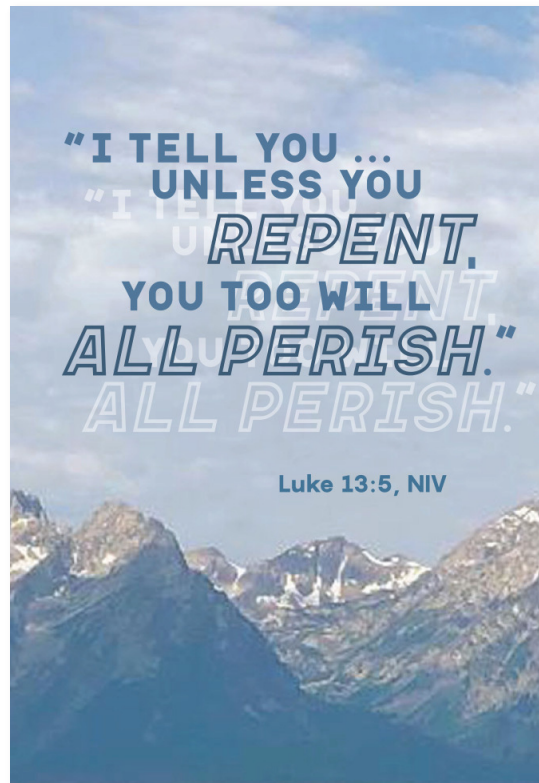


Sisters for Yah

REPENT, FOR THE KINGDOM IS AT HAND!

Repentance is one of the most healing and positive things we can experience. We lose some of the meaning in the English language, where it generally means feeling sorry for something. However, in the Hebrew, the word for repent, is “teshuva” which means turning completely around and going back to Yahweh. It is so much more than just feeling sorry for our sins.

In Mark 1:14-15, we read: *Now after John was put in prison, Yahshua came to Galilee, preaching the Good News of the Kingdom of Yahweh, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of Yahweh is at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.”*



We know that John the Immerser centered his preaching on repentance. (See Matthew 3:2, Mark 1:4, and Luke 3:3.) Likewise, Yahshua also preached repentance, commanding His disciples to do so, too. The angel predicted that Messiah would save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:21). The requirement for this salvation would be repentance.

So the Biblical definition of repentance basically means to stop going in one direction, to turn around completely, and to go the opposite way. Repentance, of course involves a dramatic and decisive change of course. We are urged to change our path, when the path we are on is leading to destruction! Repentance will save us from disastrous consequences. How comforting that our loving Creator

warns us of impending danger.

Sadly, many people think of repentance as something negative. When we recognize our sin, some people prefer to “rededicate” themselves to Yahweh, instead of repenting deeply. True repentance should involve a radical change of heart and mind in which we agree with Yahweh’s evaluation of our sin. We should then take decisive action to align ourselves with His will. A desire to change is not repentance. Repentance is always an active response to Yahweh’s Word. The evidence of repentance is not us resolving to do better next time. Repentance is a changed life!

Inside this issue:

Repent, for the...	1
Helpful articles	3
Recipes	4

What is your heart condition?

But the ones that fell on good ground are those who, having heard the Word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience, Luke 8:15.

At any given time, the receptiveness of our hearts will determine our response to Yahweh's Word. A heart trampled by the sins of the world, might become hardened with bitterness and unforgiveness, and may have difficulty accepting a message from Yahweh.

Some people hear the words of the message, but remain unchanged. If a person's heart is like the shallow soil on top of a rock, Yahweh's Word might be accepted in the mind, but the truth cannot penetrate the heart to make a difference in a person's actions.

Having a heart like thorny soil is a life that is distracted by the cares of the world. The pursuit of earthly pleasures prevents the Word from taking hold and producing righteousness. But the heart that is like good soil receives Yahweh's Word, applies it, and brings forth fruit in due time. This, of course, is the heart that our Heavenly Father desires in us, for the fruit will be a righteous life.

So how do we develop a heart that is like good soil? Read this carefully: **REPENT OF ANY BITTERNESS, ANGER, OR UNFORGIVENESS THAT MAY BE HARDENING YOUR HEART!**

Meditate on Yahweh's Word until it finds admittance deep into your heart, not just your mind. Apply what you learn in Scripture directly to your life. Protect your heart! Don't devote all your energy to worldly concerns instead of pursuing your relationship with Yahweh. We must daily prepare our hearts for Yahweh.



How can they deny Him?

Almost all believers share their faith with their friends and family members. Yet, it seems few results occur from this sharing. Many believers just can't understand how their close circle of friends and family can reject the truth. This might be a difficult thing to remember, but Yahweh is not **CALLING** every one at this time. However, your faith-sharing is not all in vain. Take heart, for you may be planting seeds that will yield a bountiful harvest in the future.

I remember many years ago after I accepted the truth, I proceeded to share my exciting new faith with everyone I knew. It did not go very well. I often joke that it went so badly that I could probably write a book entitled, "How to Lose Friends and Family Members in One Easy Lesson." I tried to gently share my faith, but I quickly realized that the people I shared with were not being called. And that's okay. It was not my job to save the world.

With some people, Yahweh deliberately puts a "veil over their eyes" so that they won't accept the truth at this time! It's simply not their time. But all is not lost. If they don't accept the truth in this life, they may very well get their "first opportunity" later in the second resurrection. Those of us who accept Yahweh now, will be first-fruits in the first resurrection. Also, having a "head" knowledge of the truth is not enough. Many people have a head knowledge. We must also have a "heart" knowledge. So I encourage everyone to keep "planting seeds" of truth, but don't get discouraged if you don't see the harvest now.

We must be set apart

Yahweh is pleased whenever He finds a person who is striving to live a righteous life and bring glory to Him. I love Psalm 4:3, which says, “*But know that Yahweh has set apart for Himself him who is righteous; Yahweh will hear when I call to Him.*”

Make no mistake about it: Sin separates us from Yahweh. It causes Him to close His ears to our praying. It is futile to pray when we are knowingly practicing sin. But the opposite is also true. Yahweh chooses to honor us by listening to our every cry when we are living a righteous life. An abiding security comes with living a blameless life. The righteous person never has to wonder whether Yahweh has listened to his or her prayer (1 John 5:14-15). The righteous person has confidence that Yahweh has indeed heard every prayer and will immediately respond in all of His power.

It is indeed exhilarating to be set apart by Yahweh, knowing that He observes your consecrated life and is pleased by what He sees. The world may not extend any special status to you, but you will know that you are cherished by Yahweh. The world continues to find new ways to honor people, but even the world’s most extravagant accolades are pitiful compared to the unfathomable blessing of holding a special place in the heart of Yahweh.



On Faith and Doubt

We know that it is faith that releases Yahweh’s mighty power into the life of a believer. (Read Hebrews 11:33-35.) But doubt is not always a bad thing. It is not wrong to want to prove the truth of the Bible. We don’t have blind faith. There is tremendous proof backing up what we believe. The moment we turn to Him with a genuine commitment to rid ourselves of doubt, Yahweh will match our doubt with a revelation of Himself that can convince you of His faithfulness. When Thomas doubted,

Yahshua revealed Himself to him in such a way that every doubt vanished (John 20:27). Yahweh often reveals Himself in such a way that any doubt is removed.

We know that without faith it is impossible to please Yahweh (Heb. 11:6). Yahshua rebuked those who would not believe in Him. He had revealed enough of Himself for His disciples to have believed Him in their time of need. Yahweh wants to build our understanding of Him until our faith is sufficient to trust and obey Him in each situation (Mark 9:23-25). Even our healing depends on our faith. I think of Matthew 8:25-26: Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, “Master, save us! We are perishing!” But He said to them, “Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?” Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was great calm.

Faith can move mountains. Yes, physical mountains, if needed, but also spiritual mountains. What are you struggling with today? Take your “mountain” to Yahweh and have faith that He will remove it. To you who love Him, allow Him to work in your life all things good. Trust His plan in your life. He can calm the storms in our lives.

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Turkey Corn Chowder

- 2 cans condensed cream of potato soup
- 3 cups milk
- 1 cup salsa
- 1 can corn, 15 ounces, drained
- 4 cups cooked cubed turkey (or chicken)
- 12 slices turkey bacon, cooked and crumbled



Combine all the ingredients in a soup pot over medium high heat. Bring to a boil. Reduce to a simmer and cook for 10 minutes. Serves 8.

Super Fast and Easy Chili

- 2 pounds ground beef, cooked and drained
- 4 cans pinto beans, undrained
- 4 cans tomatoes with green chilies (such as Rotel), 15 ounces each, undrained
- 2 onions, minced
- 4 T. mild chili powder
- Toppings of your choice: diced onion, shredded cheese, sour cream, chives, tortilla chips or corn chips



Combine the first 5 ingredients in a large soup pot. Simmer about 25 minutes. Ladle into bowls and top with your favorite toppings.



Oh, So Easy Chicken Dinner!

- 4 boneless chicken breasts
- 1 can green beans, undrained
- 3 potatoes, cubed
- 1 packet Italian dressing mix
- 1 stick butter, melted with 1 t. seasoning salt

Spray a baking dish with cooking spray. Empty the cans of green beans down one side of the pan. Place the chicken in the middle of the dish in a line. Put the potatoes on a third side of the dish. Pour the butter over everything. Sprinkle the Italian seasoning evenly over the entire dish. Cover with foil. Bake 350 degrees for one hour. Remove the foil and cook about 15 more minutes.