

Sisters for Yah

How testing reveals who we are

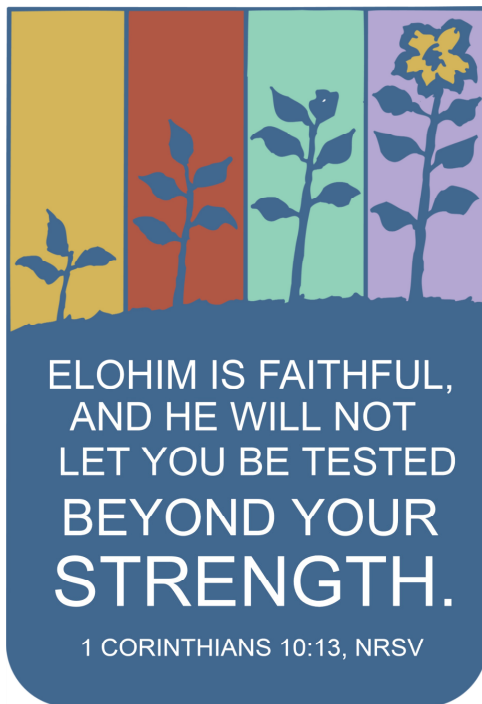
Deuteronomy 8:2-3 tells us: *And you shall remember that Yahweh your Elohim led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of Yahweh.*

Yahweh allows us to suffer difficulties for a purpose. As we just read in the above Scripture, Yahweh led the children of Israel to wander through the wilderness for forty years in order to humble them and test them. When they refused to obey Him and enter the Promised Land, the Israelites revealed that they did not really know Him. If they had, they would have had more faith. Yahweh spent the next forty years testing the hearts of His people to see if they were prepared for His next assignment.

Indeed, testing can reveal what is truly in our hearts and even produce a robust faith in us. See James 1:3, 12. Yahweh allowed His people to hunger so they could experience His provision

and develop a deeper level of trust in Him. As the people walked with Yahweh, they came to understand that their lives depended upon His Word. They learned that Yahweh's Word was the most important thing they had. After depending on Yahweh for forty years while living in the desert, the people learned to listen when Yahweh spoke! And they believed. When they finally entered the Promised Land and waged war against their enemies, the Israelites knew that Yahweh's Word meant life and death. They were prepared to listen to Him, and as a result He led them to an astounding victory.

Is Yahweh presently testing you in some area of your life? What has His testing revealed? Have to become bitter toward Yahweh because of where He has led you? Or have you come to trust Him more as a result of what you have gone through?



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The importance of reverence

It is very evident to most of us that this current generation lacks a sense of wonder and reverence toward Yahweh. People seem to want to bring Yahweh down to their level, to the commonplace. He is Yahweh! He is not like mortal man. Though we have access to Yahweh, through Yahshua as our mediator, we ought never to forget that this access to Him as His children was purchased with the precious blood of His only Son. No one who truly understands this ever enters Yahweh's presence without a sense of awe. No one who comprehends the incredible price paid by Messiah ever takes their relationship with Yahweh for granted.

Of course, as flesh and blood, we will never truly understand Yahweh and the way He relates to us unless we first comprehend a true sense of His Set-apartness and His demand for set-apartness among His people. When we come before Yahweh's presence in prayer and worship, we ARE on Holy ground. We must never act as if it were Yahweh's purpose to serve our selfish wants. It is preposterous for us to become impatient when Yahweh does not answer our prayers when and how we think He should. He is All Powerful. We are not.

When we meditate on the price that Yahshua paid to give us access to the Farther, we should come to treasure our prayer times with Him. Worship will become a privilege we should seize with gratitude. Scripture will be dear to us as we strive to be holy in all that we do. See 2 Corinthians 7:1; 1 Peter 1:15.

If we have lost our wonder at the incredible gift of salvation that we have been blessed with, we need to cry out to Yahweh and turn to Him with a soft and willing heart. How priceless is Yahweh's gift of Salvation! Read Hebrews 10:19-20: *Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the holiest by the blood of Yahshua, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh.*

We are a new creation

Our lives are a part of Yahweh's grand design. Yahweh has known us and had a plan for us ever since time began. Indeed, He knew us before we were born. Yahweh's call came to us when He invited us to join Him in the process. His call was extremely personal, and designed specifically for each of us. Because of our sin, we could never live blamelessly. But Yahweh forgave us and declared us righteous as we were covered by Yahshua's blood sacrifice on our behalf. Then we became brand new creatures at our baptisms, as our slates were wiped clean. We then were free from the spiritual debt we carried and were free to serve Him for the rest of eternity. Read Romans 8:29-30: *For whom He foreknew, He also predestined, to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.*

If you, Yah,
kept a record of sins,
Master, who could stand?

But with you
there is

forgiveness

so that

we can,

with reverence,

serve you.

PSALM 130:3-4, NIV

How prayer reveals Yahweh's agenda

It was common knowledge among Yahshua's disciples that they would find Yahshua praying during the early morning hours. When they needed Him, they knew to go to the place of prayer. When Judas betrayed Yahshua, he led his cohorts to Yahshua's place of prayer. Every time Yahshua faced an important decision, He prayed. When He was tempted to do things by the world's methods instead of the Father's, He prayed. When it was time to choose His disciples, He prayed the entire night (Luke 6:12). If the Son of Yahweh required a night of prayer in order to determine the Father's mind, how long might it take us in prayer to clearly determine our Father's will?

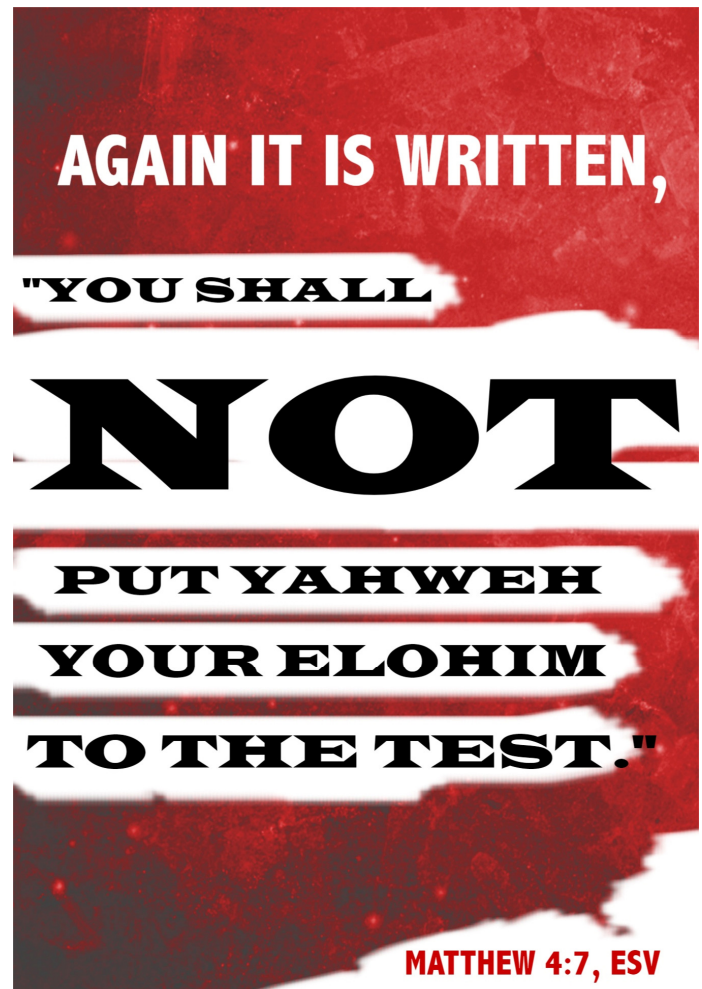
Because Yahshua was so often surrounded by crowds, He knew He must find a quiet place so He could clearly hear His Father's voice. Yahshua was pulled in so many directions: His disciples wanted Him to go where the crowds were (Mark 1:37). And the crowds wanted to crown Him king (John 6:15). Meanwhile, Satan was tempting Him to make compromises (Matthew 4:3, 6,9). But Yahshua knew that His mission was not to attract a crowd, but to remain obedient to His Father. It was prayer that set the agenda for Yahshua's ministry (Luke 6:12). Prayer preceded miracles (1 John 11:42-43); prayer brought Him encouragement at critical moments (Luke 9:28-31); prayer enabled Him to suffer and die on our behalf (Luke 22:41-42). And prayer kept Him there despite excruciating pain (Luke 23:46). Follow the Savior's example, and let your time alone with Yahweh, in prayer, set the agenda for your life.

Satan, the liar

As Believers, our lives should be permeated with truth. When we accept Yahshua, we received the gift of the Holy Spirit. See John 16:13. The role of Yahweh's Spirit is to guide us into all truth. Our minds are to be filled with whatever is true (Philemon 4:8). If we are spirit-filled, then we will be truthful in our words and actions. This means your yes will always be yes, and your no will always mean no. See Matthew 5:33-37.

Contrast this with the world under sway by Satan. The world openly considers truth optional. We find deception in every corner of our society. From his first contact with people, Satan has been lying to them and persuading them to live in falsehood rather than in truth. And the world will tempt you to compromise the truth. You may be fooled into thinking that you can accomplish the greater good by withholding the truth. That is a demonic deception. Deception cannot build Yahweh's Kingdom. Hypocrisy is a sin (Luke 12:56). Only by confessing sin will we be forgiven and set free (James 5:16).

Let us always live in truth. What we say reflects what is in our hearts (Matthew 12:34). Ask Yahweh to fill you with truth.



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Refreshing Strawberries and Greens Salad



6 cups torn mixed salad greens
2 cups fresh strawberries, sliced
1 block feta cheese (4 ounces), crumbled
1/4 cup sunflower seed kernels
Balsamic vinaigrette (or your favorite dressing)

Mix the first four ingredients in a large salad bowl. Serve with dressing.

Awesome Carrot Cake



2 cans sliced carrots (14 ounces each), drained and mashed (or use equivalent amount fresh, cooked carrots)
1 cup cooking oil
2 cups sugar
2 cups flour
2 t. baking powder
2 t. baking soda
1/2 t. salt
2 t. cinnamon
1/2 cup crushed pineapple, drained
4 eggs
1/2 cup flaked coconut, optional
1/2 cup chopped nuts, optional

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Grease a 9 by 13 baking pan. Mix up the ingredients and pour into pan. Bake about 30 minutes until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Frost, if desired, with cream cheese frosting (recipe follows):

Cream cheese frosting:

1 block (8 ounces) cream cheese, room temperature
1 stick butter, room temperature
2 t. vanilla extract
2 cups powdered sugar

Beat with electric mixer. Be sure to add the sugar gradually.

