

THE NARROW ROAD

Contending for the Holiness of God

As we go through sufferings, we must not lose heart. Instead, we must keep asking for the grace that we need for them be redemptive—to work for our good, until an inward transformation to our character takes place. Until we have become holy, as He is holy.

INTIMACY OF THE LORD

JOHN 17:15-18, 20-23

I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world...I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one...

The Lord is in the process of restoring a company of people, who are known as the Bride of Messiah, back to original intent—back to that same place of intimacy, holiness and purity that Adam and Eve walked in the Garden, in the cool of the day, before the fall of man. Yet, for that restoration to fully take place, we must become holy, as He is holy. For He will not share His glory with any of our other lovers. Nor His praise with any idols that are in our hearts.

Holiness is not an ideology—a system of ideas or ideals—but a state of being. It is not passive, but active. It demands that we love the Lord with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength. And in His faithfulness to help us to become holy, He allows us to go through sufferings. Not because He is cruel, but because He desires to be One with us. And for that to happen His character has to be developed deep within our souls.

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Because our flesh will fight against the holiness and character of God's nature, He allows divinely orchestrated trials to enter our lives. For our trials are designed to chisel away at our sin nature and character flaws, one layer at a time, with the goal to bring us to the end result of our faith, the salvation of our soul.

Fragrance of Holiness

So our sufferings are meant to be redemptive, not destructive. They are meant to transform our character to become compatible with His: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self-control. When we go through our trials, by dying to self-will, they transform our character to become like His, and produce a fragrance of holiness in our lives.

2 CORINTHIANS 2:15

For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.

Holiness is a state of constant change in one's life: spiritually, physically, emotionally and yes, even financially. It requires us to make choices to reject everything in our lives which is unclean, impure and profane in our words, thoughts and deeds. Holiness is a choice we make as a Believer to be consecrated—set apart, from everything that is vile to the Lord.

2 TIMOTHY 1:8-9

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

Jeremiah tells us that Israel was called to holiness, but went after emptiness, futility and falseness. Therefore, they became worthless and fruitless to the Lord. Paul tells us that without holiness no one will see the Lord [Jeremiah 2:3-5, Hebrews 12:14]. Peter exhorts us to be holy in all of our conduct.

1 PETER 1:15-16

But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

Paul further reminds us that we are the temple of the living God. And that if we want Him to dwell and walk

amongst us—to be received by Him, we must not touch anything unclean. We must cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh so that holiness and the fear of God may be perfected within our souls. Our holy call is not a passive one—automatic at our new birth, but meant to be constantly active in our lives, as we walk out our salvation with fear and trembling.

2 CORINTHIANS 6:16-17

And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Therefore come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.

2 CORINTHIANS 7:1

Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Cleansing the Temple

In this late hour, the Lord is calling His people out of Babylon, as we have seen Him publicly cleansing His Church. For those who have eyes to see and ears to hear, it has been a sobering time, calling all in His Body to put away all uncleanness—filthiness of flesh. A sobering call to be found before Him with integrity of heart: honest, free from all deceit and not misrepresent the truth, that leads others astray, which are all vile to Him.

The apostacy and the witchcraft within the Church are increasing with new age chants, practices and frequencies. There are people who call themselves 'christian witches' who claim to 'love' Yeshua, who have infiltrated the Church. That is deception at the highest of levels.

Jude forewarned us about these grumblers, complainers, who walk according to their own lusts, mouthing great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage, and how there would be mockers in these last days who will walk according to their own ungodly lusts, sensual persons who cause divisions and not of the Spirit [Jude 1:16-18].

These workers of darkness are infiltrating the Church because many in leadership are not willing to be holy. They have little knowledge of the Lord—familiarity gained by a personal experience with a holy God.

Talking about suffering is not a popular message for them. So they choose to build their own platforms made with man's hands, while forgetting He is coming back for a Church not built by their hands. They fail to acknowledge that He cares more about our holiness, obedience and character matching His in our words, thoughts and deeds, than He will ever care about a list of accomplishments they have done in His name.

Highway of Holiness

When we choose to walk on the highway of holiness—the narrow road, we will suffer for it. 2 Timothy 3:12, says that all who delight in piety and are determined to live a devoted and godly life in Yeshua will meet with persecution and be made to suffer because of their religious stand. But those sufferings are meant to cause our character to develop and mature into His likeness—His nature, which gives us the hope of eternal salvation. A hope to be One with Him!

ROMANS 5:3-4 AMP.

Moreover [let us also be full of joy now!] let us exult and triumph in our troubles and rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that pressure and affliction and hardship produce patient and unswerving endurance. And endurance develops maturity of character. And character produces joyful and confident hope of eternal salvation.

As we go through our trials, may we not forget, His goal is to restore us back to that same place of intimacy, holiness and purity that Adam and Eve walked in, before the fall of man. He wants us to become compatible with His nature, for He is not going to marry a harlot bride—one who is not equally yoked to Him. He is coming back for a pure and spotless Bride who has learned how to clothe herself in the array of the beauty of His holiness, this side of eternity.

So what does it mean to contend for the holiness of God to permeate our lives—what does holiness look like in its active state of being? It suffers long and is kind. It does not envy, it is not puffed up, nor behaves rudely. Holiness does not seek its own way, is not provoked, thinks no evil, does not rejoice in iniquity but rejoices in the truth, it displays humility. Holiness makes itself of no reputation and will not save its life, but will lose it all for Love's sake.

We do not want to waste our trials and tears by clinging to the unclean recesses of our souls: pride, rebellion,

offenses, jealousy, anger, bitterness, unforgiveness etc. If we do, our sin will cause us to be in unholy alliances. We will end up in relationships that were never His will for us. And those relationships will draw us further away from truth and the eternal plans that He has for our families, churches and ministries. We see that taking place with the apostate church and its acceptance of the LGBTQ+ movement.

As a nation, we see the destructive consequences of our choices to not be holy, and how those choices have caused us to enter into unholy alliances: European Union, United Nations, W.H.O. Pandemic Treaty, EU Migration Pact and Pact of the Future, to name a few.

Profane from the Holy

Beloved, as the Lord's return gets nearer, the Luciferian elite are going to create crises designed to create fear and chaos in the nations, that will eventually bring about a new world order, where AI will enforce their systems of control. Famine is coming. Digital currency, where it will be our 'new normal' is coming. A worse 'plague' than Covid-19 is coming.

The dividing lines are becoming clearer—the goats from the sheep, the profane from the holy. Persecution is coming. The apostate church, who embraces the LGBTQ+ movement, will be one of the main ways the Bride of Messiah will be persecuted in these last days.

But the Lord does not want us troubled, He wants us prepared. He wants us to be holy, as He is holy. But that can only happen in that place of relationship with the Lover of our souls, when we trim the wicks of our heart—self-will, often. When we do, our loins will be girded with truth and our lamps will be burning for: purity, holiness—the unadulterated Word of God. Our souls will become a temple where the Living God can make His abode and walk in our midst. Our lamps and flasks will be full of pure oil, emitting the fragrance holiness, which attracts a holy God to come and manifest His presence in our lives.

And that holiness will cause us to have an intimate relationship with the Lord. For we will only want to do His will. We will obey Him, because we really love Him. For there is no greater way than to show Him our love, than to obey Him. We see that with Yeshua, in John 17. He had an intimate relationship with the

Father—they were One. They were compatible in word, thought and deed. And because of it, He only did what the Father asked of Him.

The Lord was of no reputation. It was not about His will, but the Father's will. It was all about the Father being glorified in and through the works which He was sent to this earth to complete, while demonstrating perfect love to humanity. It was Yeshua's holiness and obedience that was the foundation of their intimate relationship. And because of it, they had everything in common. So, too, can it be for us. For that is the Father's will for us—to be holy, as He is holy, so we can become One with Him and His Son. But it is not automatic, as many teach.

When we choose a lifestyle of holiness, it will cause His perfect love to cast out all fear. Our character will mature, where we become more like Him. And that maturing will lead us into a deeper intimacy with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

On the other hand, if we are not willing to become holy by the choices that we make every day, it will be impossible for us to have an intimate relationship with a holy God. We may know of Him, but we will not be One with Him.

MATTHEW 5:8

Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.

Too often, we spiritualise these types of verses away. But He means what He says, all the time! So, if we are to be pure in heart, we must ask ourselves what our motives are behind the decisions that we make. Do we have a hidden agenda? Will we be transparent before Him, so His blood can purify our souls? Yet, good news, for it all begins with having a desire to want to be pure. And we can take no credit for that desire, for He puts His desires in us. He then gives us the grace to do His will—Yes and Amen, for His ways, to become our ways.

Intimacy

Because so few, in the Body, say Yes and Amen to His ways, we have many who have intimacy issues with Him, and with others. And not helping are the very real pain, betrayals and traumas, that have caused many to have a fear of intimacy. And, often, because the process of healing is painful, many do not endure through it. Therefore, they do not receive their healings.

Without healing, pain and trauma cause our hearts to become hard. And that hardness causes us to become blind to the areas of our souls that need to be cleansed and healed: pride, fear, bitterness and unforgiveness, as examples.

But when the dark recesses of our souls are revealed, we do not need to be fearful. For He shows us our faults not to shame or condemn us. Instead, He does so because He loves us and wants to cleanse and set us free from the destruction they have caused in our lives. He wants to restore us back to an intimate relationship with Him, and with others where possible.

If we are to know the Healer and Restorer of our souls, we have to trust the only One Who is trustworthy with our fragile hearts, and especially when we are hurting. But that is going to require that we deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow the Lamb's lead. If we do, our traumas will get healed. For He is a good Father who tenderly cares for that which concerns us.

PSALM 23:3

He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

When the Lamb's perfect love enters our soul, we will no longer have intimacy problems with Him. For in the process of healing our hearts, we will let Him cleanse the filthiness of our flesh that had been shutting Him out. We will make room in our hearts for Him to do whatever He wants to do, to shake whatever He wants to shake, to move whatever He wants to move and to change whatever He wants to change, as we become aware of how impure our hearts are to Him. When His light comes to lighten our darkness, we will not want to block it out anymore. Instead, His perfect love and light will permeate those areas of trauma, bringing restoration to our souls. It is worth any price that we may have to pay to endure through it, His way.

REVELATION 3:18-20

I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

Revelation 3:18-20 is a call to an intimate relationship with the Lover of our soul—face-to-face communion, by opening the door of our hearts and inviting Him to show us anything that is displeasing to Him. It is a call to repentance, as He wants to bring restoration to the areas of our souls that are dark and broken. For without repentance, there is no restoration. It is a call to overcome adversity and trials, by losing the low life, that we may obtain the high life. It is a call to become a pure and spotless Bride, who has no other lovers, or any such thing.

So we must be humble and be able to take correction without becoming offended. Otherwise, our flesh—pride, will stop us from opening the door of our hearts stopping His eternal purposes from manifesting in our souls—to be conformed until Messiah has been completely formed within our souls. He eternal goal is for us to be One with Him. But if we ignore the knocks on the door of our hearts, we will not know Him as a personal experience—epignosis knowledge, for that is what changes our soul to become like Him.

Set A Fire?

A few years ago, while attending a prayer meeting, while the worship team were singing, Set A Fire, I heard the Holy Spirit speak the following word:

“They say they want more of Me. But they do not know what they are asking. Do they really want My fire? Do they really want to pure in their words, thoughts—deeds? Do they really want to confess all of that which is unclean in their lives, in their minds, in their marriage beds, in their work places? Do they really want to surrender their will for mine? Do they really want to humble themselves, seek My face, turn from their wicked ways? Do they really want to lay their lives down for the Lamb, to live in them and through them? Do they really know what they are asking? Do they know that I AM a Holy God Who requires My people to be clean vessels? Do they really want to let go of their pride, their agendas, their bitterness, their selfish gain to seek for their gain, and not My gain? Do they really want to take up their cross, deny themselves and follow Me no matter what the cost? Are they willing to lose the low life that they may obtain the high life?”

It was a sobering word that broke my heart for what was breaking the Lord’s heart. He wanted me to see

what He saw—the lip service—the falseness—the harlotry, and what was really in their hearts. He knew it would only provoke me to a deeper level of intercession, crying out for a pure and spotless Bride to come forth in this land. A Bride who will be in agreement for His ways to become our own, and our thoughts to become His thoughts.

AMOS 3:3

Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?

Beloved, our afflictions are ultimately meant to prepare us for the Wedding Supper of the Lamb. So as we go through sufferings, we must not lose heart. Instead, we must keep asking for the grace that we need for them be redemptive—to work for our good, until an inward transformation to our character takes place. Until we have become holy, as He is holy. If we do, we will develop an intimate, mature relationship with Yeshua and the Father. We will be building our houses on the Rock that will stand against the rains, floods and winds.

As we travel the narrow road, contending for the holiness of God to permeate our lives, may we not forget the leper in Luke chapter five, who wanted to be clean. He came to the only One who could cleanse him. May we be of good cheer, the Lord will never say, “No” to a heart that wants to be made pure. Nor will He ever shame us, while doing so. Instead, in that place of relationship: intimacy, holiness and purity will be restored between Him and us. We will be a Bride making ourselves ready. AMEN!

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