization is not run by the Bible. They are run by principles that, most of the time are dictated by the government or the Internal Revenue Service or by Congress.

There are laws (state laws, federal laws) that one has to comply with if they're going to have an organization, period. Then there is the productivity. But the biggest issue is the morality of the leaders and the individuals that they

hire and put into places of authority and [who are] put in charge.

If your boss who works for a Christian organization is not applying or complying with the world – there are a whole lot of folks who call themselves “Christians.” They call themselves “Messianics.” They call themselves “lovers of God,” but you’ll know a tree by its fruit.

That’s how you’ll know the tree. The question is: what is it producing? Don’t be deceived by titles and terms. Be a fruit inspector. They have fragrances out there that will convince you that you’re smelling a tangerine when you’re smelling a lemon. Seriously!

They’ve got pharmacists and chemists who are in laboratories and who have mastered the techniques of taste. The only thing they haven’t been able to figure out is how to make a tangerine, but they can make things taste like tangerines. If they blindfolded you, you would think that you were eating something that is tangerine.

1 Thessalonians 5. We stopped at chapter five, verse seven.

1 Thessalonians 5:7 – “For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.”

*1 Thessalonians 5:8 – “But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the **breastplate of faith and love;**”*

In his writings to the Thessalonians, Paul here introduced this idea of a “breastplate of love.” He also talks about “breastplate of faith.” When he writes to the Ephesians, he talks about the “breastplate of righteousness.” Now, individuals who have disconnected or disassociated from or detached themselves from the Torah and the prophets (which Yeshua did not come to do away

with), would think that what Paul is coming up with is something new.

But in fact, Paul is literally sharing with us from the prophets. He says:

*“...putting on the **breastplate of faith and love;**
and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.”*

He goes into detail in *Ephesians*, but here he is coming from *Isaiah 59:17*.

*Isaiah 59:17 – “For he put on **righteousness as a breastplate**, and an **helmet of salvation** upon his head; and he put on the **garments of vengeance** for clothing, and was clad with **zeal as a cloak.**”*

When Paul is talking about the full armor of God, (which we are going to look at in *Ephesians*), Paul is getting this straight from the prophets. He’s taking what the prophets said thousands of years earlier, hundreds of years earlier and he’s bringing it to this generation that he is writing to. He’s helping them to interpret.

Understand that when Paul wrote this letter, they didn’t have the Book of *1 Thessalonians*. They didn’t have the Gospel narratives. They had the Tanakh. They had the Torah. They had the prophets.

When he uses this terminology, they are being reminded of the very Scriptures that they have access to. It wasn’t until the second or third century that people began to come up with this New Testament idea from the Old Testament. Then they come up with a very flattering term.

“The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed. The New Testament is the Old Testament revealed.”

Really? I mean, seriously?

Ephesians 6:10 – “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.”

Ephesians 6:11 – “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

Now, where did Paul get this “whole armour of God” idea that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil? The wiles are schemes. The world and the devil have a plan for you. Actually, it is the devil that has a plan for you and he uses the world that you live in.

Anyone who is not submitted to the Spirit of God is submitted to the spirit of the devil, period.

If you’re not yielded to the Spirit of God, you’re yielded to the spirit of Satan. There is no in between. So Paul is talking about this whole armour.

Ephesians 6:12 – “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

What does all of this mean? The word “principalities” (746) is “*ar-khay*’.” It is from the (756) (properly abstract) a commencement, or (concrete) meaning: chief. There’s a chief. The meaning continues: (in various applications of order, time, place or rank): - beginning, corner, (at the, the) first (estate), magistrate, power, principality, principle, rule.

What we see here is that our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but there are some chiefs that are out there.

Chief what?

The word “powers” (1849) here is “*ex-oo-see*’-ah;” from (1832). It is the same word from which we get

“authority”; that Yeshua said that he received and that he has given us.

We’ve been given authority and we’ve been given power. Authority is the right to operate in his name. The “*dunamis*” is the supernatural power that enables us to carry out what he, by his word and name has commissioned us to do.

So this word is really: (in the sense of ability); a privilege, i.e. (subject) force, capacity, competency, freedom, or (object) mastery (concrete magistrate).

Again, if you look at this, you have to interpret it from the context. We wrestle against powers. That’s superhuman, potentate, token of control, delegated influence: — authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength.

Anyone who has not been born again is the property of the devil. We were born children of the devil. I know that’s hard for us to accept, but [that is] every last one of us, even those of us who were born in our religious homes.

There’s a point when you have to make your stand for the Almighty and you’re no longer under your parents’ influence. As long as you’re under your parents’ influence, your parents can cover you spiritually. But the moment that you are no longer under their influence, you have to cover your own hiney.

As a matter of fact, those of us – let me just prove this to you. Those of us who have ever lied, stolen, sneaked and had sex before we got married, or who have ever done anything that is against the Bible have to admit that there is something in us that is driving us to do something that is not holy.

What is it? It’s the influence we were born under. You and I were born dead, even though we walk and breathe and ran and played. Our thoughts were our own thoughts

influenced by the powers at work that we can't see, while blaming those that we could see.

This is “superhuman.” “Rulers” (2888) “*kos-mok-rat'-ore*,” from (2889) and (2902) a world-ruler, an epithet of Satan: — ruler.

“Darkness” (4655) — “*skot'-os*”; from the base of (4639); shadiness, i.e. obscurity (literal or figurative): — darkness.

And this one: rulers of this “world.” When I first saw this, I began to wonder about the anti-Semitic nature of those who have interpreted and those who have written tools for interpretation because you can see that this word “world” (165) is “*ahee-ohn'*”; (from the same as (104)); properly an age.

Have any of you ever heard of the “Church Age,” the “New Age” or this whole idea of the “Messianic Age?” You now have denominations that get into dispensational theology. They break things down into covenantal periods or dispensational periods. Many of us who have been brought up in those environments; even though we have come into the Torah, still have the foundations of these “ages” grounded in us from theological sermons.

This word here “world” has the definition of: by extension perpetuity (also past); by implication the world; specially (Jewish). So that means rulers of the Jewish world. Rulers of the world, a Messianic period (present or future): — age, course, eternal, (for) ever (-more), [n-]ever, (beginning of the, while the) world (began, without end).

There are those who believe that this is the “Messianic Age.” The term “messianic” is very popular among Hebrew Roots people. When we were in the church world, I remember hearing sermons about the first Messianic prophecy. It is found in *Genesis 3* where it talks about the woman's seed and the serpent's seed. It's the first Messianic prophecy.

“Messianic” as a Christian does not mean or have the same understanding as being a Messianic. Do you know what I’m saying? Being Messianic is a whole different twist. We believed in the Messianic prophecies, but we didn’t believe that we had to keep the commandments or at least the Ten Commandments [as a Christian]. We probably did [believe we must keep] nine of them.

“Spiritual” (4152) — “*panyoo-mat-ik-os*”; from (4151) non-carnal, i.e. (humanly) ethereal (as opposed to gross), or (daemoniacally) a spirit (concretely), or (divinely) supernatural, regenerate, religious: — spiritual.

Now we’re talking about principalities, powers, rulers of darkness and spiritual or religious wickedness. Another word for this word “spiritual” is “religious,” but here it talks about this word “wicked.”

“Wicked” (4189) — “*pon-ay-ree'-ah*”; from (4190) depravity, i.e. (special) malice; plural (concrete) plots, sins: — iniquity, wickedness.

“High” (2032) — “*ep-oo-ran'-ee-os*”; from (1909) (ejpi>) and (3772) above the sky: — celestial, (in) heaven (-ly), high.

THE NATURAL MAN IS WICKED

Part of the idea of being in the Calvinistic mind is of being totally depraved. There is the idea from a Calvinistic perspective that human beings are totally depraved. That’s a real issue. That’s reality. We are born depraved. Left to ourselves, we will fulfill every lust and every desire in our heart.

Ever since the Obama administration; when the President came out and said that he was for same-sex marriage, it literally released a spirit of wickedness in this nation unlike any other time in history. Prior to that was the

whole idea of “don’t ask, don’t tell.” This is spiritual wickedness on the highest level, ladies and gentlemen.

You have laws that say “don’t ask, don’t tell” and you can do your wickedness. No one has the right to ask you, and you don’t tell them. That’s a law! So the administration comes along and says:

“We’re going to overturn that law.”

What’s wrong with that law? It’s fine, according to Clinton. What are they trying to hide? You can live as wickedly as you want or as depraved as you want. Don’t flaunt it. Don’t flaunt it. Keep it on the down-low. And we’re going to pass a law that even though somebody suspects you of being a wicked pervert, they *cannot* ask you! That’s because it’s a violation of your civil rights. So they can’t ask you, and don’t you tell them.

That’s because the moment you tell them, they have not violated your civil rights. You have now exposed yourself. Now they have the right to deal with it. So first, let’s overturn that and say that “now all of you perverts are free to live as pervertedly as you want and we are going to provide benefits just like we would provide for those heterosexual ‘perverts.’”

Do you hear what I’m saying? Well, guess what? Now the LGBT community began to spring up; even in elementary schools! There are young people who are simply “experimenting.” It’s now even popular to be bisexual. You can go “both” ways. As a matter of fact, it’s a fad! Young people, our generation, the young generation right now has “princess boys.” There are moms dressing their girls as boys and their boys as girls and it’s “all right.”

“We’re just going to let them find their own way.”

There are men marrying men and women marrying women and they are pushing this legislation through every State House. This is spiritual wickedness being performed by rulers, world rulers in a natural sense. It's happening right under our nose. The whole idea of this world ruler system is this. If you're going to work in it, if you're going to buy and sell and derive your sustenance from it, you have to accept it. Legislation is being passed to the point where if you now say anything against it, you can be sued.

"What do you mean?"

That's the whole idea of the 501c3, people. The government is bringing the congregations, the churches, the leaders, the religious leaders and the pastors all under their control so they can tell them what they can and cannot say!

"If you say something against it, we'll come in and take your benefits away. You keep your mouth on the job closed or we'll fire your behind! We don't care if you don't like it. That's the culture. And if you want to eat..."

Do you hear what I'm saying? Do you want to buy? They control much of the economic systems. Just recently here, one of the most powerful executives on the planet decided all of a sudden that:

"Hey. Everybody knows that I've been gay."

Who cares? All of a sudden people feel like they have to make this big announcement. Are you going to give up your Mac? Are you going to give up your iphone or your ipad? Do you see? Look at you.

"Huh????!!!"

[Arthur laughs.] Oh yeah! Ladies and gentlemen, this is exactly what Paul was talking about – these very things. Then he says:

Ephesians 6:13 – “Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

Why? It’s because you’re going to need it. You’re going to need it that you may be able to withstand in the evil day. The evil day is upon us, right now. There are parents out there right now whose greatest fear is that their son or daughter is going to come home and say:

“I’m gay.”

It is like:

“What do I do now?”

What do you do when your son comes home and tells you that they are gay or your daughter comes home and says that she likes women? What are you going to do? That’s a fear that parents didn’t have to live with before. Now it’s a prevalent fear that is touching almost every household on the planet. That’s how depraved people and the world are.

It is so that you are going to be able to withstand evil and having done all to withstand. Paul is talking about this armour of God. It is found right here in *Isaiah 59*.

Isaiah 59:17 – “He [YeHoVaH] put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak.”

Why? Because he is going to deal with the nations. How are we going to deal with the nations?

Ephesians 6:13 – “Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

Ephesians 6:14 – “Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;”

Ephesians 6:15 – “And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;”

Ephesians 6:16 – “Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.”

Paul is taking this from *Isaiah 52*.

Isaiah 52:7 – “How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’”

WE ARE TO BE RIGHTEOUS

You see, our job in this present world that we live in is to uphold righteousness.

“But oh, there’s none righteous!”

In Messiah you ARE righteous. You are! So how does religion come along and say:

“There’s none righteous, no, not one”?

I’ll tell you how they do it. They got it from the Old Testament.

“There’s none righteous, no, not one.”

That’s an Old Testament principle. Messiah comes along and in him we become the righteousness of YeHoVaH. Who makes you righteous? He does! So how are you to live? Righteously!

Ephesians 6:17 – “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:”

This is what Paul is saying:

“Look ladies and gentlemen. Put on the breastplate of righteousness!”

“How can I put on the breastplate of righteousness? How am I going to do that?”

What he’s saying is to put on Messiah. That’s what he’s saying. Put on Messiah. That’s who you are! Your life is hidden in him. Your identity is hidden in him. You’ve been given the mind of God. You’ve been given the Spirit of God to know the thoughts of him and to do the works that he does.

Ephesians 6:18 – “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.”

So what’s the problem? The problem is what we believe. It’s easier to be an unbelieving believer because you don’t have to do anything but believe.

“Just believe.”

Well, just believe you’ve got a job and believe that you go to work. Believe you’ve got a paycheck. Go to that believing supermarket with your believing paycheck from that believing job that you’ve got and eat some of that believing food. See how long you believe that.

Isaiah 52:7 – “How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’”

Ephesians 6:17 – “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:”

Ephesians 6:18 – “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.”

How often should you be praying? How often do you pray? *How often do you pray?* You see, here is what Paul is saying. Again you’ve heard me say this, and again I give the credit. I first heard what I’m about to say from a man that I used to listen to twice every day. Every day I listened to him for probably two years. It was Chuck Swindoll. That’s when I was just new. I was coming out of the world and all I knew was the world.

On my job I had my little radio station. Everybody else was playing their rock and roll and their rap and whatever else they were playing. I was playing my Christian radio. On my break I was reading my word and listening to Christian music and to Christian teaching all day long.

I was trying to flood all of this junk out of myself. I was full of junk! I admit it. I was *full* of junk! My thoughts were junky. From the rising up until the going down of the same, I thought of evil. I pursued evil. I ran. My feet were quick.

There was Wednesday night bar-hopping, Thursday night bar-hopping, Friday night bar-hopping and Saturday night bar-hopping. I remember so many times coming home at three o’clock in the morning and I had to get up at five to go to work. I know that some of you know what I’m talking about. That’s how full of the world I was.

I had so much in myself that had to get out. It is still being flushed. Even today as I’m sitting in a tax collector’s office this week, trying not to lie, I’m working hard at not lying. It is like:

“How can I craft this truth in a way that is to my benefit, without having to lie?”

Now I have to ask God to forgive me. I don't want to have to ask him to forgive me for lying. You know what I'm talking about. You have to put the words just right. And I'm aware of this. It's like:

“Arthur, don't lie. Don't. No. That may sound right, but don't do it.”

And it worked out to my favor anyway! Halleluyah! It's a shame. You have to work at not lying. I'm a preacher and I have to work hard at not lying! That should come easily, but it didn't. I'm here to tell you. Some of you just go ahead on and it's:

“Father forgive me. I have lied.”

No.

“...praying always”

This is what helps me. You see, when I'm constantly practicing the presence and when I'm tempted to do something that I know I'm not supposed to do, there's a struggle going on within me. There should always be a struggle going on whenever you are tempted to do something, unless you are not even aware that you are being tempted. There are people who don't even know they are being tempted until after the fact.

Now, the conviction of the Spirit (if there's a Spirit there) brings conviction after the fact, but we should be struggling not to do wrong before the fact. If we're not struggling, there's a good chance that our conscience is being seared.

So we're praying always. Prayer is really being mindful and in communion. You see, sometimes your prayer is talking. Most of the time your prayer should be listening.

The Father is trying to communicate to you. How is he going to order your steps? If you are asking him to bless you today, how is he going to do that if you're not aware of what he's trying to do to you and through you?

If you need provisions, he knows where the provisions are. How is he going to get you to the provisions that you say that you need? If you're missing the provisions, it's probably because you're not in tune with the voice that is trying to order your steps to the provisions that he said that he will supply. He has promised to meet all of our needs; every last one of them.

If there is a need in your life that is not being met, it's not him not being in a position to meet the need. It could very well be you that is not in a position to hear him as he is trying to orchestrate your steps to get the need met.

You always have to be aware of your surroundings. Anyone that is not submitted to the will of the Almighty is submitted to the devil. Those that are submitted to the devil are there to distract you, to get your attention and to get your focus so that you can't hear when the Spirit is trying to speak to you.

This is why you always have people talking in your ear. There is music going on. The television is going on. There is all kinds of noise always going on around you. You are not in a position to hear from the Almighty. As a matter of fact, you are setting yourself up *not* to hear him!

Now he has to speak through all of that noise and through all of those temptations and through all of that stuff that you've set yourself in the midst of, pitching your tent towards Sodom.

Ephesians 6:17 – “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:”

Take the helmet with all kinds of prayer. He says:

Ephesians 6:18 – “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.”

“Praying always with all prayer.”

We’ve already talked about how there are prayers of agreement, prayers of faith. There is praying in the Spirit. There is petitioning. There is intercession. There is all manner of prayer.

“...and supplication in the Spirit,”

THERE WILL BE OPPOSITION

That’s your spirit being in tune with his Spirit, just as his Spirit is in tune with your spirit.

“...and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.”

Why do you have to watch? It’s because if you’re not watching, you are going to be blindsided.

Ephesians 6:19 – “And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,”

Why does Paul need that kind of prayer? It’s because there is a lot of opposition. Think about this. Yeshua was crucified. The disciples were persecuted. Paul was beaten several times and left for dead. Imagine going into a place. You know it yourself.

None of us in this room like opposition. We try to avoid opposition. We try to avoid confrontation. We don’t want to be arguing and fighting unless of course it’s our spouse! That’s the only one we give ourself permission to argue and

to fight with. With everybody else, we just tell them where to go. A popular song has these lyrics like these:

“You can just take this job and shove it.”

You can't say that to your spouse. Some of you have, I mean some of those people out there have. But Paul is saying:

“Listen. The opposition that I'm facing is so great. I really need you all to pray for me that I won't shrink back. I'll say what I need to say. I will open my mouth and boldly make known the mystery of the gospel.”

Paul is dealing with the very people that crucified Messiah. These are the very ones on whose team he used to be. He knows that religious people can be treacherous. Some of the most dangerous people on the planet are religious people. As a matter of fact, terrorism, the most notorious terrorists on the planet are propagating some religious doctrine.

There are Islamic terrorists. There are Christian terrorists. There are Messianic terrorists. There are Jewish terrorists, Torah terrorists. You'll know that you are dealing with a terrorist when they want to tell you how long your tzitzits should be, how you should tie it or what name you should use. That's terrorism.

Ephesians 6:20 – “For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”

1 Thessalonians 5:9 – “For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Yeshua Messiah,”

He has not appointed us to wrath. You see, you and I have no business out there arguing with anybody. Yeshua told his disciples:

“Don’t argue with them. Shake the dust.”

If somebody doesn’t want to receive what you have to say, you can’t force it. Why are we debating with individuals who don’t even agree with what we believe? If you don’t agree with me and you want to argue, know this. The more time that I spend here arguing with you, the less time I have for someone who wants to hear what I have to say. So why am I arguing with you, when I can be spending my time with someone who is at least open to hearing what I have to say?

We want to conform the world. We’re not here to conform the world. The world should conform itself. Your job and my job is to conform to the word. I can’t conform you to the word. I can preach and teach and you can get up and leave here and say:

“What a wonderful message.”

And not change one lick. Fortunately, that’s not the people that I’m preaching to [now]. I used to preach to people [who are] like that. But folks, I’m hearing testimonies that are coming from people who are just watching. I was just watching [a young congregant named] Lily this morning. I mean I was just watching. The first few times she came in here, she was terrified. Now she is running around here like she owns the place! Really! She said something:

“When my mama tells me to do something, I do it.”

I am thinking that even the children are getting it. Children are taking this and they are applying it. When adults are taking it and applying it, it is easier for the children to take it and to apply it. The biggest hindrance for our children is you parents.

WE ARE TO LIVE THE WORD

My wife and I try to live as holy and as much in the word as we possibly can and we still get opposition. We get opposition from our children and we have to stand firm, just like you have to stand firm. It seems a lot easier to just give in, because children can be relentless! They are real terrorists! They'll terrorize you. I mean, I watch them terrorize each other!

Mom and Dad have to play referee sometimes. Do any of you have to do that with your children? You have to get in between them to keep them from terrorizing each other. Old ones terrorize young ones. Young ones terrorize old ones.

We have not been appointed to wrath, but to attain salvation by Messiah Yeshua.

1 Thessalonians 5:9 – “For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Yeshua Messiah,”

1 Thessalonians 5:10 – “Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.”

1 Thessalonians 5:11 – “Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.”

1 Thessalonians 5:12 – “And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;”

Paul is saying:

“I know you do it. Keep doing it. Encourage one another. Strengthen one another. Build up one another.”

The last thing we need, brothers and sisters, is to come into fellowship and get beaten down by fellow brothers and sisters. We get enough of that out there. This should be a place of refuge. It should be a place where we can come and let down our guards and receive from the Almighty and from one another. We can encourage one another.

If some of us in here are doing wrong, it's not your job to beat them down. The only person in this room that has the authority to beat anybody down is the Almighty. I know you all thought I was going to say me, didn't you?

[Arthur says this in a joking but serious manner.] *I don't even have that right.* If I do that, you need to check the spirit that is on me. I don't have that right. I am just like you. If you all think that you are getting a whipping; I get it first. That's because he whips me and then says:

"Say that."

"Really?"

I'm hearing this coming out of my mouth and I'm standing here having to repent while I'm teaching. I don't like it. I'm having to confess. He says:

"Now it's confession time."

Yeah! It's easy for us to try to cover up and act like we're all there when we know that we are not. We aren't. Okay?

1 Thessalonians 5:12 – "And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;"

Understand something. The role that we have is different. The relationship that we have is different. The Holy Spirit that I have is the same Holy Spirit that you have. I've not been called to be the mother of my house.

I've not been called to be a wife. I can't be a wife. I can be a husband. I can be a dad. I can be a brother. I can't be a sister. Do you understand?

What I am saying is that we have different roles in this relationship, but I'm going to have to give an account, just like you. As a matter of fact, I'm going to be judged more harshly. I'm going to be held to a higher degree of accountability and responsibility because of the role.

So that, to some degree, does put me in a place of authority, but the bottom line is that the ultimate authority comes from him. You have to take authority over your own life. Before you try to exercise authority over someone else's life, you have to first exercise authority over your own life.

That's what made Yeshua different than the religious leaders. They said:

"Wait a minute. This one preaches like he's a man of authority."

Do you know why? He wasn't a hypocrite. The words that he spoke, he lived. If you're not living the word, you have no right to teach it! That's a hypocrite. You're trying to get other people to do the stuff that you won't do yourself. That's exactly what the religious leaders did. They put burdens on other people that they themselves would not carry. What right do I have to tell you to do something that I won't do myself? That's a hireling.

KNOW THOSE AMONG US

1 Thessalonians 5:12 – "And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;"

1 Thessalonians 5:13 – “And to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake. And be at peace among yourselves.”

Not for their sake, but because of the work they’ve been called to do. I’ll tell you, you all make what I do a lot easier, and I’ll tell you how you do it. It is because you take the things that are being said, to heart. I can see you trying to apply. It is tough preaching to people who are sitting there [Arthur points to his watch on his wrist].

“You’re going over preacher.”

They’ve got cotton in their ears and headphones on. I have had people come in here with headphones! It’s:

“Just preach a good twenty minutes of teaching and let us ‘drosh.’”

You see. There are people out there who don’t want to hear what you have to say, but there are people who take the word and put it into practice.

1 Thessalonians 5:13 – “And to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake. And be at peace among yourselves.”

1 Thessalonians 5:14 – “Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feeble-minded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.”

This presents a challenge for all of us. Now we have to identify those who are unruly. It doesn’t take you long to figure out the unruly ones, but it does take a little while sometimes to identify feeble-minded people. Feeble-minded people can sometimes be a little annoying. They’re not trying to be annoying. They’re just not there yet.

We live in a society where there are people who, for whatever reason over the course of life, didn’t develop to

the same level of maturity as people their age. There are some people who don't "get" it as quickly as other people get it. We have to be able to identify them, lest we treat them like we would treat everyone else.

We've had to identify this in our own house. You have some children. You can say something to them once and they get it. Some you have to say things over and over. And over a period of time you may see that okay, their cognitive skills and their level of comprehension [is not there]. Maybe there are some hearing issues. Maybe there are some visual issues. I don't know.

There are children who, if a child was undiagnosed, and certain things weren't caught early [they are affected]. Some of us just put our heads in a hole. We don't want to hear and see; especially when you have children. You don't want to hear the idea that your child is unhealthy or the idea that your child is dealing with something that creates a blockage. It's hard to accept that for some of us.

I know I don't like imperfections, even though I'm not perfect. We don't like imperfections. We don't like dealing with sickness. We don't like dealing with slow people. As children, we used to make jokes about people riding on the "short bus."⁴ We'd say that the elevator doesn't go to the top floor or that they are short a few cans of a six-pack [when unkindly referring to a person's mental capacity].

I mean, we make all kinds of statements saying that this person doesn't think as sharply or as quickly as we do. We need to identify that; especially among the brethren, because some people don't comprehend. I've had to deal with people. You think that they're trying to be trouble,

⁴ The "short bus" is a compact school bus that holds two to three dozen people. These buses are typically used to shuttle children with developmental issues to another school for special education programs.

when they're just trying to get an understanding. Isn't that right?

"Listen. How can I take this and walk in it if I don't get it?"

You think they're a problem. They're not trying to be a problem. They are just trying to understand. If they don't understand, maybe you're not explaining it properly. Maybe they're not the problem. Maybe you're the problem. You've got to be able to accept that.

"Okay. They didn't get it. Let me regroup. Let me try again."

Then you might have to come to the conclusion that maybe you're not the one. That's why there are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. Maybe someone else in the midst of you is going to explain it better than you will ever be able to explain it. Don't get jealous! It's called "body." The body ministers to the body. No one of us has it all. So we now have to come to the conclusion that *we need one another*. Recognize that. Just recognize that.

There are feeble-minded. Then there are weak people. There are people who just don't have the strength. Some folks you have to walk with and you have to hold their hands. Be patient with them. I'm so thankful. I may not have the hand-holding ministry. It's times like that, that I have to be thankful that I don't have it all. There are other people in the midst of us who have that ministry.

I have the "bat" ministry. [Arthur laughs.] I've got the ministry of the guy who comes in swinging. Then somebody else comes along and it's like:

"Now, okay. He didn't mean that. Let me put a bandage on that."

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

1 Thessalonians 5:15 – “See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.”

I was in the tax collector’s office this week, three times, dealing with an issue with a woman that I thought was just giving me an unnecessarily hard time. I purposed in my heart:

“You cannot deter the favor that I walk in. You cannot deter the favor that I walk in.”

In my heart and each time I went, it was like this. I assessed her from the first day I walked in. I said:

“You know what? The next time I have to come here, if I have to come here, this is not the person that I’m going to talk to.”

But then the next time I came in, I went straight to her desk, on purpose. Then the third time I went straight to her desk. I told my wife:

“I’m going to win this one. I’m going to win her over. I’m going to jump through every hoop that she throws out there.”

Yesterday I went back for the final time. I had all of the papers and everything. When it was coming to the conclusion, she revealed some things. Every time she saw me, she said to herself:

“Oh no. Not him again.”

That’s what she said. But when I sat down, she acted like it was her first time talking to me.

“I was just here a couple of days ago. I know that you remember me.”

Then yesterday, now she's telling me about her children and her grandchildren. She's pointing to the pictures and exposing that when she saw me, she thought:

"I hope this man doesn't come up in here to give me a hard time."

And I'm thinking:

"Why is this woman giving me a hard time?"

We're both having this warfare going on in our heads. I made a point that I was going to work through this situation and that she was going to help me work through this situation. By the time it was over, she said:

"Tell your wife that you won me over."

Father puts people in our path to refine us. That for me was some refining moments.

1 Thessalonians 5:15 – "See that none render evil for evil unto any man;"

"...unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men."

Basically this is among you who are part of the body and among them that are not.

1 Thessalonians 5:16 – "Rejoice evermore."

In everything, rejoice. Give thanks in everything.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 – "Pray without ceasing."

How do you do this? You pray without ceasing by always being in communion with the Father. Remember. prayer is not just talking. It is also listening. He orders our steps, listening to him lead us. It is being in tune with him every moment of every day and practicing that.

There have been times when I'm on my way home and the Father says:

“Do this when you get home.”

I walk in the door and it's like:

“Man, there is some chaos. Somebody's done something.”

And I'm trying to hold onto what the Father says to do. It's easy when you get home and see things that are out of order, to not do something that you agreed with him that you were going to do, or that he told you to do. Now you've found a legitimate reason not to do it; like:

“Now, when you get home, I want you to give your wife some money.”

I get home and there's no dinner. Really? That doesn't change anything. It doesn't change the fact that he told me to do something. Do you understand what I'm saying? He said:

“Do it.”

Do it! It's like:

“Why should I be giving her something when she ain't taking care of me like that?”

Well, maybe this will help her. You never know!
[Arthur reassures his wife, who is in the audience.]

“Nah honey. I'm just using that as an example.”

She's right there, preaching at me.

This is the verse that we really need to get:

1 Thessalonians 5:18 – “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Messiah Yeshua concerning you.”

In everything, give thanks. I'm thinking:

“How in the world do I give thanks for having this person as the person that I'm supposed to

be dealing with, and who is giving me a hard time?"

It's because in the end, by taking me through that process, I learned stuff about the State of South Carolina that I didn't know. We always should be in a mindset of learning. That is always. I have learned things about the State of North Carolina. I've learned things about the State of South Carolina or about the State of Mississippi or about the State of Michigan.

Every state does things a little bit differently. If you want to learn how to get along and move along and successfully maneuver through the system, you have to learn how the systems operate. Once you learn how the systems operate, you can navigate the systems successfully. There are checks and balances in every system to make sure that you have your act together so that Uncle Sam doesn't come after you later. He will come!

Pray without ceasing and in everything, give thanks.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 – "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Messiah Yeshua concerning you."

"How do I give thanks for this tragedy? How do I give thanks for this bad situation that seems to be going on? How do I give thanks for things that are giving me grief?"

You do that because in the end, you're going to be a better "grief manager." In the end, you're going to know how to handle circumstances that you currently don't know how to handle. You won't learn how to handle those things if you don't go through this. The Father is trying to get you there. But to get you there, you have to go through here.

If you ever get there; even though you may not be able to give thanks or feel like you can give thanks at this moment, when you get there, you can look back and see

why you should have given thanks while you were going through. Don't get there to give thanks. Give thanks in everything. Look at the circumstances that you are going through right now as an opportunity where the Father is trying to train you and teach you things that you don't know yet.

Get this one:

1 Thessalonians 5:19 – “Quench not the Spirit.”

Quench not the Spirit. Halleluyah! Don't quench the Spirit. Yeah.

1 Thessalonians 5:20 – “Despise not prophesyings.”

How do you quench the Spirit? You see, if the Father says to do something and I get home and see a reason not to do it, and I don't do what the Father said to do because I found a legitimate reason not to do it, do you know what I just did? I just quenched the Spirit.

If the Father says:

“Say something.”

Now I have to go through all of this stuff in me. My heart is jumping. My voice is cracking. My mind is racing. If he is giving me something to say and I'm almost paralyzed by the fear of messing it up and I don't do it, do you know what I just did? I just quenched the Spirit.

When he says:

“Turn left.”

But I'm in a hurry and I don't turn left, do you know what I just did? I quenched the Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 5:20 – “Despise not prophesyings.”

Be careful about what you say about the prophetic. Be careful about what you say about the supernatural. Be careful about speaking against things you don't understand, just because you've seen them manipulated or abused.

1 Thessalonians 5:21 – “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.”

1 Thessalonians 5:22 – “Abstain from all appearance of evil.”

1 Thessalonians 5:23 – “And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Yeshua Messiah.”

1 Thessalonians 5:24 – “Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.”

1 Thessalonians 5:25 – “Brethren, pray for us.”

1 Thessalonians 5:26 – “Greet all the brethren with an holy kiss.”

1 Thessalonians 5:27 – “I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren.”

1 Thessalonians 5:28 – “The grace of our Lord Yeshua Messiah be with you. Amen.”

Amen. Halleluyah.

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Relationships — Arthur Bailey presents from Scripture how the relationships in our lives must be categorized and prioritized according to their importance. You will learn the kind of relationship the Almighty wants with you, how to categorize and prioritize your relationships according to Scripture, how to identify and rectify wrong relationships and more. 2-DVDs. Approximately 2.5 hours.



Maximizing Your Talents — Understand the parable taught by Yeshua after sharing with his disciples about the Gospel of the Kingdom being preached to the whole world before the end comes. The parable is about three servants who were given specific talents. What distinguished the wise servant from the wicked servant in this parable was determined by what they did with the talents they had been given. Approximately 1.5 hours.



Merry Christmas? — Where did Christmas originate? What does the Bible have to say about Christmas and its relationship to the birth of Christ? Is Christmas even in the Bible? Should “Christ” be in Christmas? Is Jesus the reason for the season? How should true believers respond to Christmas? These questions and so many more will be answered in this timeless Christmas message. Approximately 1.5 hours.



The ReNEWed Covenant — In this teaching Arthur Bailey gives a clear, eye-opening, biblical explanation of what the New Covenant is and with whom it is made. He explains how Jews and Gentiles enter into this covenant and what it means for believers today. You will understand why it is called The ReNEWed Covenant and the significant power that is released within the lives of all who embrace the ReNEWed Covenant. This teaching will change your life forever! Approximately 1.5 hours.



The Power of the Holy Spirit — Author and teacher Arthur Bailey reveals the prerequisites all believers must meet to be filled with the Holy Spirit and power. What is this power that Yeshua spoke of? Is it still available for disciples of Yeshua today and how can they operate in it? These and many other questions will be answered in this fascinating, informative teaching series. 4-DVDs. Approximately 5.5 hours.



True Biblical Prosperity — What is prosperity? Is prosperity biblical? Is poverty a curse? Can believers be prosperous? What does the Bible teach about prosperity?

What is true biblical prosperity? What you believe about prosperity will determine what you can and cannot receive from YeHoVaH. This teaching series will leave you with a wealth of information to help you understand why YeHoVaH wants his people to be *prosperous* and to know what *True Biblical Prosperity* looks like! 4-DVDs. Approximately 5.5 hours.



You Must Be Born Again — The church world took a conversation Yeshua had with a Pharisee at night, and built powerhouse ministries teaching a gospel message of “salvation” and altar calls. Many sermons have been taught about being “born again” and what it should mean to believers today. But what does *John 3:16* really teach within the context that it is written? Like many other biblical passages, this much-quoted verse is preached in a manner that has become isolated from the context in which it was originally written. Approximately 2.5 hours in a 2-DVD set.



The New Covenant — When did the New Covenant begin? Arthur Bailey journeys inside the first Jerusalem Council as the Apostles, Elders and Ruach Ha Kodesh (Holy Spirit) “discuss” how to deal with a false teaching circulating among believers. Arthur Bailey is a Spirit-filled, New Covenant minister who boldly teaches the Hebrew Roots of the Christian faith. He removes the confusion from covenants that are as important today as long ago. Two episodes.



The Baptism of the Holy Spirit — Yeshua said in *Acts 1* verse 5: “*For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.*” In verse 8: “*But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth.*” When we are baptized with the Holy Spirit, we receive power and authority to speak for YeHoVaH and to demonstrate his power! In this 4-DVD series learn the true evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit and more! A must-have for every true believer who wants to walk in their authority. Over 5 hours of teaching.



[The Fall Feasts Of YeHoVaH](#) — A 6-DVD set with over 6.5 hours of teaching. Includes teachings on the Feast of Trumpets/Yom Teruah, Day of Atonement/Yom Kippur, the Feast of Tabernacles/Sukkot and the Last Great Day/Shemini Atzeret. This introduction to the Fall Feasts provides insight and understanding of the prophetic shadow pictures of good things to come and helps us to understand how to celebrate these amazing days in a way that pleases Almighty YeHoVaH.



[Now Concerning Spiritual Gifts](#) — A 6-DVD set. Over 6.5 hours. Some suggest that the gifts of the Spirit have ceased operation and that the law is done away with. Among those who accept and teach that the spiritual gifts of the Bible are still operational today, many have abused and misused these gifts in their assembly; similar to the days of Corinth to whom Paul wrote to correct. This series removes the mystery over manifesting spiritual gifts and empowering believers.



[And The Heavens Were Opened](#) — An in-depth, inspiring journey through the feasts of Shavuot, Yom Teruah and Hanukkah. Reveals the importance of these biblical events for today's Spirit-filled believers in Yeshua. Learn about operating in the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the works of Messiah and the rededication of the 2nd temple at Hanukkah. 3-DVDs. About 4.5 hours.



[Keeping Torah Living Spirit Filled](#) — Journey inside the first Jerusalem Council. Explore how early leaders through the Ruach Ha Kodesh dealt with false teachings circulating among believers and how they incorporated Gentile converts into the newly formed Messianic community. Deepen your understanding. Strengthen your walk in Yeshua Messiah. 3 episodes in about 1.5 hours.



[The Love of God](#) — 4-DVDs. Paul wrote in the Book of Romans, “*But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Messiah died for us.*” God demonstrated his love for us by giving his only begotten son to die for our sins. How can we show our love for God? Journey through the *greatest love story ever written*. Learn what our response to the love of God should be. A true story of love, of overcoming, of victory and of power. Approximately 5.5 hours.



[Walking in the Power of the Holy Spirit; My Testimony](#)

— Join Arthur Bailey as he shares experiences and unique insights in this perceptive, sometimes hilarious and always instructive journey through his ministry spanning more than three decades. He generously shares his life-changing adventures of discovering and tapping back into the roots of the faith that he has long preached with boldness. As a former pastor and teacher in five different Christian denominations before coming to the true faith of the kingdom of YeHoVaH; his unique story is priceless and required listening for those who desire to enhance their own walk in Torah-obedience and in Yeshua Messiah. About 1.5 hours of teaching.



[And You Shall Love The Lord](#) — The creator of the universe demonstrated his love for us by sacrificing his only begotten son for the sins of man. The Love of God is a gift!

You cannot earn it. You don't deserve it and you can't buy it. How do we demonstrate our love for God? Often when sharing the gospel of Yeshua (*the gospel Yeshua taught, not the gospel "about Jesus"*), the subject of the "law" comes up. Yeshua clearly stated that he did not come to do away with or to abolish the law (*Matthew 5:17*). Yet people still argue that we must only "love" YeHoVaH with all of our heart, mind, soul and strength. Are we doing that? What does this look like? The Bible tells us how YeHoVaH wants us to show our love for him. Find answers to questions that you won't find in religion. About 2.5 hours of teaching on 2-DVDs.



[What Do We Do With Those Gentiles?](#) — Discover how

according to *Acts 15*, a major challenge existed which confronted the newly formed Messianic community. Arthur Bailey journeys inside the first Jerusalem Council where the Apostles, Elders and the Ruach Ha Kodesh "discussed" how to deal with false teachings and how to incorporate Gentile converts into the newly formed Messianic community. Jewish believers in Yeshua struggled with transitions from ethnic Jewish religious practices which included non-Hebrew people who were unfamiliar with the rich heritage and traditions formed by the Pharisees and handed down by the Elders. This teaching will deepen and strengthen your spiritual walk in Yeshua Messiah as you learn more about the history of the early called-out ones of faith. 2 episodes.



Messianic 101: “The Essentials” — Today there is as much confusion about being “Messianic” as certain issues across denominational Christianity. As more and more people’s eyes are opened to the faith once delivered to the saints and new believers are added to the family of YeHoVaH, it is vitally important that they get started on the path the right way. In this timely and important teaching series, Arthur Bailey shares what every new believer must know to live a power-filled, successful life in the kingdom of YeHoVaH. You will learn who you are in Messiah, the importance of the faith, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, how to properly respond to the Sabbath argument, the dietary laws, feast days and much more! About 2 hours of teaching. This is the first in this series of teachings. Follow up with *Messianic 301*.



Messianic 201: “Adding to your Faith” — This is the second in a series of three introductory teachings. Messianic 201 picks up where Messianic 101 “The Essentials” leaves off. In this teaching you will learn the crucial elements that should be added to the believers’ faith to keep from falling. This teaching is a must-have for anyone desiring to build their faith in Messiah Yeshua. About 2.5 hours of teaching in a 2-DVD set. Follow up with *Messianic 301 “Perfecting Your Faith.”*



Manifesting the Gift of Healing – A powerful, information and inspiration-packed series to help believers today understand their role as they step out in faith to do the things that Yeshua did...heal the sick and much more! Now you can strengthen your confidence and begin to manifest the gift of healing both for yourself and for those around you. Yes, you *can* do the things that Yeshua said that you can do! In fact, we are to do what he did, and greater things (*John 14:12*). Over 4 hours of clear, concise teachings that will truly bless you, presented in a 7-DVD set.



Let No Man Judge You – Today, whenever the verse from Colossians is quoted: *Colossians 2:16* “*Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holy day, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days,*” it is generally coming from a Christian in their defense of not having to keep the Law of YeHoVaH. But what is Paul really saying in *Colossians 2:16*? Find out in this dynamic, eye-opening message by Dr. Arthur Bailey. Approximately 1.5 hours on a single DVD.

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 <p><u>Sunday is Not The Sabbath? (English)</u></p>	 <p><u>Sunday is Not The Sabbath? (Russian)</u></p>	 <p><u>The Feast Of Pentecost</u></p>	 <p><u>What About Grace?</u></p>
 <p><u>Leadership Development</u></p>	 <p><u>To Tithe or NOT To Tithe</u></p>	 <p><u>The Book of Galatians</u> A 4-Book set!</p>	 <p><u>Discipleship Training</u></p>

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***Taking the True Gospel
of the Kingdom of YeHoVaH
to the Whole World...***



Messianic 301: Perfecting Your Faith “Maturing In Messiah”

**The Hebrew writer writes in
Hebrews 6:1 - Therefore leaving the principles
of the doctrine of Messiah, let us go on unto
perfection/maturity; not laying again
the foundation of repentance from dead works,
and of faith toward God. KJV**

**This is the third installment of the series
that picks up where “Messianic 201:
Adding To Your Faith” leaves off.**

**Discover what it means to be a mature believer.
Learn how to overcome the traps and snares
that keep us from walking in the fullness of the
Father’s plan for our lives. Uncover the origin of
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**This is the conclusion of the series and an absolutely
essential part of any Bible study program.**

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