

The Book of Galatians – Part 19 – The Fruit of the Spirit, Part 3

Shabbat Shalom Saints. I love the word “saints.” We are saints of the Most High. What makes us saints is that we have been sanctified. That means that He has set us apart. This setting apart requires a response. He can set you apart, but you can decide not to be set apart.

Your decision will be displayed in your actions. You can tell those who have accepted the mission of being set apart, because they have taken the time to set themselves apart. Halleluyah. So I am a saint. I used to say:

“I’m no saint!”

Not any more, now that I’ve realized that I AM a saint! Halleluyah.

That may be the modern vernacular, but the bottom line is that I have been sanctified. Back where I came from, they associated sanctified with the Pentecostals. That’s because they danced in the Spirit. Sanctified was a denomination. How many of you know what I’m talking about? You were sanctified because you were part of that denomination. I wasn’t part of that denomination, so I didn’t identify myself as being sanctified.

How many of you know that the Father has called us to be sanctified? Halleluyah. I accept the calling and I hope that you accept the calling too.

Galatians chapter 5 – this is part 3 of the fruit of the Spirit. I hope to get through at least two; hopefully three of the fruits today. The reason as I shared earlier today that I’m taking my time is because I know that for a long time in my own life (some of you can attest to the fact), I’ve stood in this place where I’m standing right now physically and have received deliverance from the Almighty in areas where I thought I was delivered.

I've actually received deliverance standing here. I've received rebuke standing here. I've received correction standing here; as well as His instructions, prophetic utterance, and words of knowledge and wisdom while I'm standing here.

This is one of the reasons why I like standing here. I'm saying this physically, but mean that wherever I'm standing and acknowledging His presence, that is "here." That's what I mean. When I'm standing in this physical location, I am much more aware of what I'm supposed to be standing for.

When I am standing here and presenting to you, I'm not only aware that you are here to receive from Him, I am aware that I am the vessel through whom He is going to be speaking to you.

When I began to practice standing here while I'm in other places beyond being here, then I'm more mindful of His presence being with me, even though I'm there and not standing here. This is where I believe He wants all of us to be – not standing here, but always standing and aware that we are in His presence.

When we come to the conclusion that we believe these "big, high-faluting words" as they used to say in the churches that I come from – how many of you have ever heard the word "omnipresent?" That's a big word for a small-minded person. I had to go to the dictionary to look up the word.

"What is omnipresent?"

I'm going to admit some things to you today. There have been many times that I have heard words and I didn't know what they meant. I went and looked them up. It is one thing to be ignorant. It is another thing to remain ignorant. I chose that the next time somebody mentioned that word; I was going to know what they were talking about. I made a

practice of looking up words so I could get an understanding at least of what the meaning of the word is.

There are some people who can “cuss” you out without ever using a four-letter word. You don’t even know that they just reamed you one. You think that they are complimenting you! (Laughter) Halleluyah!

Gal 5:22 – “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,”

Gal 5:23 – “Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

The works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit are the results of what is going on within a person. The works of the flesh are the results or manifestation of the sinful nature or the carnal man. I’m repeating some phrases because I want these to stick with you. It’s all right to be repetitive.

What is manifesting within will determine what manifests without. Salvation is within. The kingdom is within you. Last lesson I shared some scripture references to this. You see, whatever is happening within a person; when a person is angry, their demeanor is going to project it. Their words are going to reflect it.

When a person is joyful, their demeanor, their words, whatever emotional condition is going on within is what is going to be projected or reflected in our demeanor, our body language, our words and our attitude.

As we clean our temple, our body of all of the filth and uncleanness, we will live and manifest the things of the Spirit. This is one of the reasons why I constantly look to Yeshua, the author and finisher of my faith. I look to Him and not people. I used to look to people. I used to look to men. I used to imitate men. As I’ve shared with you in times past, there are people who have been my mentors or my pastors or my leaders to the point where I wanted to be

like them. I don't do that anymore. If I had had one that was successful, I would probably still be doing it. Seriously.

Gal 5:22 – “But the fruit of the **Spirit** is...”

We're going to look at some of these. The word “fruit” as we noted, is “*karpos*,” meaning that which originates or comes from something; an effect, result, work, act, or deed.

We know that fruit can be the fruit of our loins. It can be the fruit on a tree. But for the purpose of this teaching, we see that this fruit is the result of something.

The fruit of the Spirit then should be the result of the Spirit. The word “*pneuma*” which is “spirit,” is the movement of air, the wind, a gentle blast, hence the wind itself; breath of nostrils or mouth; the spirit i.e. the vital principal by which the body is animated; the rational spirit, the power by which the human being feels, thinks, decides.

As we've discussed last week, we've come to realize that there is the spirit of man. There is the spirit of the world and there is the Spirit of YeHoVaH.

The word “spirit” is used as another term: ghost, Holy Ghost or Holy Spirit, depending on the version or the translation that you use.

A person can be spiritual but not be godly. We identified that in the last lesson. There are many in the world. I remember when we were establishing an organization in Grand Rapids, and the leader and founder of the organization after which we were modeling used to state that he was a spiritual person.

The guy is a phenomenal individual. As a matter of fact, I'll tell you what his name is. His name is Bill Strickland. He is the founder of Manchester Bidwell. We established the West Michigan Center of Arts and Technology after Manchester Bidwell in Pennsylvania. He spoke about a lot of spiritual people.

I remember when I was in the world, I used to call certain musicians “prophets” because their message seemed to be somewhat prophetic. I would try to rationalize and justify my listening to certain artists because of the words they chose to sing – the things that they sang about.

I remember when I used to smoke the ganja, I used to listen to Bob Marley. I would get intellectual; very intellectual. When he talked about redemption, redemption songs, songs of redemption, he would talk about the whole idea of being captives and slaves and freedom.

I remember when I used to listen to Prince. I would think and people would call him a prophet; the one, the purple one. (Laughter)

There were many artists that you could listen to. The thing that draws you is their message. I used to have a jazz collection to be ended by any jazz enthusiast. When I came to know Jesus Christ, my neighbor inherited all of my jazz albums. I got rid of them all. There is a lot of music that I got rid of.

I would listen to this music and to the words of their music. You could swear by the words that they used that these individuals had some kind of connection. They were getting some kind of message from somewhere. You would think that if it was spiritual, that it must be coming from the Almighty – at least that is what I wanted to believe.

These individuals would talk about a faith. They would mention the term “God” from time to time. As I was dealing with this gentleman, he would talk about a lot of the musicians because he had one of the most premier jazz audience studios in the Manchester Bidwell [Center]. Many of the most well-known artists would come during fundraising and fundraise there.

Their pictures were all around the wall. I had the pleasure of knowing more about some of these individuals through him. They would claim to be spiritual. The world claims to be spiritual. The question becomes: what spirit?

- There is the spirit of man.
- There is the spirit of the world.
- There is the Spirit of God.

We looked at that in *Romans* in the last lesson. Everyone who is led by the spirit may not necessarily be led by the Holy Spirit; but by their spirit or the spirit of the world, and the spirit of this world seeks knowledge.

I asked the question:

“How can someone who is not filled with the Holy Spirit be led by the Holy Spirit?”

We identified that there are people in the Bible that Father raised up. He raised up Pharaoh. He raised up Nebuchadnezzar. He raised up Cyrus. He raised up others. He sent calamity to His people to bring them into a place of repentance.

Let us never forget that YeHoVaH owns it all. He controls it all. The world is His, the earth is His, the fullness thereof; and yes, He created evil! He uses the wicked things of this world. As a matter of fact, He uses the foolish things of this world too, to confound those who have this so-called wisdom; which is worldly wisdom.

You can acquire worldly wisdom with biblical things. You can have a wisdom of this world, but it is not the Spirit of YeHoVaH. It is the spirit of the world; where one applies wisdom to gain knowledge and information about the Bible. But the evidence of whether that resides within them is going to be how they conduct themselves, how they live their lives and what they confess.

How can you be filled with the Spirit and reject Yeshua?

Do you understand this? **It is through Yeshua that the Spirit comes to us.** When someone says that they are led by the spirit, we should ask:

“What spirit?”

I used to say this about people who claimed to be Jews. I would say to them:

“Well, what tribe?”

For whatever reason when folks would introduce themselves, they would say:

“I’m Jewish.”

I didn’t know how to take that. That’s the only group of people I had ever met who wanted me to know what nationality they were.

“Hi. My name is so-and-so and I’m Jewish.”

This was especially true in the Messianic community. So I started asking:

“Well, what tribe?”

“Huh?”

“You are Jewish. Well, what tribe?”

What this is now going to tell me is what kind of Jew you are. Now when someone tells me that they are led by the spirit, I want to know what spirit. Afterwards we can look at their fruit to determine if they are truly led by the Holy Spirit. If someone tells me that they are led by the Holy Spirit, they could be for that moment. But is the Spirit in them?

There is good fruit and there is evil fruit. There is the spirit of man and there is the Spirit of God. There is the fruit of man and there is the fruit of the Spirit. We looked at that. Yeshua talks about a good tree and an evil tree. There is good fruit and there is evil fruit. You will know a tree how? By its fruit.

When you see people do evil things or wicked things, it should tell you what kind of tree you are dealing with. You see, people can hide behind their words, but they can’t hide

their actions. Their actions will tell you what they really are, regardless of what their words say. We can be optimistic all we want. We can believe the best all we want, but their actions tell you who they are. Surely we want to believe their words.

The fruit of the Spirit is the result of the Holy Spirit dwelling within you. You can't hide that.

Ro 14:17 – “For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but”

What?

“...righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.”

We are about to see this concerning these fruits. We talked about love in the last lesson. We discussed it in *Galatians* parts 17 and 18.

Now we want to talk a little bit about *joy*. The reason why I am taking my time on this word is because there is a kind of joy that the world has. It is quite deceptive. The world shows you parties. If you have ever watched the videos on the New Year, you will see people out there in the streets. If you've ever seen videos or pictures in the newspaper or on television, I think the one that comes to mind right now and which is probably an extreme example, is a gay pride parade.

You will see people walking down the street looking like they are full of joy. From a worldly standpoint, that very well may be the case, but that is a worldly kind of joy.

For the word “spirit,” the Greek word is “*chara*.” It means joy, gladness; the joy received from you; the cause or occasion of joy; of persons who are one's joy. The word is used 51 times as joy, three times as gladness, once as joyful and once as joyous.

Joy is a happy state which results from knowing and serving God. That's biblical joy. Joy is the fruit of a right

relationship with God. It is not something people can create by their own efforts. Your relationship with the Almighty is not determined by the circumstances that are going on in your life. Your relationship with the Almighty will determine how you respond to the circumstances that are going on in your life; and you can't hide that. You really can't.

If you are around people long enough, you will determine whether or not the joy that they have is from Him or from some stimuli. Get around a person who is right on the verge of being drunk. Get around someone who has had a few hits off of a marijuana stick – that is what the old folks used to call it, a “marijuana stick.” It's a joint.

They are going to laugh. Man, talk about some funny, giggly people. They are just giggling and laughing. Folks who have had a little, are a little tipsy. That's a joy that comes from a substance. The substance is not YeHoVaH. It's some kind of stimuli that is affecting their behavior. They have come under a spirit.

At some point in the 1980s or 1990s, the bars actually started putting up signs that said “Food and Spirits.” It used to be “Food and Drink.” But now they said:

“We're going to stop hiding this. Come on in here folks and get some spirits.”

Folks just go in and sit at the bar and get some spirits and then sit with some other people who have some spirits. The next thing you know, they're having a spiritually good time until the morning after. When those spirits have left, they say:

“Ah ha, now look at you!”

You have a hangover.

“What have I done? How did I get here?”

Those are spirits. But joy, which is the fruit of the Spirit, is the fruit of a right relationship with God. It is not something that people can create by their own efforts. The Hebrew equivalent is “*Simchah*,” or there is a word that we find in the *King James Bible* called “mirth.”

In *1 Samuel* 18:6 which is the first mention of joy, we find “mirth” in the Torah. Interestingly enough, we don’t find the word “joy” in the Torah – at least I didn’t.

1 Sa 18:6 – “And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistines, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy,”

There is that word.

“...and with instruments of music.”

1 Sa 18:7 – “And the women answered *one another* as they played, and said, ‘Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.’”

Here (sometimes) is the response to your joy. You see, there are miserable people who can’t stand you being joyous. There are people who don’t like happy people. They have issues. That old expression is: misery loves company. There is another expression: “down in the mouth.” Down in the mouth is an indication that you have stuff coming out of your mouth and that you should keep your mouth shut. It’s all negative. Doom and gloom.

I remember when we used to watch *Hee Haw*. They had this song.

“Doom and agony,”

What was it?

“Doom, despair and agony on me. Deep down depression, excessive misery. If it weren’t for bad luck, I’d have no luck at all. Doom, despair and agony and misery on me.”

This is a song. They sang that song. I learned that song and I’m singing it right along with them! Nobody told me to learn that song.

“Doom, despair and agony on me.”

I used to enjoy singing it with them! But there are people who (as they say), if it wasn’t for bad luck, they’d have no luck at all. We don’t operate in luck. It’s something when I hear believers say:

“Today is my lucky day.”

It’s like, okay, what? That sounds like a Chinese proverb. It does. Folks don’t realize it sometimes. You can go into some of these restaurants. You may see these little strings hanging. Those strings are hanging in there for good luck and prosperity.

And guess what? You are the fruit of that prosperity every time you come in and spend some money. That’s what the strings are hanging there for – good luck.

People want to talk about four leaf clovers and their lucky rabbit’s foot. Do you know that if you have a rabbit’s foot, you ought to burn it! As they used to say:

“If the rabbit wasn’t lucky...”

(Laughter)

1 Sa 18:8 – “And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, ‘They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed

but thousands: and *what* can he have more but the kingdom?”

Now Saul is thinking:

“Man, the way they are talking, the next thing you know, he’s going to want my kingdom.”

I remember when I preached my first sermon, ladies and gentlemen. I mentioned this, but I didn’t go into any detail. I got confused. One of the deacons came to me and said:

“You preach as good as the pastor.”

This is my first sermon that I preached. The fact that I nailed the sermon [helped]. You can’t say that among holy people, but it was a good message. I know that. The deacon came and said this, and here is what caused confusion. Why would he say that to me? Why would he say something like that to me? I’m a young man preaching my first sermon. He’s telling me that I’m preaching as good as the pastor who has a seminary degree and who has been doing this for quite some time.

The thing that helped me in my mind at this point – you see, there are certain things that you can say to someone that will cause pride to well up on the inside. It helped me to understand years later when Paul was talking about laying hands suddenly on no man. You don’t put a novice in a position in authority lest he be lifted up in pride and fall under the same condemnation as the devil.

These words got into my spirit. I began to meditate and dwell on them. You would be surprised. The next thing that you do, you start looking around. Now you are judging.

“Oh, I can do better than that.”

It created a kind of confusion within me that I eventually had to put down. I remember and shared with you before. That day the Father told me not to allow someone to put me on a pedestal because they would not be there when He brings me down. It was a humbling word.

I'm going to tell you something, ladies and gentlemen. When you start ministering...I remember the first time somebody called me "Reverend." Oh man, it did something. I couldn't say it then, but I can say it now. It did something within me. It stroked an ego that I didn't even know was there. Then it was "Elder" and then "Pastor."

There are words. People may call you "Doctor." There is this pride when you get your Masters degree and you get your Ph.D. Titles have a tendency to go to people's heads and they begin to see themselves in a different light. They exalt themselves. They have this heady and high-minded idea of who they are; based on a title or based on a degree or a promotion or where they work. It is pride.

David had no idea that Saul was feeling this way about him until Saul did something. This is what happened.

1 Sa 18:9 – "And Saul eyed David..."

He started watching him. He wasn't watching him like this [normal expression]. He was watching him like this [stern, critical expression]. Have you ever seen people watching you like this [the latter]? I mean, you can feel it. You are just whistling and going on about your way and they are just looking.

"What are you whistling about? What are you smiling about?"

You have people who when they leave you, expect you to fall.

1 Sa 18:10 – "And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit..."

From whom? You see, there is jealousy and pride; envy and strife. **YeHoVaH creates evil and good, ladies and gentlemen.** If you don't embrace His holiness, then you get the other part. It is He who gives you the ability to enjoy life! You can't enjoy life if He doesn't give you the ability to enjoy it.

“...the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David...”

It's really sad when you are prophesying out of an evil spirit.

“...and David played with his hand, as at other times: and *there was* a javelin in Saul's hand.”

David is there ministering to Saul. He's trying to minister and Saul is upset. I've seen this among musicians. I've seen this among choirs. I've seen this among praise teams. I've seen this among ministers and siblings.

1 Sa 18:11 – “And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, ‘I will smite David even to the wall *with it.*’ And David avoided out of his presence twice.”

1 Sa 18:12 – “And Saul was afraid of David, because YeHoVaH was with him, and was departed from Saul.”

Just because someone has an evil spirit, it doesn't mean that you respond to them in an evil manner; and that is a challenge. When people are out to harm you and to get you and they are saying negative things about you, the tendency is to retaliate. The fact that you are retaliating is an indication of what is going on within you. You've allowed whatever is upon them, to come upon you.

You have to be very careful. This is why evil communications corrupt good character. You have to be very careful about who you are around; who you immerse, who you fellowship with and who you are hanging out with.

That's because whatever is upon them is going to come upon you. Most people don't realize this. You have to always be guarded. You don't even know when the spirit comes upon you. You don't even know when the Spirit comes upon you. Do you remember Eli? Samson?

Samson didn't even know that the Spirit had departed. All you know is that what is left is an attitude. You will "medicate" yourself calling it righteous indignation.

"I'm just telling them the truth!"

"Yeah, but what spirit are you of?"

You see, you can speak the truth and there is no love in it. Love is a fruit of the Spirit. The truth that you are speaking is truth, but it is tainted with the spirit in which it is packaged. You give somebody a piece of your mind.

Yeshua is the center and giver of joy through the word of YeHoVaH.

Jn 15:8 – "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."

Father desires for you to bear much fruit. This is a different word, but it talks about what is going to be the result of you being filled with His Spirit. It's not the fruit of the Spirit as much as it is sharing the word with other people who come into a right relationship.

Jn 15:9 – "As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love."

Jn 15:10 – “If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love.”

Jn 15:11 – “These things have I spoken unto you, that my...”

That my...that **my**...Yeshua says:

“...that my joy might remain in you, and *that* your joy might be full.”

Father wants you to be full of His joy. I have to tell you there are times. As I was sharing earlier in the introduction, I suppressed joy. Suppressing a testimony is (in a sense) denying what the Almighty has done in your life.

The reason why I suppressed testifying about what Father has done in my life is because of people who weren’t filled with His Spirit who were jealous.

There are people who think that just because you are a preacher, that you have “divine favor.” They think that there are certain things that are going to happen in your life that are not going to happen in the average person’s life.

Let me tell you something. There are a lot of preachers in prison! I ministered to quite a few of them – folks that were called. When we were doing prison ministry in Michigan, you’d be surprised at how many preachers there are in prison. It’s like:

“Why are you all in prison, man?”

You aren’t supposed to be asking people why they are in prison, but it’s like:

“Man, you are a preacher. What are you doing in here? Did God send you in here to evangelize?”

I ask because I'm here evangelizing and I get to leave! I didn't say that part, but I'm thinking about this in my head.

"You're a preacher? Father, is this what I have to look forward to?"

A preacher shouldn't have to go to jail to learn righteousness, right? I'm wondering why these preachers are in jail. They are in prison serving time. They have Bible studies. Obviously some preachers found the Almighty in the prison. Those are the ones who when they get out, you don't have to worry about seeing again; not in the "joint." They have had an encounter with the Almighty that has transformed them.

This is one of the reasons why I want to get our *Discipleship Training Program* into the prisons; to help in that reformation process.

Father wants us to be filled with His joy. I'm trying to testify and people are getting upset. There are preachers who are in prison. There are preachers who have had to step down and get employment. There are preachers who have lost their ministries. There are preachers who have lost their families and their ministries.

Being a preacher doesn't grant you more favor than anybody else. **What grants you favor with the Almighty is your obedience.** That's where the favor comes from. When you obey Him, you find favor in His sight.

You don't have a right to ask the Almighty – you can ask Him all you want. It doesn't mean that you are going to get it. If you are disobeying Him and you are praying and asking Him to do this and to do that, do you think that He is obligated to do anything for you? No! But like the prophets of old said:

"If I have found favor in your sight..."

How do you find favor in His sight?

“I did the last thing that He told me to do.”

The reason why I can ask for your favor is because I know that as I am searching myself, I am doing what you are asking me to do. I am searching my heart. I am judging myself so I don't have to be judged.

I'm going to tell you. From the day I accepted the Almighty, I didn't know Him as YeHoVaH. I didn't know Him as Yeshua. I knew Jesus and the Lord. But here is one thing that I do know. I wasn't going back to the life that I had come from. That is one thing that I do know. I had lived that life. I have seen all that that life had to offer me. Right now I'm on this journey and I'm searching. I'm searching for this God who had saved me.

That's what I'm looking for. I'm looking for Him. If I have to go here or go there; wherever He tells me to go, I'm going. Whatever He tells me to join; I'm going to do that. I'm going to say what He tells me to say because I've come to realize that His word is truth.

For a long time as a preacher, I didn't believe that His word was truth. You may say:

“How can you not believe that the word is truth as a preacher?”

I believed that the word was true for other people, not for me. I would never say that, but my actions spoke that. I remember this ladies and gentlemen, for a long time as a preacher and as a man of God. Nobody knows what is going on up here [points to his head] and in here [points to his heart] but me and Him.

What I realized was that for a long time I lied to myself. I lied to myself as though I was in right standing with the Almighty. Why? I did it because I was going to church every Sunday and every Wednesday. Why? I did it because I was reading my Bible. Why? I quit smoking. I quit

drinking. I quit doing drugs. I stopped all the stuff that they told me that sinners did. I stopped all of that.

But what was going on in my head was that my thoughts were going in places that my thoughts should not have been allowed to go. I'm meditating and thinking on things I shouldn't be thinking on; even though the word tells me:

"Whatsoever things are good, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on such things."

I'm supposed to be thinking on those kinds of things, but when I search myself and I judge myself, I'm thinking on stuff that is contrary to the stuff that I'm supposed to be thinking on; and nobody knows that but me. You see, nobody knows what's going on inside your head. The enemy doesn't know until you act. But the Almighty sees not only what's in your heart, but He also sees the intent.

I think that the thing that saved me and the thing that is saving me is because my intent has been right; even when I didn't know how to walk with the right intent. I didn't know how to control my mind. I didn't know that I could. Thoughts would come and the next thing I knew, I'm meditating on something for 15, 20 or 30 minutes. It's like:

"Where is that coming from? Why am I thinking about that?"

The enemy says:

"Because you're not saved!"

"I am saved!"

“Well, if you were saved, you wouldn’t be thinking like that!”

So there is this struggle going on. I remember as I’ve shared with you before, I would pray. I’m sitting and then I’m laying and I’m praying. I’m supposedly on my face talking to the Almighty, but my mind is on my daily tasks. I still catch myself doing these things. I’m praying and I’m thinking and trying to pray. I’m constantly snatching my thoughts; snatching my thoughts. I’m pulling them down and pulling them down so I can focus on why I’m on my face. I’m just being honest with you.

The first thing that I have to do is that I have to be honest with myself. There were too many times in the past where I’m thinking on something that I shouldn’t be thinking on. Then somebody asks:

“What are you thinking?”

I’m too embarrassed to say it, so I say:

“Nothing.”

Now I’m covering up. That’s not helping me. I’m sharing these things with you ladies and gentlemen, so you can understand.

The joy that comes from the Almighty is the joy that He gives you by His Spirit. But when His Spirit comes, His Spirit is also searching. It is searching me and I can ignore what it is showing me. This is why being around people who flatter you, people who are saying all the right things, people who are telling you what they think you want to hear [is so harmful], so I stopped that.

I’m going to tell you something, ladies and gentlemen. The world does this to people all of the time. I have seen people with their wig on crooked. It’s like:

“How does that look?”

“Oh girl, you look cute!”

Your wig is crooked! What do you mean “that looks cute?” You all know what I am talking about. You are just telling people nice things instead of [the truth].

“Aw well, you know. I don’t want to hurt the poor person’s feelings.”

They asked you an honest question. Why can’t you be honest? At least they might have looked in the mirror and adjusted that wig. The reason why they are asking you is because they didn’t bring their mirror with them. If they would have had their mirror, they would have looked at the mirror, seen themselves and seen that the wig was crooked and adjusted it.

I can imagine how many people have gone to the bathroom after you told them that their wig was straight. They now know that if they want truth, not to ask you!

Jn 15:11 – “These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and *that* your joy might be full.”

Jn 15:12 – “This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.”

Jn 15:13 – “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

If you are going to be somebody’s friend, as you’ve heard me say before – I’m always putting my friendships with people at risk. If I’m your friend, I’m going to tell you in the humblest, most loving way that I can; something that I know you are probably not going to want to hear. For some time I just avoided certain things or I’d deflect them because I didn’t want to hurt people’s feelings.

I didn't have the peace within to say things or the tact or the diplomacy to say things. My vocabulary was somewhat limited. The first thing that comes to my mind; if I said that, it would be too hurtful. Now I have to try to find words.

Sometimes while I am standing here, I'm searching for the right word. I can say things and people take it the wrong way. I know that there are people who come into our broadcast, looking for fault. They know that Father, the Spirit has led them, but they don't want to be here.

The people who have come, some of them don't want to be here. So they are going to look for an excuse not to be here. They are going to look for an excuse to change the channel. What they look for are vocabulary deficiencies; the misuse of English grammar. If any little thing is off, they can now discount the message. They are fault-finders. There are people looking for faults. I used to be one of them.

Jn 15:14 – “Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.”

Jn 15:15 – “Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.”

Jn 15:16 – “Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.”

You see, this is what I want, right here. I want that whenever I ask the Father something, I want to receive it.

I'm not a spoiled brat, I'm a spoiled son. No, I'm not spoiled. I'm just a son with the expectation that whatever I ask of my Father, He is going to give to me. What I need to do is to put myself in a position so that whatever I ask for, He has no reason to say "no"; even when I ask on your behalf.

Jn 15:17 – "These things I command you, that ye love one another."

Jn 15:18 – "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before *it hated* you."

This is now chapter 16.

Jn 16:22 – "And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you."

Jn 16:23 – "And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give *it* you."

Jn 16:24 – "Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full."

Peace: I wanted to get to peace, and then we'll bring this lesson to an end. The word here for peace is "*eirene*," which means a state of national tranquility; exemption from the rage and havoc of war; peace between individuals, i.e. harmony, concord; security, safety, prosperity, felicity; (because peace and harmony make and keep things safe and prosperous).

I remember growing up that we used to have the peace sign. You know:

“Peace brother!”

People would speak peace all of the time. Then we would go to church. The churches that I was in, it would be:

“Peace be unto you.”

The congregation would respond with:

“And also unto you.”

See? The Greek word *eirene* corresponds to the Hebrew word *shalom*. I remember when I found out what “shalom” meant. I put it on my signature in my emails. I used to send it out. I said that when I say “peace” or “shalom,” this is what I mean. Shalom expresses the idea of peace, well-being, restoration, reconciliation with Elohim, and salvation in the fullest sense.

The word means completeness, soundness, welfare, peace. Welfare is not food stamps here! It is that you may fare well; not as in “goodbye,” but that things may be well with you. As they used to say:

“All is well. All is well in my soul.”

It also means safety, soundness in body, welfare, health, prosperity; peace, quiet, tranquility and contentment; friendship, human relations with God especially in covenant relationship; peace (from war); peace (as an adjective).

This word shalom is deep.

“Shabbat Shalom.”

It can be a phrase that we just speak, but when we understand shalom, it takes on a whole different meaning when we speak. The most famous [use of this] is something that we do every time we come together. When Father spoke to Moses and Aaron, He said:

Nu 6:23 – “Speak unto Aaron and unto his sons, saying,”

This is something that is meant to be perpetual.

“...saying, On this wise ye shall bless the children of Israel, saying unto them,”

The thing that the Father wants for His people [is His blessing]. When we get to the end of the Aaronic benediction (as it is called), it is more than just the end of a service. It is more than:

“Okay it’s time. You can get up now and you can leave.”

When we speak “shalom,” what YeHoVaH was saying – remember in the psalms that He sent His word and healed them of all of their diseases? Okay. Where did He send His word and heal them of all of their diseases? Do we see in the Torah while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, where they had any diseases? What disease can we remember that the children of Israel had where He sent His word and healed them?

What sickness plagued them? There were no sicknesses and plagues in the wilderness. Do you understand? There were plagues that He brought to Egypt to cause Pharaoh to release the people. There were serpents that He sent when the people murmured and complained. He opened the ground and sucked in 3,000 people.

The fact is that this verse said to Aaron:

“Listen, I want you to pronounce this blessing upon the people.”

Every time they did this, this was the word that He sent to heal them of all of their diseases. The healing that the Almighty performed was before the disease came! He

spoke His word so that they would be protected from every calamity, from every plague and from every pestilence.

When they disobeyed His word, then He had to chasten them. He had to correct them. He had to discipline them. But every time they pronounced this word; this blessing upon the children of Israel, the supernatural manifestation of the power of the Almighty moved among the people.

They never called it a benediction. When Aaron pronounced it; when Moses told him to pronounce it, Aaron understood that **these weren't just normal words that he was speaking.**

So he would say it. Of course when the *King James* takes it and puts it into [this vernacular]:

“The Lord bless thee...”

It kind of lessens it a little. Nevertheless we can take it however we get it. But understand it when you are pronouncing this blessing.

There is something about the people of old and the understanding of the power of the Almighty that manifested in the midst of them. It was somewhat different than for us today.

There are times when I'm on the phone and I'm talking to people. I'm praying for people. I'm praying with expectation. It's like I'm sending the word to correct some stuff. I'm speaking into the area or issue where a person is infirm. I'm speaking directly to that infirmity. I'm commanding it to go because it has no right to be there. I'm operating in a level of authority that is my Elohim-given authority because of who I am and **whose I am.**

When I'm speaking to a circumstance and I'm speaking to a situation, I'm not speaking with [hesitation]:

“l...l...l...”

This is where I can see where hope and all of that can be somewhat negative. I am not hoping that He's going to

do something with the expectation that He might not do it. I'm speaking with the expectation that what I am saying is going to manifest; and it's going to manifest right now! Do you understand?

There are times when I'm praying. This is why you will see sometimes that I close my eyes. I don't need to look at you! It's not that it's hard to look at you. I'm trying to focus. I'm trying to concentrate. I'm sending these – my words are like surgery. It's like a surgeon's tool.

It's like when you have a master surgeon; someone who's cutting and moving and connecting things and fixing things. They are sewing it back up with the expectation that they have done their job. My words are like a surgeon's tool. I close my eyes to put them where they need to go so that when I'm done and I say "Amen," surgery is over!

Now, I know that even though the issue has been corrected, there is sometimes a healing process. The pain – this is why I know. One of the things that I like hearing when I have prayed and people have had pain and they have been limited in their mobility; I like hearing.

"What do you feel?"

"There's a tightness."

You see, tightness doesn't mean pain.

"There's a heat."

I'm asking you:

"Is the pain there?"

"Well, no."

The absence of pain is a good probability that the problem that caused the pain is gone. So heat? I'll take that. Tightness? I'll take that. What I like even better is:

"I don't feel anything."

Do you understand? There are times when I'm praying with people and I'm praying for people and I'm trying to get people to understand. You don't speak *at* a situation, you speak *to* it! Don't speak at it. One of the ways that people speak at it is that they will say:

"Father, I ask that this pain be removed."

They are asking Father for this pain be removed. I say:

"Pain, go!"

You speak to the pain! Father has given us the authority to speak. If He's given us the authority to speak to mountains and trees and things of that nature, why can't we speak to the actual problem? Command it to correct itself. Imagine this. You have a child who is not behaving.

"Father, I ask that you correct my child."

"Father, I'm asking you to correct my child!"

Then you get frustrated because it doesn't happen. I hope I'm provoking you. No. You tell the child:

"Child, correct yourself! Behave yourself."

Or you're going to have to give it some stimulus. Do you understand what I'm saying?

We have an authority, but if you are not walking in that authority, then it is usurping. You can usurp your own authority by not walking in it. You can give it away. You can choose not to do what Father has given you the authority to do. The only reason why you don't do it is because you don't believe Him. Own it!

People call me for prayer and I have them pray. Sometimes while they are praying, I correct them. It's like:

"Hold it, hold it, hold it. Don't speak at it.
Speak to it. Let me show you how. Pain, Go!
Now say that!"

That's what I do. I don't need you calling me. You have authority! There are too many people not walking in that authority. They recognize my authority. They call me for my authority and I'm trying to get them to understand their authority. If there is something hindering your authority, then let's address that. I can't have you calling me five years from now. Somebody else should be calling me. I have to make room for new folks! Halleluyah!

Nu 6:24 – “YeHoVaH bless thee, and keep thee.”

Nu 6:25 – “YeHoVaH make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee.”

Nu 6:26 – “YeHoVaH lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee **peace.**”

I encourage all of you to do a study on this. The whole point of Him doing this is for you to have favor, do you understand this? When you look at this (and I'm not going to do this for you), I encourage you to do a study on the word “bless.”

“YeHoVaH bless you.”

“YeHoVaH keep you.”

Some of you already know this. What is that word – *shemar*? [It is *barak*]. It means “bless.”

“YeHoVaH bless you.”

I remember that I used to be part of a church. They used to sing *barak* (not Obama). Folks get it confused sometimes. (Laughter) The point that I want to get to that I will spend a moment on, is:

“...and give you peace.”

When He speaks that word “peace” ladies and gentlemen, I’m telling you. That’s one of the most powerful words in this statement; although they are all powerful. But look at what that word is saying here. Look at that word. It means: completeness.

When He is giving you peace, He is completing you! When He is giving you peace, He is causing you to be sound. He is not giving you a Spirit of fear, but of love, of power, and of a sound mind. He is saying:

“I want you to fare well. I want all to be well with you. I want you to be complete. You are now complete.”

He gives you His completeness.

“You are going to be safe.”

“Why?”

“Because I’m your rear guard. I’m your High Tower. I’m the one who is going to fight your battle. I’m around you. I’m before you. I’m behind you. I have you covered.”

He is saying:

“Listen. When I say ‘peace,’ that means that I want you to be healthy. I want you to be wealthy.”

This is exactly what He’s saying. Health:

“I want you to be in good health. I want your soul to prosper. I want you to prosper. I want everything about you to be prosperous.”

When you lay your head down at night, you aren’t worried that your lights are going to be turned off. Your lights? Your electricity! Hopefully you are turning off the

lights. But if you have no electricity, you don't have to worry about turning the lights off. Nobody is leaving the lights on for you. Do you understand this?

He wants you to be complete; to have everything that you need; *everything* that you need. He says:

“When I give you peace, understand something. This peace that I'm talking about, the world doesn't understand this. But don't worry about the world. Don't fear or concern yourself with that stuff.”

You see ladies and gentlemen, the thing that I've come to realize and I've come to learn is that I now have to ask myself and test myself on whether or not I believe this stuff.

“Do I believe this?”

I've seen enough manifestations to convince me a thousand times over. **His word is real!** I know it's real! I know it's real. [To an audience member] I know you're waiting to testify, aren't you? I know you are! I know you are. Let me tell you something ladies and gentlemen.

I posted something on the internet last week. It talked about the wealth of America and how many more people became wealthy this year. The news wants us to see that the economy is terrible. Of course, the Democrats want people to believe that – look at what has happened. The Republicans want folks to see that we're on the wrong track. They say:

“We need to take the country back. We need to get the country back on track.”

There are a whole lot of talking heads out there. It's somewhat confusing as to what or who to believe.

I just realized that yesterday, Saudi Arabia was downgraded in their credit-worthiness because the price of

oil has plummeted. They are anticipating in five years (and they have already seen a deficit), but based on projections, if this continues, in the next five years Saudi Arabia is going to be in a terrible financial situation.

Looking at things from a global perspective, you see the IMFs and all of these other monetary funds that are in operation on Wall Street where the funds are and how much. You look at these politicians and they are raising billions. That's going to be more than a billion dollars raised for someone to become the President of the United States. That's a lot of money!

You have billionaires who are chucking large quantities of change to them [candidates] in these races to control their outcomes. Yet in the midst of all of this, the percentage of millionaires increased substantially during this "downed" economy. It is like:

"How can that happen?"

If somebody is "taken," everyone should be taken. No, it's not that way folks. It's never been that way. You see, a lot of it has to do with the mindset of people. What you think about yourself and your outlook is going to determine where you find yourself. If you look at the economy and allow the economy to minister to you, then you are now going to be trying to figure out where you fit into the economic scheme of things and where you want to fit.

For some reason or another, you'll make the mistake of thinking that some politician is going to help you accomplish that place in the economy that you so desire. It's not going to happen.

The one who determines your economic status is the one who controls everything. Why do I need to look to the Democrats or to the Republicans when I've got YeHoVaH? That's who I need to be looking to. They don't define me, He does. They don't determine my future, He does. They don't determine my economic status, He does. They don't

determine my success or my failure; He does based on how I respond to Him.

If I seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, then all this other stuff...

Do I believe that? What about you? What do you believe? I've chosen to believe Him. As a result, I can't be bothered. I can't be worried. The news doesn't tell me. I watch these guys sometimes and these people are just doing their job. That's what they're doing. Their job is to minister to you, what they think.

When you think about it, you have a world going on around us with all kinds of stuff happening all over the globe. Who determines what goes into that thirty-minute or that one-hour segment? It's full of commercials. The AP. That's who determines it.

I say to you ladies and gentlemen, as we're looking at these fruits. What is going on inside you is going to determine what manifests outside of you.