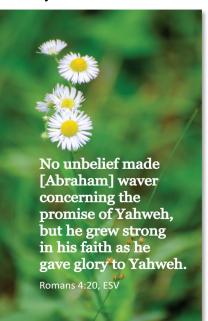
Sisters for Yah

I believe, help my unbelief

Faith does not come from ignorance. Faith is based on what we know. Before we will trust others with something precious to us, we first try to find out if they are trustworthy. The father in Mark 9:24 wanted healing for his son. He was asking that he might come to know Yahshua in such a dimension that he could trust Him to cure his child. The son had been possessed by an evil spirit since early childhood. The father did not know Yahshua well, but he had heard



and seen enough evidence to convince him that if there was any hope for his son, it lay with Yahshua. In desperation he cried out for help. Yahshua's response was to heal the man's son. The desperate father had correctly gone to Yahshua with his problem even though he was struggling with his faith.

When we are struggling to believe, that is not the time to avoid Yahweh, or to be ashamed of our struggle. We will never increase our faith by not going to Yahweh. Rather, Yahweh wants us to come to Him in honestly. He wants to help us with our unbelief. Yahweh does not only meet our need, but He also gives us faith to trust Him to provide for us.

If you are struggling to believe that Yahweh can take care of your need, it might be because you don't know Him as He wants you to. Go to Him and allow Him to convince you of His ability to meet every need you will ever face.

Keep in mind that faith struggles are not unusual! (Read Jude 1:22-25). It tells us to be merciful to those who doubt. The man in Mark 9:24 was not reprimanded for admitting that he had some unbelief. His honesty actually showed great courage and humility. Many of us would rather deny our true feelings and portray a "fake" confidence. Admitting weakness is actually a sign of strength. Having an authentic relationship with both Yahweh and our fellow man can actually be improved by admitting our faults. Even the Apostle Paul admitted his frailty when he said that the things he wanted to do, he didn't do, and the things he didn't want to do, was what he did. Remember that Yahweh is our loving Father. Most fathers would prefer that their children come to them asking for help. No good father would refuse.

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Feeling lost in the crowd?

And when Yahshua came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your home," Luke 19:5.

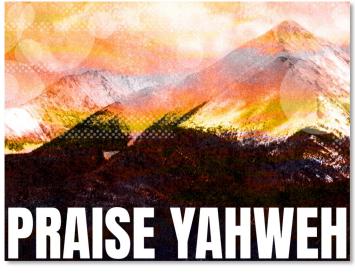
In our large world it's easy to feel that we are nothing more than an insignificant speck in the midst of a multitude. This world tends to depersonalize us, seeking to make us like everyone else. But Yahweh loves us in specific ways that are particular to us.



Yahshua was on His way to Jerusalem to fulfil His assignment. The multitudes thronged around Him in such numbers that the short-in-stature Zacchaeus could not see Yahshua unless he climbed a tree. Zacchaeus would have been satisfied simply to catch a glimpse of the great Teacher. But Yahshua stopped, turned, and looked directly at him! In that moment, Zacchaeus was most likely oblivious to the crowd around him. Thus began a special time with Yahshua that radically changed his life.

Yahweh often relates to us in ways that are unique to us. He knows our pasts, and He knows what we will face in the future. Because He knows us, His Word to us will perfectly fit the circumstances of our lives. You may be in a group of people at the Assembly who are listening to a sermon, and certain messages will speak to you as if they were directly written for you alone. We've all had this experience. Don't become frustrated with others if they are not as excited about a truth from Yahweh as you are. Don't be impatient with them if they are not implementing Yahweh's Word in their lives exactly as you are. Yahweh will personalize His Word to each of us in a way that specifically meets our needs.

The mountain top experience



We've all had "mountain top" experiences. Those are delightful times in our lives when everything seems to be going well. But it's been said that if Yahweh allowed us to stay permanently on the mountain top, we would not grow spiritually. I think of Deuteronomy 1:6, which says, "Yahweh our Elohim spoke to us in Horeb, saying, "You have dwelt long enough at this mountain." The Israelites had gathered a the foot of Mount Horeb while Yahweh spoke to them and gave them His Law. It was a breathtaking experience! Fire and smoke covered that awesome mountain; lightning flashed, and loud trumpet sounds pierced the air in deafening noise. The ground at the foot of the mountain shook, and the people trembled in fear. (Read Exodus 19:16-25.)

As important as it was for Yahweh's people to have this inspiring encounter, Yahweh had not rescued them from Egypt only to settle around a mountain in the wilderness. Yahweh delivered them so they could inhabit the Promised Land. He wanted them to trust Him in their conquest of Canaan. At times, Yahweh will also provide us with mountain top experiences. You may wish to stay on the mountain top. But remember, these encounters are Yahweh's way of preparing us for the battles that await us on our way to the Kingdom.

OBEDIENCE

Genesis 6:22: So Noah did everything exactly as Yahweh had commanded him.

Deuteronomy 5:32: You must obey all the commands of Yahweh your Elohim, following His instructions in every detail.

1 Samuel 15:22: Samuel replied, "What is more pleasing to Yahweh: your burnt offerings and sacrifices, or your obedience to His voice? Obedience is far better than sacrifice. Listening to Him is much better than offering the fat of rams.

Exodus 12:28: The people of Israel did just as Yahweh had commanded through Moses and Aaron.

Romans 13:1: Obey the government, for Yahweh is the One Who put it there. All governments have been placed in power by Elohim.

Hebrews 13:17: Obey your spiritual leaders and do what they say.

Exodus 1:17: Because the midwives feared Elohim, they refused to obey the king and allowed the boys to live, too.

Acts 4:19-20: Peter and John replied, "Do you think Elohim wants us to obey you rather than Him? We cannot stop telling about the wonderful things we have seen and heard.

Acts 5:29: Peter and the apostles replied, "We must obey Elohim over human authority.

Exodus 19:5: If you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all nations of the earth; for all the earth belongs to Me.

Choose to rejoice



As difficult as this sounds, our joy as Yahweh's people should not depend on our circumstances. Joy comes from Yahweh, and therefore we must not allow it to be affected by what is outside of us. Don't be fooled into letting the actions of others determine your joy. True joy comes from knowing Yahweh. True joy comes from realizing the fact that our sins have been washed away by Yahshua's sacrifice.

Remember Paul and Silas. They were unjustly cast into prison. How did they respond to their circumstances? They prayed and sang hymns!

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Try this healthier take on mac and cheese. The spinach adds healthy nutrients, while the bacon boosts the protein content. Mix all the ingredients together.

Spinach Mac & Cheese

6 ounces turkey bacon, cooked and crumbled.

- 1 yellow onion, chopped and sautéed in butter.
- 2 cups chicken broth.

8 ounces of drained macaroni pasta, cooked until tender.

4 cups chopped spinach, cooked in the broth. 1/3 cup shredded parmesan cheese. Salt and pepper, optional to taste.





Tomato Basil Soup w/ croutons

4 cups cherry tomatoes, chopped.
2 medium chopped shallots, or 2 small onions.
3 T. oil.
1 t. dried oregano.
1 can (28 ounce) undrained crushed tomatoes.
1 cup water.
1/4 cup chopped fresh basil.
1/2 t. salt.

- 1.2 t. pepper.
- 1/4 heavy cream.

3 ounces cubed whole wheat bread.



Heat the oil and sauté the tomatoes, shallots, and basil till soft and fragrant. Place all the ingredients, except cubed bread, and heat through. Bake the bread at 350 degrees on a cookie sheet till crispy. Ladle soup into bowls and top with the croutons.

