

FREE

A Twelve Tribes Freepaper

NOT A TRACT
THIS IS
AN INVITATION

THE NIGHT IS OVER

Suspended Animation *p. 4* • Reset *p. 10* • Light &
Darkness *p. 16* • A Fish Story *p. 20* • Call to Give All *p. 23*



We All Live Together!

We who wrote this paper actually live together like an extended family, sharing all things in common, just as the first disciples did in the first century. The Bible plainly says regarding the first church, *“All who believed were together and shared all things in common”* (Acts 2:44). It goes on to describe how they were of one heart and soul, and that there was not a needy person among them, for they gave up all their possessions to meet the needs of their spiritual brothers and sisters (Acts 4:32-35). Some people say this was only for back then, but we’ve been living this way for over 40 years. You can come and see for yourself at any of our addresses, which are printed in the back of this paper and on our web site, www.twelvetribe.org.

Living in Households

In each of our communities, there are one or more houses in a cluster, some in cities and some on farms. Several families and single people live together in each house, according to the size of the house. We like large houses because we like to live together. Married couples have their own rooms, plus as many adjacent rooms as needed for their children. The single men share one or more rooms, as do the single women. We all share a common kitchen and dining room, where we take our meals together *“with gladness and sincerity of heart.”*¹

Gathering Daily

In at least one house in the cluster we have a large gathering room where we gather together every morning and evening to worship our Creator in song and dance as in Psalm 150, using the prescribed musical instruments that we are learning to build and play. We are all free to speak from our hearts the things we are learning, as our heavenly Father teaches us through one another, according to the gifting and grace given to each person.²



As a spiritual priesthood, we pray together for the pressing needs of our people and for our Father's will to be done on earth.

Working Together

After our morning gathering we have breakfast together and then go to work in our various places, doing the deeds prepared for each one of us.³ We work together in our own cafés, farms, cottage industries, and trades, not as independent contractors or employees of outside companies. All income from our various endeavors goes into a *common purse* from which all of our needs are met equitably. We don't have our own independent income or debts to carry by ourselves, except for the debt of love we owe to our Savior, which we repay by loving and caring for one another.

Raising Our Children

We love and cherish our children. We teach them at home, using a curriculum we are developing ourselves, to give them the basic skills they need to read, write, and speak effectively, to live together in peace, and to fulfill their created purpose. Our children's training goes far beyond the classroom, however, as they are fully integrated into every aspect of our socially and spiritually rich tribal life. They learn to cook and sew, build and farm, care for animals, sing and dance, play musical instruments, and most importantly, extend hospitality to the constant flow of guests who are drawn to the light of our life of love.

Together we are experiencing and demonstrating the restoration of all things spoken of by the prophets of old,⁴ and by our Master Yahshua,⁵ whose life, death, and resurrection make this life possible. 🌿

¹ Acts 2:46 ² 1 Corinthians 14:26; 1 Peter 4:11; Romans 12:6

³ Ephesians 2:10 ⁴ Isaiah 49:6; Jeremiah 30:20; 31:1,4,13,14; Malachi 4:5-6 ⁵ Matthew 5:17-19; 17:10-11; 22:37-40; Luke 1:17; 24:44

(*Yahshua* is the original Hebrew name of the one called *Jesus* in most English Bible translations; see "The Name Above All Names" on p. 28)

Suspended Animation

The epic struggle of good against evil has been the story of mankind since the ancient days. Central to this story is the rise of a great and peculiar nation called *Israel*, a nation with a very special purpose.

The story goes like this: Man falls from his created purity and purpose, and darkness is unleashed on the earth. He is in great need, deeply troubled. But the Creator has a plan, a solution to win mankind back. He has a plan to push back the darkness. He looks down, searching for a heart that longs to do something about the unrighteousness and injustice that has been loosed on the earth. God needs man to carry out His marvelous plan.

He sees one man with a heart of

gold, the perfect heart upon which to build a mighty nation. This man, Abraham, has a pure and childlike desire to see righteousness and justice prevail over the cancer that is overtaking humanity. His heart yearns for it to such an extent that he is willing to give everything to see it come to pass. So the Creator calls him to action and sets him in motion: “Go from your country and your family and your father’s house to the land that I will show you, and I will make of you a great nation!”¹

¹ Genesis 12:1-2



When the Creator calls upon a willing heart, that one will respond. Thus a precious friendship between God and man begins as the tender, willing heart of this man responds to the call to action. He gets up and goes, believing in the voice that calls him and gives him hope. He walks away from anything and everything that would distract him from his new noble mission: *Righteousness!* All he had previously labored to establish pales in comparison to this calling. *Justice!*

Abraham's life is marked by faith and determination, shown in his care for his household and his unconditional hospitality. He eagerly passes on his godly ways to the small tribe that forms around him. The Creator smiles on this, confirming him, promising that this heart will thrive and flourish through his offspring until the darkness is no more. This man's descendents are destined to become the cure for the predicament of a broken human race.

The epic story continues as his descendents multiply. Victories and defeats are recorded as they grow into an amazing people with a radical cause burning in their hearts. They are the seed of Abraham. They are blessed by God and

given the name *Israel*, meaning "to rule with God." They grow into a nation of twelve tribes, meant to be a beacon of hope amidst a dying world, a light shining to give guidance and wisdom. *Israel...* chosen to bring an end to all injustice.

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The Test of Time

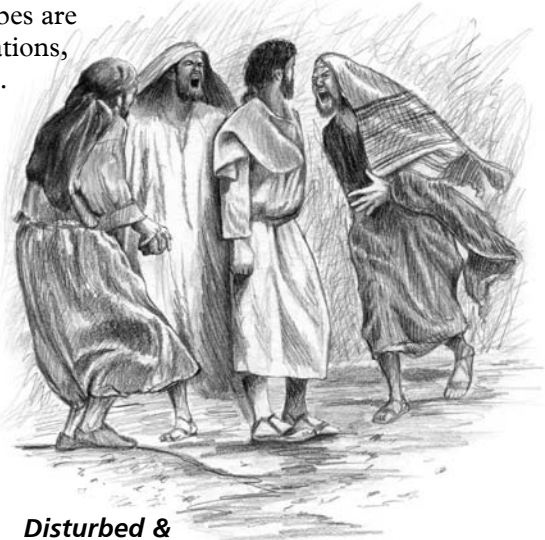
A call of such importance is greatly opposed. Their zeal is quenched by compromise as the years go by. Complacency sets in. No more do the people love their God with all their heart, soul, and strength. They go after other gods, abandoning the faith of their forefathers. The head is sick; the heart faints. No more are they stirred by the suffering they see around them. The widows are neglected, the needy are ignored, and injustice reigns, as if to taunt God Himself.

Despite the pleas of the prophets to return and not forget who they were meant to be, they do not turn. After suffering long with a stiff-necked people, their God steps back. The voice of the prophets ceases to be heard in the land. They abandon their calling and fall into great dysfunction as they forget the commandments of the One who called them. They get disoriented, lose their way, and the twelve tribes are scattered among the nations, forsaking their purpose. Their noble calling to be a royal priesthood and a holy nation is forgotten. They are not the light that brings salvation to the ends of the earth.² Therefore, God's promise to Abraham goes into abeyance, a state of suspended animation, while the darkness takes over.

In the absence of prophetic zeal, other dark things breed and grow. Dead religion is born — elaborate ceremonies, oppressive laws, ritualistic prayers, and empty traditions overtake the original spark. Schisms worm their way in. Strife burrows deep. Sacrifice upon lame

sacrifice is offered. Feast upon meaningless feast is kept. Year after monotonous year passes, and the mighty promises await another people who care enough to lay hold of them. The darkness rolls onward.

Into this scenario enters John the Baptist. "*Unclean! Unclean! Wake up! Turn from your ways! Repent!*" comes the jolting shout that causes deep tremors to shake their



Disturbed & disrupted, exposed to be unwilling, the religious leaders felt that He must be silenced!

lukewarm religion. Immediately follows Yahshua, the Messiah. He evokes the same ancient call to action. He gives his lips to the prophetic voice that calls them to justice. "*Come, follow Me! Rend your hearts and not your garments! Return to your God with all of your heart, soul, and strength! Love one another!*

² Isaiah 49:5-6

Care for your brothers!" A great stirring begins.

Disturbed, disrupted, exposed, yet unwilling, the religious leaders decide that all this commotion must cease. They must silence that voice, so they brutally murder the messenger, Yahshua, the Messiah. But this does not stop the movement. On the contrary, something greater is unleashed. The ancient promises made to Abraham are brought out of suspended animation. Hope rises out of the darkness as the disciples respond to the Messianic call.

As crowds gather in Jerusalem for the day of Pentecost, the Spirit of God descends upon the gathered disciples of Yahshua, empowering them to deliver a radical call to the multitudes, hoping to find a place in the hearts of a few like Abraham. "Be saved from this wicked and perverse generation!"

The ancient Way is opened up. Three thousand prove willing, and like an explosion, they respond to the call that very day.³ Israel is reborn and again they embark on their noble mission. All those who believe come together and share all things in common. With one heart and one soul they do the deeds of their forefather, Abraham,⁴ commanding their

children and their households to keep the Way, doing righteousness and justice. Fellowship abounds and there are no needy among them. Abundant grace is upon them all!

They gather in a circle every morning and evening. Each brings an offering! All speak because all have confidence! The spirit of prophecy is poured out upon them! They all see the vision! They all dream the dream! Unbelievers come in their midst and fall on their faces, knowing that God is in their midst. They join the circle, too. They hear the voice. They receive the same heart as Abraham had so long ago, responding to the voice of his God.

But, alas, little things take their toll. Time is always the greatest test. Will they endure? Will their phenomenal life continue and prosper until the fruit matures? Will there be a harvest? Will deliverance come upon the earth? Will they push back the darkness?

They slack in their devotion just a little. Their eyes begin to wander. They go on without staying true and clean. Divisions spring up and go unresolved. It is just a little leaven...⁵ Wisdom escapes them. Their revelation fades. They forget the battle. They lose the victory. Compromise creeps in and their light dims.

³ Acts 2:37-45

⁴ John 8:39

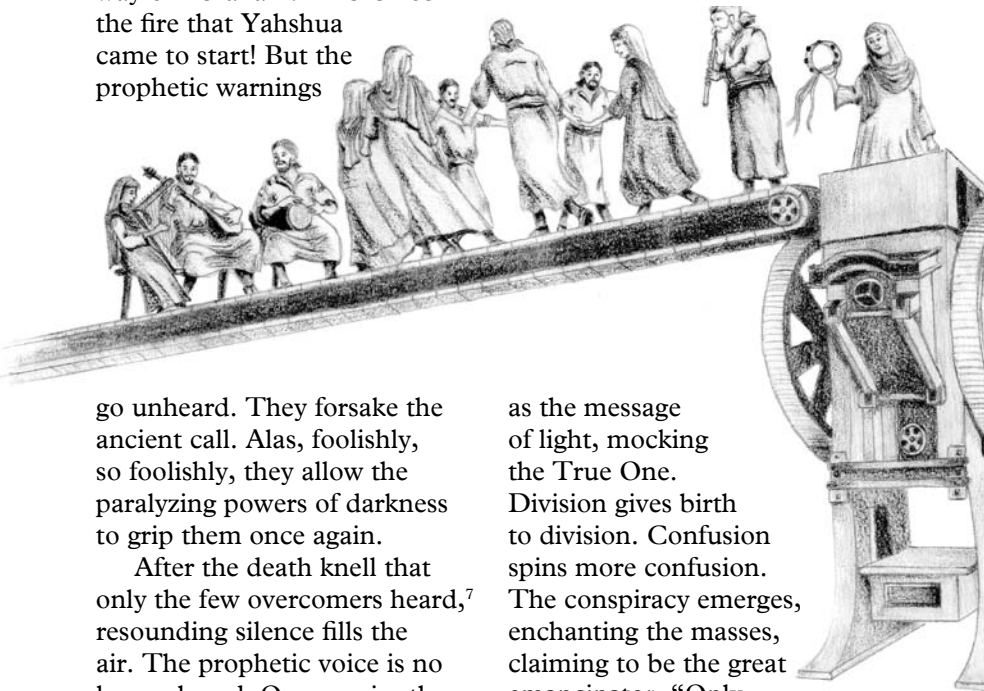
⁵ 1 Corinthians 5:6

Dusk descends and they can't see clearly. They hold back and others' needs aren't met. Their hearts slide back to ways they left behind. They fall into ritual, ceremony, and mere tradition rather than continuing to pay the high cost of love. *"Line upon line, precept upon precept, a little here, a little there..."*⁶ They grow weary of gathering together.

Oh, what a great hope they turn away from! Don't they see what is at stake? This is not the way of Abraham. This is not the fire that Yahshua came to start! But the prophetic warnings

yet another time and another people who have a heart like Abraham, who will fulfill the Law and the Prophets.

How great is the darkness! Creeping things, crawling things come out at night. The circle is broken and pews are installed. The downtrodden fill the pews, their heads bent under heavy burdens. Proud men arise, taking the pulpit. Wolves come in. False prophets speak swelling words. Sorcery and deception masquerade



go unheard. They forsake the ancient call. Alas, foolishly, so foolishly, they allow the paralyzing powers of darkness to grip them once again.

After the death knell that only the few overcomers heard,⁷ resounding silence fills the air. The prophetic voice is no longer heard. Once again, the promise of deliverance on the earth withdraws into a state of suspended animation, awaiting

as the message of light, mocking the True One. Division gives birth to division. Confusion spins more confusion. The conspiracy emerges, enchanting the masses, claiming to be the great emancipator. "Only believe! Only believe!" Traps are set, lying in wait, preying upon the needy, waiting till the hungry fall for

⁶ Isaiah 28:10,13

⁷ Revelation 3:4

the bait. Darkness rises to great power. Towering spires mark the land. Huddled sinners dwell below, hopeless to change. Sunsets come and go, seasons run their course. Justice is nowhere to be found.

Who would have imagined it would come to this? Is there none to deliver? "How long, O Sovereign, how long?" The Creator's eyes again search over the earth.

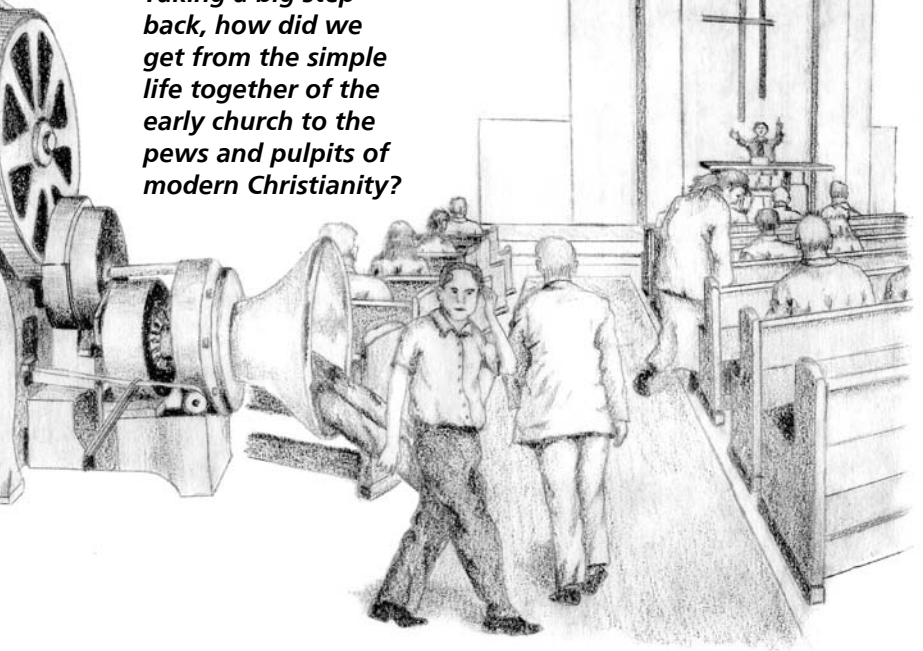
Then He sees it. A glimmer of hope. A friend. More friends. He calls them. He gathers a people. Their eyes can see the vision. Their ears can hear the

voice. The light is lit! The day is dawning! Allied in the cause, they fight to end all injustice. This time it *will* come to an end! The curse *will* be broken! Salvation *will* reach to the ends of the earth! With one voice they open their mouths to make the ancient cry:

"Come out of her, my people! Be saved from this perverse generation!"

They are Israel! They are the restoration of all things! ☩

Taking a big step back, how did we get from the simple life together of the early church to the pews and pulpits of modern Christianity?





I was born in '99. Based on my age, most people would expect me to be an electronic junkie, that is, one of those who know of no other life than that which is found in their *iPhone* or *Android*. It wakes them in the morning, provides entertainment to cheer them, connects them with their friends, informs them when and where and what to eat. It tells them what is going on in the world and how they should think about it.

In every aspect of their life it has some effect. Whether they are programming it or it is programming them, they cannot live without it... or so they think. It is an addiction.

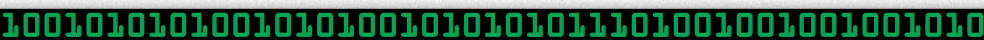
But I am not this way. I was born in a very wonderful place with a very important purpose for my life. I have really good parents who keep me from dissipating my energy. They have taught me to live one hundred percent for God. No, I am not



saying that I just talk about Him on my *Facebook* page and only listen to Christian rock. Actually, I don't even have a *Facebook* page. I have experienced something far better.

You could compare the church to an electronic device. "Out of the box" it was original, pristine, uncorrupted. In the

beginning, they all lived together, sharing everything they had with one another. All they thought about





was being true to their Savior. At their regular gatherings everyone spoke, because everyone had something to share, since everyone was sincere and devoted to the cause. This was the “like new” condition of the church.

But, as often happens in the electronic realm, hackers got in. Men like Constantine and Augustine brought in strange protocols, corrupting its memories and its data. Viruses went undetected and wreaked havoc. Malware was introduced that made it really hard to do anything. Finally, the church as a whole froze. The “black screen of death” was upon them.

Strangely enough, many thought it was normal that no real spiritual work could be accomplished. Every once in a while someone would call it into question, but he would be quickly flagged, fire-walled, or even killed. Such it how it was for 1900 years.

This is actually what the Son of God prophesied in John 9:4,

We must work the works of Him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work.

Recently, some cognitive people have started to realize

that all there is to Christianity is the “black screen of death.” They are starting to wonder whether the device is beyond repair. Many just give up on it, while others feel that with a few updates, defrags, and reboots they can get it back up to speed again.

But what it really needs is a “hard reset.” It has to go all the way back to the way it was when it was first “out of the box.” It has to go all the way back to the way the Way was when it was *the Way*.

I’m telling you, that radical life is beginning again! It is just like “out of the box”! I live with people who are planning on bringing the evil one’s reign to an end. We have left behind our own selfish interests to embark on the narrow way together. After 1900 years of death and darkness, a new light is on the earth — the way the church should be. Our doors are always open for people who really want to see what we were doing. We would love for you to come.

Sodi



* Read Acts 2:42-45 and 4:32-35, and then Acts 9:2; 19:9,23; 22:4; 24:14



Captain of the S.S. Dinghy



His face was radiating and swollen. Blisters were surfacing on his forehead and cheekbones. The torturous sun beat down mercilessly upon him. His lips were cracked and bleeding. He knew he shouldn't, but found himself licking them often, as it provided the briefest moment of relief after doing so. He had been adrift in his dinghy* for many days now.

At times he thought he saw land, but as he drifted closer, he realized that it was merely a low-hanging cloud on the horizon, or merely a mirage, a figment of his own imagination. A lesser man would have lost all hope by then, but somehow he clung to the hope of rescue, as uncertain as that may have been.

The onset of night brought him welcome relief from the blazing fireball overhead. He curled up in a fetal position in the bottom of his thin-skinned craft. The coolness of the water below carried through the floor. He pressed his face closer, as it brought relief to his painful blisters. His head swimming dizzily from the day's exposure, he drifted into a deep sleep, his body attempting to recover and mend itself overnight.

It had been two days since he had exhausted the last of his fresh water supply. He stared at the salt water around his craft. He knew he shouldn't even think about drinking it, as anyone with common sense knew. Yet, it looked so good, seemingly beckoning to him,

* *Dinghy* – a small boat of shallow draft carried by a larger vessel, used as a lifeboat.

offering a promise of relief to his parched throat and his tongue, which cleaved to the roof of his mouth. He hardly had any saliva and his vocal cords felt like rusty piano wires grating against his Adam's apple as he swallowed. He stooped down and took a drink, the cool, refreshing liquid washing over the insides of his mouth and throat, lubricating as he swallowed. He didn't even mind the salty taste. *Just this once*, he thought to himself...



A work of fiction? Or a representation of the reality I knew all too well?

Yes, I was well out to sea in my little boat, groping to hear from my Maker. Maybe you also are adrift upon the waters of life with only a thin-skinned craft keeping you from drowning in the troubled waters surrounding you?

The storms of life come and the waves threaten to capsize your meager means of security. You know what lurks beneath those waters in the darkness, waiting to devour you. You cling to your personal salvation, the only thing keeping you afloat, yet you remain alone, isolated both from the water and from your fellow man. At least you're in command of your own destiny, the captain of your own ship — or dinghy, as it were...

What if you saw a large ship passing by in the night? You're cold and alone at night, adrift on the waters with no sense of direction.

The lights of the ship can be seen from miles away on the horizon. You hear the faint strains of music and laughter

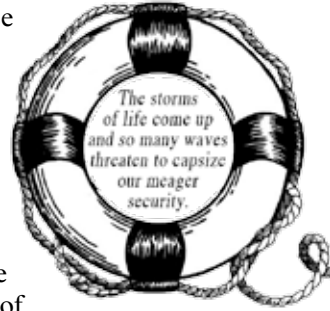
aboard with greater clarity as it draws nearer, amplified by the water. There you sit, shivering in the cold of the night. Tired, hungry, thirsty, burned out, but more than anything else, you're utterly alone.

It's the *ship of salvation* — a ship teeming with life, a life of togetherness, a community of true friends. The crew works together, swabbing the decks, maintaining the ship, feeding the crew, staying on course. Yet they are always on the lookout to rescue anyone adrift in the ocean. Don't let it pass you by!

You're welcome aboard the "Ark" offering salvation from the flood of wickedness that is now sweeping over the earth.

I climbed aboard, letting my dinghy drift away into the waters. We'd love for you to come aboard, too!

-Cal
(former captain
of his own dinghy)



COMMANDS

of the New Testament

	JN 7:37	IF ANYONE IS THIRSTY, LET HIM COME TO ME AND DRINK.	
	MT 11:28	COME TO ME ALL WHO LABOR AND ARE HEAVY LADEN.	
	MT 11:29	TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU AND LEARN FROM ME.	
	JN 12:35	WALK WHILE YOU HAVE THE LIGHT.	
	JN 12:36	BELIEVE IN THE LIGHT, THAT YOU MAY BECOME SONS OF LIGHT.	
MT 4:17	MK 1:15	REPENT AND BELIEVE IN THE GOSPEL, FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND.	
	MT 5:17	THINK NOT THAT I HAVE COME TO ABOLISH THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS.	
	MK 12:29	HEAR O ISRAEL: THE SOVEREIGN OUR GOD, THE SOVEREIGN IS ONE.	
MT 22:37	MK 12:30	YOU SHALL LOVE THE SOVEREIGN YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.	
	MT 22:39	YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.	
	LK 10:28	DO THIS AND YOU WILL LIVE.	
	MT 19:17	IF YOU WOULD ENTER LIFE, KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS.	
MT 19:21	LK 18:22	IF YOU WOULD BE COMPLETE, GO, SELL ALL YOU POSSESS AND GIVE TO THE POOR, AND COME AND FOLLOW ME.	
	LK 16:19	MAKE FRIENDS FOR YOURSELVES BY MEANS OF UNRIGHTEOUS MAMMON.	
	LK 14:33	NO ONE OF YOU CAN BE MY DISCIPLE WHO DOES NOT GIVE UP ALL HIS OWN POSSESSIONS.	
MT 8:22	LK 9:60	LEAVE THE DEAD TO BURY THEIR OWN DEAD, AND FOLLOW ME.	
	MT 16:24	IF ANYONE SERVES ME, HE MUST FOLLOW ME.	
	JN 12:25	REMEMBER THE WORD THAT I SAID TO YOU, "A SERVANT IS NOT GREATER THAN HIS MASTER." IF THEY PERSECUTE YOU, THEY WILL ALSO PERSECUTE YOU.	
	MT 5:12	LK 6:23	REJOICE, BE GLAD, AND LEAP FOR JOY (WHEN MEN INSULT, PERSECUTE, HATE, SLANDER, AND REVILE YOU).
MT 5:44	LK 6:27,35	LOVE YOUR ENEMIES.	
	LK 6:27,35	DO GOOD TO THOSE WHO HATE YOU.	
	LK 6:28	BLESS THOSE WHO CURSE YOU.	
MT 5:44	LK 6:28	PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ABUSE YOU.	
	MT 5:39	DO NOT RESIST HIM WHO IS EVIL.	
MT 5:39	LK 6:29	OFFER THE OTHER CHEEK ALSO (TO HIM WHO STRIKES YOU).	
MT 5:40	LK 6:29	DO NOT WITHHOLD EVEN YOUR SHIRT (FROM HIM WHO TAKES AWAY YOUR COAT).	
	MT 5:41	GO TWO MILES (WITH WHOEVER FORCES YOU TO GO ONE MILE).	
MT 5:42	LK 6:30	GIVE TO WHOEVER BEGS FROM YOU.	
	MT 5:42	DO NOT TURN AWAY FROM WHOEVER WANTS TO BORROW FROM YOU.	
	LK 6:30	DO NOT DEMAND WHAT IS YOURS (FROM WHOEVER TAKES IT AWAY).	
	LK 6:38	GIVE, AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU.	
	LK 6:35	LEND, EXPECTING NOTHING IN RETURN.	
	LK 6:36	BE MERCIFUL, EVEN AS YOUR FATHER IS MERCIFUL.	
MT 7:1	LK 6:37	JUDGE NOT, LEST YOU BE JUDGED.	
	LK 6:37	CONDEMN NOT, AND YOU WILL NOT BE CONDEMNED.	
	LK 6:37	FORGIVE, AND YOU WILL BE FORGIVEN.	
	JN 7:24	DO NOT JUDGE BY APPEARANCES, BUT JUDGE WITH RIGHTEOUS JUDGEMENT.	
MT 7:5	LK 6:42	FIRST TAKE THE LOG OUT OF YOUR OWN EYE, AND THEN YOU WILL SEE CLEARLY HOW TO TAKE OUT THE SPECK THAT IS IN YOUR BROTHER'S EYE.	
	MT 5:23-24	IF YOU REMEMBER YOUR BROTHER HAS SOMETHING AGAINST YOU, LEAVE YOUR GIFT AT THE ALTAR AND GO.	
	MT 5:24	FIRST BE RECONCILED TO YOUR BROTHER, AND THEN COME AND OFFER YOUR GIFT.	
MT 5:25	LK 12:58	MAKE FRIENDS QUICKLY WITH YOUR OPPONENT AT LAW, BEFORE YOU GET TO COURT.	
	LK 17:3	IF YOUR BROTHER SINS, REBUKE HIM.	
	LK 17:3	IF HE REPENTS, FORGIVE HIM.	
	LK 17:4	IF HE SINS AGAINST YOU SEVEN TIMES A DAY, AND RETURNS TO YOU SEVEN TIMES, SAYING, "I REPENT," FORGIVE HIM.	
MT 18:21-22		I DO NOT SAY TO YOU, FORGIVE HIM UP TO SEVEN TIMES, BUT UP TO SEVENTY TIMES SEVEN.	
	MT 5:48	YOU, THEREFORE, MUST BE PERFECT, AS YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER IS PERFECT.	
MT 18:15		IF YOUR BROTHER SINS AGAINST YOU, GO AND TELL HIM HIS FAULT.	
MT 18:16		IF HE DOES NOT LISTEN, TAKE ONE OR TWO OTHERS ALONG WITH YOU.	
MT 18:17		IF HE REFUSES TO LISTEN TO THEM, TELL IT TO THE CHURCH.	
MT 18:17		IF HE REFUSES TO LISTEN EVEN TO THE CHURCH, LET HIM BE TO YOU AS A GENTILE AND A TAX COLLECTOR.	
MK 11:25		WHENEVER YOU STAND PRAYING, FORGIVE.	
	MT 6:7	WHEN PRAYING, DO NOT HEAP UP EMPTY PHRASES, AS THE GENTILES DO.	
LK 11:2-4		WHEN YOU PRAY, SAY: FATHER, HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME, YOUR KINGDOM COME, GIVE US EACH DAY OUR DAILY BREAD, AND FORGIVE US OUR SINS, FOR WE FORGIVE ALL WHO ARE INDEBTED TO US, AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION.	
	MK 6:8	DO NOT BE LIKE THE GENTILES: FOR YOUR FATHER KNOWS WHAT YOU NEED, BEFORE YOU ASK HIM.	
LK 12:15		BEWARE, AND BE ON YOUR GUARD AGAINST EVERY FORM OF GREED.	
MT 22:21	LK 20:25	RENDER THEREFORE TO CAESAR THE THINGS THAT ARE CAESAR'S, AND TO GOD, THE THINGS THAT ARE GOD'S.	
	JN 2:16	STOP MAKING MY FATHER'S HOUSE A HOUSE OF MERCHANDISE.	
	MT 6:19	DO NOT LAY UP FOR YOURSELVES TREASURES ON THE EARTH.	
	MT 6:20	LAY UP FOR YOURSELVES TREASURES IN HEAVEN.	
MT 6:25	LK 12:22	DO NOT BE ANXIOUS ABOUT YOUR LIFE, WHAT YOU SHALL EAT; NOR ABOUT YOUR BODY WHAT YOU SHALL PUT ON.	
MT 6:26	LK 12:24	CONSIDER THE RAVENS.	
MT 6:28	LK 12:27	CONSIDER THE LILIES.	
MT 6:31	LK 12:29	DO NOT SEEK WHAT YOU SHALL EAT, AND WHAT YOU SHALL DRINK, OR WHAT YOU SHALL WEAR, AND DO NOT KEEP WORRYING.	
MT 6:33	LK 12:31	SEEK FIRST HIS KINGDOM AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE YOURS AS WELL.	
	LK 12:32	FEAR NOT, LITTLE FLOCK.	
	LK 12:33	SELL YOUR POSSESSIONS AND GIVE ALMS.	
	LK 12:33	MAKE YOURSELVES PURSES WHICH DO NOT WEAR OUT.	
	JN 6:27	DO NOT LABOR FOR THE FOOD WHICH PERISHES, BUT FOR THE FOOD WHICH ENDURES TO ETERNAL LIFE.	
	MT 6:34	DO NOT BE ANXIOUS ABOUT TOMORROW.	
	MT 6:34	LET THE DAY'S OWN TROUBLE BE SUFFICIENT FOR THE DAY.	
MT 7:7	LK 11:9	ASK, AND IT WILL BE GIVEN YOU.	
MT 7:7	LK 11:9	SEEK, AND YOU WILL FIND.	
MT 7:7	LK 11:9	KNOCK, AND IT WILL BE OPENED TO YOU.	
	MK 11:24	WHATEVER YOU ASK IN PRAYER, BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED IT.	

Then Yahshua came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:18-20)

JN 8:39 IF YOU ARE ABRAHAM'S CHILDREN, DO THE DEEDS OF ABRAHAM.
 MT 5:16 LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE BEFORE MEN, THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS.
 JN 13:34 LOVE ONE ANOTHER EVEN AS I HAVE LOVED YOU.
 JN 13:14 YOU ALSO OUGHT TO WASH ONE ANOTHER'S FEET.
 MT 7:12 LK 6:31 WHATEVER YOU WISH THAT MEN WOULD DO TO YOU, DO SO TO THEM.
 MT 7:13 ENTER BY THE NARROW GATE.
 MT 5:34 DO NOT SWEAR AT ALL, EITHER BY HEAVEN, OR BY THE EARTH, OR BY JERUSALEM, OR BY YOUR HEAD.
 MT 5:37 LET YOUR STATEMENT BE SIMPLY, "YES, YES," OR "NO, NO."
 MT 5:30 MK 9:43 IF YOUR HAND CAUSES YOU TO SIN, CUT IT OFF.
 MK 9:45 IF YOUR FOOT CAUSES YOU TO SIN, CUT IT OFF.
 MT 5:29 MK 9:47 IF YOUR EYE CAUSES YOU TO SIN, PLUCK IT OUT.
 MK 9:50 HAVE SALT IN YOURSELVES AND BE AT PEACE WITH ONE ANOTHER.
 MT 19:6 MK 10:9 WHAT GOD HAS JOINED TOGETHER, LET NO MAN PUT ASUNDER.
 MT 19:14 LK 18:16 LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME AND DO NOT HINDER THEM.
 MT 18:10 SEE TO IT THAT YOU DO NOT DESPISE ONE OF THESE LITTLE ONES.
 MT 28:19 GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS.
 MT 28:19 BAPTIZE THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT.
 MT 28:20 TEACH THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THAT I HAVE COMMANDED YOU.
 MT 10:8 GIVE WITHOUT PAY.
 MT 7:6 DO NOT GIVE DOGS WHAT IS HOLY.
 MT 10:16 DO NOT THROW YOUR PEARLS BEFORE SWINE.
 MT 10:16 BE WISE AS SERPENTS AND INNOCENT AS DOVES.
 MT 10:17 BEWARE OF MEN.
 MT 10:34 DO NOT THINK THAT I HAVE COME TO BRING PEACE ON EARTH.
 MT 10:23 WHEN THEY PERSECUTE YOU IN ONE TOWN, FLEE TO THE NEXT.
 MT 10:19 LK 12:11 WHEN THEY DELIVER YOU UP, DO NOT BE ANXIOUS HOW YOU ARE TO SPEAK.
 MT 10:26 HAVE NO FEAR OF THEM.
 MT 10:27 WHAT I TELL YOU IN THE DARK, UTTER IN THE LIGHT.
 MT 10:27 WHAT YOU HEAR WHISPERED, PROCLAIM UPON THE HOUSETOPS.
 MT 10:28 LK 12:4 DO NOT FEAR THOSE WHO KILL THE BODY BUT CANNOT KILL THE SOUL.
 MT 10:28 LK 12:5 FEAR HIM WHO CAN DESTROY BOTH SOUL AND BODY IN HELL.
 MT 10:31 LK 12:7 FEAR NOT, FOR YOU ARE OF MORE VALUE THAN MANY SPARROWS.
 LK 18:1 PRAY AT ALL TIMES, AND DO NOT LOSE HEART.
 LK 21:34 BE ON GUARD, LEST YOUR HEARTS BE WEIGHED DOWN WITH DISSIPATION, DRUNKENNESS, AND THE CARES OF THIS LIFE.
 LK 21:36 WATCH AT ALL TIMES, PRAYING THAT YOU MAY HAVE STRENGTH TO ESCAPE ALL THESE THINGS.
 LK 21:8 MT 24:4 MK 13:5 SEE TO IT THAT NO ONE LEADS YOU ASTRAY.
 LK 20:46 MK 12:38 BEWARE OF THE SCRIBES WHO LIKE TO WALK AROUND IN LONG ROBES, AND LOVE RESPECTFUL GREETINGS IN THE MARKET PLACES, AND CHIEF SEATS IN THE CONGREGATIONS, AND PLACES OF HONOR AT BANQUETS.
 MT 16:6 MK 8:15 WATCH OUT! BEWARE OF THE LEAVEN OF THE PHARISEES AND SADDUCEES AND THE LEAVEN OF HEROD.
 LK 12:1 BEWARE OF THE LEAVEN OF THE PHARISEES, WHICH IS HYPOCRISY.
 LK 8:18 TAKE CARE THEN HOW YOU HEAR.
 LK 11:35 BE CAREFUL LEST THE LIGHT IN YOU BE DARKNESS.
 MT 23:3 PRACTICE AND OBSERVE WHATEVER THEY TELL YOU, BUT NOT WHAT THEY DO.
 MT 6:1 BEWARE OF PRACTICING YOUR PIETY BEFORE MEN IN ORDER TO BE SEEN BY THEM.
 MT 6:2 SOUND NO TRUMPET BEFORE YOU (WHEN YOU GIVE ALMS).
 MT 6:3 DO NOT LET YOUR RIGHT HAND KNOW WHAT YOUR LEFT HAND IS DOING (WHEN YOU GIVE ALMS).
 LK 11:41 GIVE FOR ALMS THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE WITHIN; AND BEHOLD, EVERYTHING IS CLEAN FOR YOU.
 MT 6:5 WHEN YOU PRAY, YOU MUST NOT BE LIKE THE HYPOCRITES.
 MT 6:6 GO INTO YOUR ROOM AND SHUT THE DOOR AND PRAY TO YOUR FATHER WHO IS IN SECRET.
 MT 6:16 DO NOT LOOK DISMAL (WHEN YOU FAST).
 MT 6:17 ANOINT YOUR HEAD AND WASH YOUR FACE (WHEN YOU FAST).
 MT 9:13 GO AND LEARN WHAT THIS MEANS, "I DESIRE MERCY, AND NOT SACRIFICE."
 LK 10:37 GO AND DO LIKEWISE (SHOW MERCY LIKE THE GOOD SAMARITAN).
 MT 23:8,10 YOU ARE NOT TO BE CALLED RABBI, NEITHER BE CALLED MASTER.
 MT 23:9 CALL NO MAN ON EARTH YOUR FATHER.
 LK 14:8 DO NOT SIT DOWN IN A PLACE OF HONOR (WHEN YOU ARE INVITED TO A FEAST).
 LK 14:10 GO AND SIT IN THE LOWEST PLACE.
 LK 14:12 DO NOT INVITE YOUR FRIENDS OR YOUR BROTHERS OR YOUR KINSMEN OR YOUR RICH NEIGHBORS (WHEN YOU GIVE A FEAST).
 LK 14:13 INVITE THE POOR, THE MAIMED, THE LAME, THE BLIND.
 MK 9:35 MT 20:26 MK 10:44 IF ANYONE WOULD BE FIRST, HE MUST BE LAST OF ALL AND SERVANT OF ALL.
 LK 22:26 LET THE GREATEST AMONG YOU BECOME AS THE YOUNGEST AND THE LEADER AS ONE WHO SERVES.
 MK 4:24 TAKE CARE WHAT YOU LISTEN TO.
 MT 7:15 BEWARE OF FALSE PROPHETS WHO COME TO YOU IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING.
 MT 12:33 EITHER MAKE THE TREE GOOD, AND ITS FRUIT GOOD, OR MAKE THE TREE BAD, AND ITS FRUIT BAD.
 LK 21:8 DO NOT GO AFTER THEM (THE MANY WHO COME IN MY NAME).
 LK 13:24 STRIVE TO ENTER BY THE NARROW DOOR.
 LK 12:35 LET YOUR LOINS BE GIRDLED AND YOUR LAMPS BURNING.
 LK 12:36 BE LIKE MEN WHO ARE WAITING FOR THEIR MASTER TO COME HOME FROM THE MARRIAGE FEAST.
 MT 24:44 LK 12:40 YOU ALSO MUST BE READY; FOR THE SON OF MAN IS COMING AT AN HOUR YOU DO NOT EXPECT.
 MT 24:20 PRAY THAT YOUR FLIGHT MAY NOT BE IN WINTER OR ON A SABBATH.
 LK 17:32 REMEMBER LOT'S WIFE.
 MT 26:41 LK 22:40 MK 14:38 WATCH AND PRAY THAT YOU DO NOT ENTER INTO TEMPTATION.
 MT 25:13 WATCH THEREFORE, FOR YOU KNOW NEITHER THE DAY NOR THE HOUR.
 MK 13:37 LET ME SAY TO YOU I SAY TO ALL: WATCH!
 JN 14:1 LET NOT YOUR HEARTS BE TROUBLED, BELIEVE IN GOD, BELIEVE ALSO IN ME.
 JN 16:33 BE OF GOOD CHEER, I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD.
 JN 14:27 LET NOT YOUR HEARTS BE TROUBLED, NEITHER LET THEM BE AFRAID.
 JN 15:4 ABIDE IN ME.
 JN 15:9-10 ABIDE IN MY LOVE; IF YOU KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS, YOU WILL ABIDE IN MY LOVE.
 LK 17:10 WHEN YOU HAVE DONE ALL THAT IS COMMANDED YOU, SAY, "WE ARE UNWORTHY SERVANTS."

These are not *all* of His commands. There are many more.
 If you are diligent to obey these commands, does that mean you are under the law? If you do not obey them, does that mean you are lawless and He never knew you? (Matthew 7:21-27)

"By this we know we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, 'I have come to know Him' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in Him." (1 John 2:3-4)



Light and Darkness



Yahshua spoke as a prophet when He said, “We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work.” It was “day” during His time on earth because He was the light of the world. He made it clear that at some point in the future the darkness of “night” would come when no one would be able to do the works of God. He also told His disciples that *they* were the light of the world.¹ He knew He was going to go away and that the Holy Spirit was going to be poured out on His disciples at Pentecost.²

The Holy Spirit filling the souls of His disciples is what makes them the light of the world. So, when He was in the world and when His true disciples were in the world, *light* was in the world. That light manifested itself in the life of Acts 2:44, which began on the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit brought to the apostles’ remembrance all that Yahshua had taught them.³ Three thousand responded by

obeying what Peter and the apostles said that day. They were baptized, sealed with the Holy Spirit, fulfilling the prophecy of Joel.⁴ The result was that “all who believed were together and shared all things in common.”⁵ The light that was in Yahshua had gone into His disciples, manifested in a life together, proving their love for Him and for one another.⁶

So, when and how did the darkness come? It was a progression. The light dimmed and faded into darkness.

While Yahshua was still on earth, He said that those who had His commandments and obeyed them were the ones who loved Him, and that He would come to them and reveal Himself to them. And right after that He said again that if anyone loves Him, he will obey His word, and His Father would also love him, and that He and the Father would make their home with him.⁷ That’s amazing! No one can be a part of the light of the world unless Yahshua reveals

¹ Matthew 5:14

² Romans 5:5

³ John 14:26

⁴ Acts 2:17; Joel 2:28

⁵ Acts 2:44

⁶ Matthew 22:37-40

⁷ John 14:21,23

Himself to that person, and unless the Father and the Son, through the Holy Spirit, come and live in that person's soul. All disciples spend their entire lives learning how to keep His Spirit ruling in their souls, putting Revelation 3:20 and 1 John 1:5-9 into practice.

But when the disciples' love for Yahshua began to wane, their love for one another did also, because the Holy Spirit was quenched and crowded out of their hearts, one by one. Thus, the light became dimmer and dimmer because they were no longer obeying His commandments.⁸ Love and obedience didn't go hand in hand anymore, as it had in the beginning.

That is how the light of the early church went out. What was left was darkness. Only form and doctrine remained. The light in her became darkness.⁹ This is how the religion of Christianity was born. The prophetic words of Yahshua in John 9:4 became a reality. Since that time, no one has been able to do the works of God by faith to build up the Body of Messiah. As it says in Revelation 2:4, they left their

first love, drifting apart from the devotion of Acts 2:42 and the resulting life of Acts 2:44.

You do not love God if you do not obey His commandments.¹⁰ It is that simple. Yahshua made it clear in John 14:24 that these were not His words but the words of His Father in heaven. The truth of these three verses in John 14:21,23,24 should open the eyes of our understanding

Some say that all the believers being together and sharing all things in common in Acts 4:32 was the church's first mistake. But how could it have been a mistake when abundant grace was upon them all and everyone's needs were met? Oh, that such a mistake might be made again!

to explain why what calls itself the church today does not even resemble the way the Way was when it was called the Way. Acts 4:32-37 is the only way the Way can be — the way it was back then, when it was called *the Way*.¹¹

Some say that all the believers being together and sharing all things in common in Acts 4:32 was the church's first mistake. But how could it have been a mistake when abundant grace was upon them all and everyone's needs were met?¹² Oh, that such a mistake might be made again!

In contrast, Christianity today is the way the Way went

⁸ John 14:24

⁹ Luke 11:35

¹⁰ John 14:15,31

¹¹ Acts 9:2; 19:9,23; 24:4,14,22

¹² Acts 4:33-34

off the way for the past 1900 years when it has *not* been *the Way*. For all those centuries Christianity has been the way the Way became *after the darkness of John 9:4 became a reality*. The fruit of that way is that a Christian can think he loves God and at the same time think he doesn't have to obey Him. Since that time, no one has been able to do the works of the Spirit,¹³ for without faith (the persuasion of the Holy Spirit), works are just sin.¹⁴ In those 1900 years of darkness there has been no fruit of the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is the making of *disciples*,¹⁵ not Christians.

Originally, the Way was the Truth and the Life in His Body. But then the drifting came.¹⁶ The Way dwindled away, lost in the night which came as Yahshua prophesied in John 9:4, lost as love faded away into the realm of the natural mind. Few overcomers were left, and the Nicolaitans,¹⁷ the preachers in the emerging clergy/laity system, took over. No more light of the world!

To drift from the truth and the life is to forsake the way the Way was before the Way dwindled away. The believers came under the sway of the evil one, Satan.¹⁸

So, why did it happen? How did it dwindle away? By not doing what is commanded in the Gospels by Yahshua (such as Luke 14:33), and by not doing all that one must do in response to the Gospel in order to be saved.¹⁹ The “many other words” that the apostles spoke to those who were cut to the heart by the Gospel on the Day of Pentecost were no longer required.²⁰ There was no longer love that demanded obedience, but only the mental or emotional belief that requires nothing but saying the “sinner’s prayer.” That would have been no problem for the rich young ruler, but he would not do what Yahshua told him he must do to inherit eternal life.

Those who were added to the church after the Night came, and even before, in the dusk, were not called to obey the Gospel, so Acts 4:32-37 was not considered essential in what the rich young rulers were called to do.

They hardly noticed the evidence that they were in darkness, as the love of Messiah no longer compelled them.²¹ They no longer lived together and surely didn't have all things in common. They changed the Sabbath to Sunday and started *going to church* on Sunday mornings instead of *being the church* 24/7.

¹³ Ephesians 2:10; 4:16

¹⁴ Romans 14:23

¹⁵ Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁶ Hebrews 2:1

¹⁷ Revelation 2:6,15

¹⁸ 1 John 5:19

¹⁹ See pages 14 & 15.

²⁰ Acts 2:40

²¹ 2 Corinthians 5:14

Church history records the sad legacy of darkness that has ruled for 1900 years. Today the 45,000 denominations of Christianity attest to the division and chaos that is the fruit of the darkness that rules this religion. But there are still many sincere people within the walls of Christianity who are willing to do the Father's will.



There is a tremendous need for the restoration of the light of the world in a special people for God's own possession.²² Yahshua, speaking as a prophet in Mark 9:12, made it clear that the restoration of all things in the church would come before the end of the age. In the restoration of all things, the light will come back to the earth as the Spirit of God once again begins to dwell in those who are willing to do His will. To do His will is to do His works.

So, what are the works of God? Are they the same as the works of Abraham? Abraham did the works of God. Abraham obeyed the commands of God and it was credited to him as righteousness. To obey His commands is to do His works. Yahshua said to the Pharisees, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham."²³

Yahshua also said, "I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father."²⁴ The Light of the World said that. When the light is present once again in His people, they will do the same.

Our Twelve Tribes are located in nine countries on four continents. Currently there are around 50 communities, each

consisting of one or more households full of disciples. This tiny candle of restoration was lit over 40 years ago. We are growing, increasing in love and unity. We've not arrived yet, and we can't until all His children are gathered out of the darkness and brought into His marvelous light. Please come and see. Our homes are open and always have room for the lonely, desperate ones who want to do our Father's will. ❧

²² 1 Peter 2:9

²³ John 8:39

²⁴ John 14:31 [ESV]

A Fish Story

There I was, swimming through life with no real direction or goal. At the sweet little age of 4 years old, piping mad, I filled a suitcase with clothes and marched into the kitchen. “Mom, step aside. I’m packing a lunch and I’m getting outta here.” I figured some peanut butter and crackers would get me to the end of the block.

“Daughter, did you take your clothes out of the closet?”



Why did you do that? Go put those back right now!” This was the only response to my cry for attention. Head drooping in defeat, “fins” limply swaying, I “swished” despondently back to my room. Alone again, I swam a little deeper into the darkness of my own little sea.

I bit the bait of peer pressure in school. When I felt as if I didn’t have enough stuff compared to others, I just stole what I thought I needed. There was something in me to want to be good and pleasing, but when you’re so deep, it takes too much effort to swim up to the light of the sky. By the time I arrived at high school, the sea of deception I was in got so dark that I lost my way. Drugs, drinking, parties, and boyfriends — all of it was doing untold damage to my soul. But I had put on the facade of a beautiful tropical fish that had

it all together. No one could see that I was bleeding internally.

I swam into a wall when I got pregnant at 18. The waves of that storm nearly catapulted me onto the shore. Life for me was so incredibly dark and tumultuous I could no longer even see what direction I was swimming. When my child came to birth, the waters cleared for a time. Relieved, I set myself to raise him on my own. I wanted his seas to be calm and full of light, unlike the dark turbulence I had experienced.

But my sea did not remain clear for long. More shiny, plastic baits appeared, luring me this way and that. The same story: drugs and promiscuity. “Why can’t I change?”

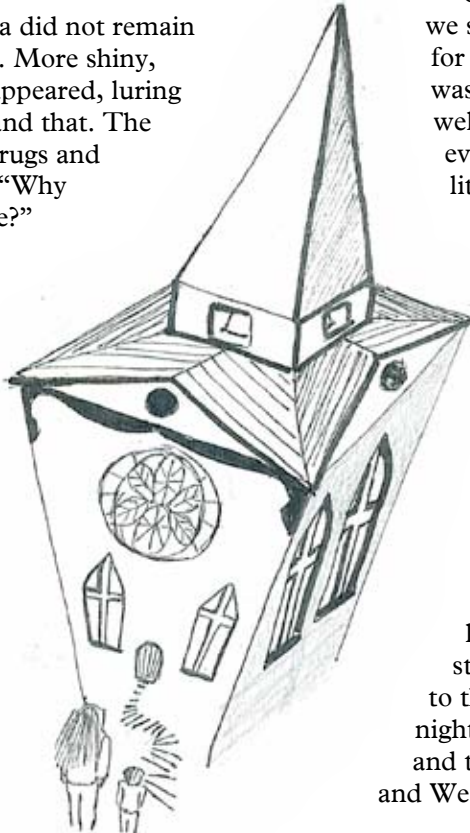
I wondered.

I moved from one bait to another, hoping for something that would satisfy me. But I remained the same scarred, bleeding fish.

My son thought this

was just the way life was as I dragged him through my dark waters.

I swam past a church and looked up. “Nooo way!” I thought. I never wanted to admit there was a God or that I owed any attention to Him. But the truth was that nothing else was helping me clean up my life — not my own will-power, not pseudo enlightenment, and certainly no drugs or relationships I had ever encountered. Maybe I should give it a try.



On Sunday we showed up for service. I was warmly welcomed, and even given a little money

because my son and I were in a needy state.

After a couple of months, I wondered where that initial warmth had gone. I tried harder. We started to go to the Saturday night service, and the Monday and Wednesday

Bible studies. I started reading my Bible while in line at the grocery store. But I was *still* the same person. Somehow I couldn't escape the dark life of drugs and failed relationships.

Unable to love my son the way he needed me to, I dropped my now seven-year-old son off at the public school that I said I'd never send him to, and walked to the college I had no vision to attend, crying all the way. I cried so many times, day after day in this dark sea. It was turning into a sea of tears. I couldn't take it anymore.

"God, if you're real, prove it! Why am I alive? If this is all there is to life, take my life! I'm done! I have nothing to live for."

I didn't really want to die. I wanted to care for my son. But reality was that I was already dead inside.

Soon after that, a friend told me of some people she'd met. Almost in fear, she whispered, "I found a school of fish. They live together on one of their farms. They eat their meals together. They gather to pray twice every day. They actually believe they serve God all day and strive to live as the Bible tells them to."

"Great," I said, "I'm moving in."

She cautioned me, "Don't you want to meet them first?"

I did meet them first. My heart knew that if they were who they said they were, there would be a place for my son and me. And there was — a home, and men for my son to work with, a family to call my own, friends who wiped away my tears and sometimes needed me to wipe theirs. They helped me to see the hook under all those baits.

The Fisherman's net came and gathered me up to safety. Now I'm married to a loving husband and our son has two sisters. I challenge you to come and see if love can heal your scars as it did mine.

Jennifer



The Call To Give *All!*

W*e are excited* to write to you with an encouraging proclamation, that these are the days of the restoration of *all* things! The true pattern of *all* giving *all* is being lived out once again on the earth!

When the Son of God was asked which was the greatest commandment, He responded by saying it is to love God with *all* your heart, *all* your soul, and *all* your strength. In order to truly keep this commandment (the *greatest* of all) you must really consider what you are investing your life into. Whatever you consider most valuable is where your heart's energy goes. The widow Yahshua noticed gave *all* she had. Have you given *all*?

We are sincere believers who have responded to the call to lay down our lives for our friends (1 John 3:16), so now we are bonded together with them as we strive to keep *all* of our Savior's commandments. Many of us used to hop from church to church trying to find a way to truly be pleasing to our Creator. Now we can serve Him every day by submitting to one another in the fear of Messiah (Ephesians 5:21).

We have come to see that the Gospel is a call for *all* to give *all*, and that cannot be done alone. The Bible says that *all* who believed lived together, and they shared *all* things in common (Acts 2:44). Our Bible-believing



Mark 14:3-9

Wherever the Gospel is Proclaimed

communities are places where *all* are needed (Ephesians 4:16) and *all* speak (1 Corinthians 14:24) when we gather together to share from our hearts. This *daily* encouragement gives *all* of us vision and strength to press on (Hebrews 3:13).

If you truly desire to do God's will and be pleasing to Him, then you are just like us who write this invitation. We have published this paper in hopes of finding other God-fearing men and women who are looking for the *place* where they can serve God with all their heart, soul, and strength.

In the back of this paper is list of the addresses and phone numbers of our many communities all over the world. In each place we live and work together, and gather every morning and evening to thank and praise our God. You can call or visit at any time. Come for a day or to stay! 🌹

A Good Christian Boy

Growing up in the Midwest, I was raised in an upright Christian home. I was homeschooled with my sister, being taught from Christian curriculum. We read the Bible every day and memorized Bible verses. We went to AWANA* on Wednesday nights, keeping company with other believers. Vacation Bible School was an annual summer experience for us.

We didn't have a TV until my teenage years. Instead, we listened to Christian radio dramas rather than watching Saturday morning cartoons. We read Christian books (C. S. Lewis was a common name in our household). My sister and I kept expectantly watching the mailbox, waiting for the arrival of the Christian



children's magazines we had subscribed to.

As we grew older, our interests expanded to include Christian rock music. We listened to Larry Norman, Steve Taylor, and other iconoclasts push the pew-goers' envelope of tolerance. When *Rez Band* wasn't playing on our stereo, we were tuned into *Focus on the Family* or some other Christian talk show. *Cornerstone* and *Charisma*

magazines arrived on our doorstep monthly. Was this the rich and satisfying life we were promised, never to thirst again, or were we desperately trying to fill a void?

Never satisfied with our church experience, we hopped from church to church, looking for a home, looking for a family. We began meeting in home fellowships, looking for a more intimate experience. House churches and Bible studies filled the



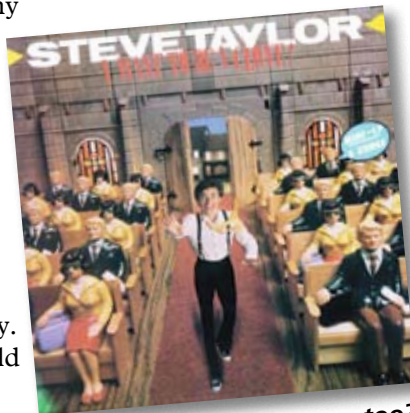
* *Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed*, referring to 2 Timothy 2:15

need for brothers and sisters, yet in many ways we felt like sheep without a shepherd. Who would guide us?

All my life I desired to serve God with all my heart and energy. I wanted to live for Him, to be His servant. Some of our family friends even thought I was destined for the ministry. Perhaps I would go toward Christian publications due to my interest in graphic design, or perhaps to the mission field. But with my growing insecurities, I knew I couldn't walk out what was in my heart.

Then, my parents' marriage began the telltale signs of disintegration. They had met in a Jesus Movement commune in the '70s, but the pressures of providing for a family, house payments, and stress strained their relationship to no good end. The commune had already proved that it didn't have any staying power, and it became clear that my parents also lacked what it took to make things last. The worries and cares of life were eating my father up on the inside. Painfully, they divorced, shattering our life and

security as youth. Just as our own turbulent teenage years were beginning, it felt as if the rug had been pulled out from under us.



Surely we weren't clones, too?

In college, I shut down — burned out from our religious wanderings and a soured experience after my father's failed second marriage to an oppressive woman (or so she seemed to me) who

was devoted to a stricter Christian denomination. My spiritual quest went into deep freeze as I threw myself into studying and working my way through college.

For two years, college life wore on me, threatening to break down my defenses and the "Christian Quarantine" my parents had instilled in me from an early age. I didn't give into drinking and partying, but could feel the definite tug to compromise my moral scruples.

Upon graduating and entering the workforce, my search renewed, looking for love, acceptance, and a place to belong. With a willing heart, I tried to find a place to fit in. I began turning over new stones in my search for "the Way, the Truth, and the Life," yet I

couldn't shake the inescapable, gnawing feeling of emptiness. Something was missing.

Two years of searching later, I found myself crying out to God on a lonely country road, begging Him in tears to show me the place where I could give my all to Him. And the most amazing thing happened: *He heard my cry and answered me!* He led me to the place where I could walk out what had been so deep in my heart for so many years.

These are painful memories for me, like picking the just-forming scab on a raw wound. Yet I live in a place of healing, and that is the reality of salvation. Even though I had a "good Christian upbringing," I still had my share of dark secrets and hidden things that needed to be washed away. I still needed a Savior and a new start. I still bore the scars of loneliness which had done untold damage to my soul.

Now I live in an environment of love, and have brothers and sisters with whom I can share my life — my laughter, my sorrows, my energies. We live together and share our lives with one another, working and growing spiritually together. We have

caring shepherds who help guide the flock. None are left to themselves and the wolves.

As the years go by, my mind and heart are being renewed. "*I have a cause to forget my sorrow and to forget my pain*" — such is the meaning of *Manasseh*, the name of one of the tribes

Even though I had a "good Christian upbringing," I still had my share of dark secrets and hidden things that needed to be washed away.

of Israel (Genesis 41:51), whose spiritual namesake is being restored in the land of my upbringing. So now I have the same hope as Joseph's son had so long ago, and our Father has given me sons of my own to nurture and raise up in His way, to take on

that hope. It's the same hope that the Apostle Paul clung to and walked out daily:

Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Messiah. (Philippians 3:13-14)

Please come! I hope you'll find what you've been searching for, too!

-Cal



Did You Know?

Have you ever read in the Bible, the Word of God, the way the church was in the very beginning? You can read it in every Bible, right in the beginning of the Book of Acts, the chapter that comes right after the four famous gospel accounts, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. These words give an amazing little window into the reality of how the very first church was under the care and guidance of the Savior's closest friends, the apostles.

“And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.” (Acts 2:44-45)

“Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.” (Acts 4:32-35)

And did you know that in the Scriptures there is no other model of the how the church should be? This is the record of how the Holy Spirit chose to be expressed to the world. This witness of community as shown in Acts 2 & 4 was the result of obedience to the gospel they heard on the day of Pentecost. This is how it was in the very beginning, the pattern formed when the power of the Holy Spirit came upon them and great grace was upon them all.

This is a very important fact.

It could be a false sense of security to think this was only for back then, only idealistic and visionary, but not reality. But why did the first preaching of the Gospel cause such a radical response as it did on the day of Pentecost? That day 3000 real people gladly gave up their independent, isolated lives to live together and become devoted disciples. Doesn't it seem as if it should be that way for all wholehearted believers?

Can you imagine what it would be like to once again serve God like that? Would you want to love God with all your heart, soul, and strength, living together with all the other believers, just as they did in the beginning? This would truly make a marvelous light* to the world, wouldn't it? Come and see! ☪

* Isaiah 49:6, 1 Peter 2:9, Matthew 5:14, Matthew 21:43



The Name Above All Names

In the days of John the Baptist and the Son of God, the preserved language of the devout Jews was Hebrew. So, when the angel Gabriel brought the good news to the Hebrew virgin, Miriam (or *Mary* in English), that she would give birth to the Savior of the world, and told her what His name would be, what language do you suppose he spoke? Hebrew, of course! And certainly Miriam and Yoceph (or *Joseph* in English) named the child just as the angel had commanded them — *Yahshua*.

In Matthew 1:21, your Bible probably reads, “and you shall call His name *Jesus*, for He shall save His people from their sins.” But the name *Jesus* is a modern English adaptation of the Greek name, *Iesous*, which is itself a corruption of the original Hebrew name *Yahshua*. The name *Jesus* or *Iesous* has no meaning of its own, but the Hebrew name *Yahshua* literally means *Yahweh’s Salvation*,¹ which makes sense out of what the angel said in Matthew 1:21, “...you shall call His name *Yahshua* [*Yahweh’s Salvation*], for He shall save His people from their sins.”

If you look in a pre-1769 edition of the King James Bible, you will find the name *Jesus* in these two passages:

*Which also our fathers that came after brought in with **Jesus** into the possession of the Gentiles, whom God drave out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David... (Acts 7:45, KJV, 1611 Edition)*

*For if **Jesus** had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. (Hebrews 4:8, KJV, 1611 Edition)*

However, if you look in any modern translation of the Bible (including the New King James) you will find that in place of the name *Jesus*, they use the name *Joshua* — for in the context it is clear that it is speaking there of Moses’ successor and not the Son of God. But in the Greek manuscript the name in both of these verses is *Iesous*.

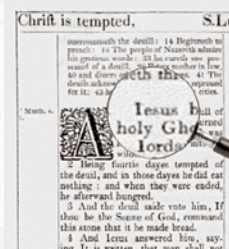
You see, *Joshua* is the popular English rendering of Moses' successor's Hebrew name, which meant, "He will save." This name looks forward to the name of the Son of God, for Joshua was the prophetic forerunner of the Messiah, bringing Israel into the Promised Land and leading them to victory over their enemies. But since the translators obviously know this fact, why do they only translate *Iesous* as *Joshua* in these two verses, and as *Jesus* everywhere else?

The NIV New Testament even has a footnote for Matthew 1:21 supporting this fact, saying, "*Jesus is the Greek form of Joshua.*"

But the fact is, the name of God's Son was not even written or pronounced as "Jesus" in English until the 1600s, simply because there was no "J" sound or letter in English before then.² The modern letter "J" evolved from the letter "I" which began to be written with a "tail" when it appeared as the first letter in a word. So in old English the name now written as *Jesus* was actually written and pronounced much like the original Greek *Iesous*. Eventually the hard "J" sound crept into the English language to accompany the different way of writing the initial "I" in the name.

You may also find it interesting that in Acts 26:14-15, it says that the apostle Paul heard the name of the Son of God pronounced "in the Hebrew tongue" by the Son of God Himself. Paul certainly didn't hear the Greek name *Iesous* or the English name *Jesus*, but rather the Hebrew name, the name above all names, *Yahshua*.³ ❧

¹ *Yah* is the personal name of God, and *shua* is from a Hebrew root word that means "to save." God identified Himself to Moses as *YAH* (meaning "I AM") in Exodus 3:14, as in Psalm 68:4 ("whose name is *Yah*"), and as most familiar in the word *Halleluyah* ("Praise *Yah*"). And in John 5:43 and 17:11, *Yahshua* says that He came in His Father's name, "the name which You have given Me" (NASB), so it is not surprising that the Father's name would be incorporated into the Son's name, *Yahshua*.² *Compact Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary* (Oxford University Press, 1971), pp. 1496,1507 ³ Philippians 2:9; Acts 4:12





On the following pages are the addresses of all of our homes, cafés, and farms where you can come and visit us any time. Real places! And we are real people who live and work in these special places. We are not just philosophers or theologians, and we didn't write the things in this paper so that you could just sit on your couch and *think* about them. We wrote down the deep things in our hearts in hopes that you would *respond* to them as we did.

If any of what we wrote speaks to you, come and share your thoughts with us. We want to hear what you have to say. Our houses are open every day. And if it's the middle of the night, come into one of our 24-hour Yellow Delis. Or if you live too far away, just give us a call, or send us a letter or an e-mail. We like to make friends and we would love it so much if you just walked up to our front door and knocked on it. We guarantee that all you will meet is our smiling faces. No barking dogs, no cold shoulders, just genuine hospitality. So come and see us. We'll be waiting for you. We're not going anywhere. Love is our home! ☺



Acts 2 & 4 Community-It's all about LOVE!

Love dictated the pattern of community that was formed among the first believers. Nothing else did and nothing else ever will. This pattern was not a mandate, but the natural outcome of those who had received the Spirit of the Living God.

*It was not an ideal-it was real.
That same Spirit of Love is once again forming that same pattern of community.*

It is not an ideal, It is real! Come and see!

Continued from back page...

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THERE IS A PEOPLE who woke up this morning with one thing on their minds — to love their Creator with all their heart, mind, and strength, and to love one another just as He loved them. Being just ordinary human beings, we are far from perfect in our love, yet, in hope, we persevere. Our goal? That the kingdom of God would come on earth as it is in heaven, so that love and justice can rule on the earth. Sound impossible? It would be, were it not that the Son of God came to earth to redeem mankind, to set us free from the curse of sin, and to enable us to love. Because we have come to see His worth and our own desperate need, we have surrendered everything in order to follow Him. Our hearts and our homes are open night and day to any who are interested in our life or are weary of their sin and want to know the purpose for which they were created.

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