

ויקהל

Vayyaqhel

(and assembled)

Shemot [Exodus] 35:1-38:20

Walking in Spiritual Obedience

Shemot (Exodus) 35:21

And they came, everyone whose heart stirred him and everyone whose spirit made him willing, and brought an offering to YHWH for the work on the tent of meeting, for the service in it and for the holy garments.

What is to be the norm among the people of YHWH in His kingdom, is His people are to walk according to the movement of His Spirit. We see this wonderfully exhibited in the nation when they were at Sinai. YHWH moved through His people and stirred them up so that they were willing to contribute to the building of the mishkan and all its utensils and for the garments for the priests. Later on we see that because they were giving so much Moshe had to issue a proclamation to the people to stop giving.

Shemot (Exodus) 36:6

And Moshe gave commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, "Let neither man nor woman make any more work for the offering of the sanctuary." So the people were restrained from bringing.

YHWH's Spirit had so greatly moved the people that they gave above and beyond what was necessary to complete the work that YHWH had commanded Moshe to do. This is the way that YHWH desires it to be in His kingdom all the time, not just on special occasions. When His Spirit moves us, we are to give and give and give and not stop giving until His Spirit moves us to stop.

When we examine the norm in Babylon we find something vastly different. What we see in Babylon is that often guilt and coercion is used to secure an offering from those in attendance. Raising funds in this fashion what is resorted to most often is some form of manipulation of the masses promising them some eternal reward if they give and even at times promising them damnation and hell-fire if they do not give. We should not scoff at this for those held in the talons of such men do not realize the servitude that they have been brought into in such situations. Many will even go so far to promise those who give to receive a financial blessing. While this may happen from time to time, the truth is that it is

not nearly as frequent as the giving. Mostly what these men who promise and manipulate the feelings and good intentions of those who are in their care are doing is simply lining their own pockets with the money given with good intentions from those who sacrifice to give to a cause that only exists in the minds of the masses planted there by these unrighteous men.

What is happening in cases such as these is that the spirit of the one manipulating is the spirit which is moving the people to give to him. This is not pleasing nor honoring to our heavenly Father. One of the sad things about this is that in many instances it is being claimed to be being done in His name and for His kingdom. This many times is simply not true. Even sadder is when those doing the manipulating have also bought into the lies and deceit and have begun believing what is coming out of their own mouths.

But His kingdom is to be something totally different. His people are not to be manipulated by men to give to enrich an individual. Rather, His people are to give to further His kingdom as His Spirit moves each man and woman to give. In order to do this we need to be walking in His Spirit. If an individual is not walking in His Spirit then he will not be able to give according to His will for that individual.

Qorintyah (2nd Corinthians) 9:7

Let each man do according as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly, or of necessity; for Elohim loves the cheerful giver.

One of the things that we need to realize from this passage and many others is that the motive with which we give is vitally important. In Babylon they could care less about the motives with which a person is giving, just as long as a person is giving. But this is not true in YHWH's kingdom. Yes, we are to give as He leads us, however, we are to give with a right heart. It does not do us any good to give if our heart is not in the right place. We can see that in the above passage.

Here is another passage that teaches us the importance of our intentions as to why we do what we do.

Ivrim (Hebrews) 4:12

For the word of Elohim is living, and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and quick to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

It is at this very point that the influence of His Spirit in our lives comes into its full importance.

Yirmeyah (Jeremiah) 31:33

"But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days," says YHWH; "I will put My Torah in their inward parts, and in their heart will I write it; and I will be their Elohim, and they shall be My people."

In what manner will YHWH write His Torah upon our hearts? And how will He place His Torah in our inward parts? He will do this through and by His Spirit. When His Spirit comes and lives in us, then He will write His Torah upon our hearts and His Torah will be in our inward parts because He is there in the person of His Spirit.

Yechezqel (Ezekiel) 37:14

“And I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land; and you shall know that I, YHWH, have spoken it and performed it,” says YHWH.

It would seem that we are even now in the beginning stages of YHWH placing His Spirit in us. This stage actually began with the coming of Mashiach. It is now about to bear fruit in that YHWH will plant us in the land that He promised to Avraham, Yitzchak and Ya’aqov.

Yochanan (John) 14:17

“even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive; for it beholds Him not, neither knows Him; you know Him; for He abides with you, and shall be in you.”

Being filled with His Spirit does not mean that one is perfect or has attained perfection in the sense that he no longer makes mistakes. We are all human and we all started out with a fallen nature; a nature that He redeems when we come to YHWH through Yeshua when we ask for and receive forgiveness for our sins.

However, when we do clearly hear His Voice and walk in obedient love towards Him, then we are walking in perfection. When we walk in loving obedience to the guidance of His Spirit in us, then one will expect to see a growing manifestation of His fruit in our lives.

Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 meekness, self-control; against such there is no Torah.

We see this in our Torah portion this week as the people gave and gave without restraint till the need was more than fulfilled. And from the text we gather that they would have continued to give as long as they had something to give. Likewise, we too are to give as He directs, not as men would manipulate us, but as His Spirit guides us to give, so we are to give. What are we to give?

Qorintyah Aleph (1st Corinthians) 12:7

But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit to profit all.

Brothers and sisters walking with Mashiach and following Him and being His talmid (disciple) is not about: What’s in it for me?! Rather, we are to see the better good of those around us. We are to ask: How may I help you in your walk with Mashiach Yeshua?

YHWH has given each one of us gifts, talents and abilities to help build His kingdom. The sad thing is that when a person stops in his journey and does not come all the way out of Babylon, but stops short because he desires the monetary increase that he gains from serving YHWH and bilking His sheep.

What His people are to be doing is to be helping one another to do our very best in building His kingdom. To use a modern day buzz word, we are to be facilitators. Scripture plainly teaches us this truth.

Qorintyah Aleph (1st Corinthians) 12:18-20

18 But now has Elohim set the members each one of them in the body, even as it pleased Him.

19 And if they were all one member, then where is the body?

20 But now they are many members, but one body.

Please note then in verse 19 Shaul is asking the question if we were all the same, then where would the body of Mashiach be? If we all looked alike and acted alike, in effect if we were all cut out with the same spiritual cookie cutter, then where would the body of Mashiach be? Nowhere; the body would not exist! However, as Shaul rightly points out, we are not all the same, rather we are all different! In that difference we are still all part of the same body, the body of Mashiach Yeshua. As such we are to clearly recognize these differences. In fact, we should celebrate them! In Babylon it is desired and expected for all to be and act the same. In the kingdom of Elohim we are expected to be the person YHWH created us to be. This is YHWH's will. It is time that His people see this truth and walk in His Spirit and encourage others to walk in His Spirit as well, understanding that when we do this, each person is going to be unique and function in a unique way. Walking in His Spirit means that we will be spiritually mature enough to allow YHWH to be sovereign over His people and stop trying to manipulate and force others into our own image of what it means to follow Mashiach Yeshua.

ABBA YHWH, open our eyes that we may see how to walk in Your Spirit at all times and give us the maturity necessary to allow others to do the same; in the name of Mashiach Yeshua. Amen.

Shabbat Shalom

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