

Staying Connected 2

“Never Hanging Up”

I. SCRIPTURE

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 – “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of YAHUAH [God] in MASHIACH YAHUSHA [Christ Jesus] for you”.

II. OUR CASE OF BEING DISCONNECTED

Today’s message is the conclusion of the “Staying Connected” message that we started last week. In truth, I had intended to deliver today’s message back on August 15, but just before I could walk up to the front of the sanctuary to deliver it, we had a sudden, and what turned out to be a prolonged power outage. The back story to this outage was that a large bird had flown into a nearby power transformer (the device on a nearby pole that transforms the electrical power from one circuit to another): causing it to explode, causing the electricity to our building to go out instantly. As we instantly lost power, we also instantly lost our lights, our air conditioning, our Wi-Fi, our computer, our overhead projector, and the other technology that we count on to deliver our messages. I was ready to go ahead and I could have delivered the message to our local audience (here), but with this “disconnect” and all the technology that we lost, we would not have been able to record this particular message for our outside audience: in the community and in the wider worldwide audience. And as you now know the back story to this electrical disconnect, I would have you consider today what the back story may have been as to why the RUACH YAHUAH [Spirit of God] decided that this particular message should be delayed: sectioned out over the three (3) following weeks, to be wrapped up today.

The title of the message back on August 15 was “Praying Continually”, and although pieces of it were presented in the following two (2) services, the remaining pieces are now being unfolded and presented to you today.

III. RECOGNIZING & ANSWERING THE RIGHT CALL

We learned last week that there have been both man-breathed and YAHUAH [God]-breathed predictions of what would be taking place in this year: 2020... of its chaos, of the fight between the minds of the younger generation against the minds of the elder... of their insolence toward the honorable... of the interfamily (of the two or

three against the five within)... of the lack of rain (in the US, Australia, and other countries)... of the locust invasions (now causing record devastation in Africa, parts of the middle east, southern Russia, India and Pakistan, and other places)... of the earthquakes in greater number and in greater intensity, in more diverse places around the world (including places recently such places as North Carolina, US ... where just a few weeks ago, there had never been earthquakes before)... of pestilences [“fatal epidemic diseases”] such as we are experiencing with the COVID-19 pestilence, and that we will continue to experience: ALL of these as just the beginning of the world’s sorrows. And as all of this is culminating in 2020, many of the world’s peoples will become offended, they will have their feelings hurt... so much so, that they will hate one another... betray one another... that they will rise up and deceive one another... and lawlessness will abound and the love of many toward each other will turn into hatred... and yet... despite all that happening... you and I are told that we must “grin and bear it”, as it is said.

We learned last week that during this particular time in our lives... now even more than ever before... that there is an even more intense, ongoing spiritual war going on for the control over our hearts and minds... that each day is a new battle between the spiritual forces of darkness and the RUACH HA’QODESH [Holy Spirit] in our heads and in our members... and that battle starts from the very instant that we wake up and wages on until we fall asleep at night... that is, if we are able to fall asleep at night...

...as many of us are so full of anxiety and terror over the state of the events in our lives this year... and yes, let’s also not forget, that also because of the remaining, persistent sins in our lives: that we refuse to get rid of, that we have not yet overcome... that because of all of this... that we are having difficulty finding peace in our lives... and so much so, that we are not able to receive the blessing that has been promised to us that “when we lie down, that we should not be afraid... but that our sleep should be sweet”: for this is what YAHUAH [God] has promised you and me (Proverbs 3:24)... that IF we pursue His Godly-wisdom – if we follow the leading of the RUACH HA’QODESH [Holy Spirit], rather than following our own human wisdom and doing things OUR way... partaking of the pleasures sin, and going along with the ways of the world... it is promised that we will NOT be afraid, BUT that our sleep will be sweet! And not just in our sleep that will we find this peace – but that when we can hopefully shut off the world, that we will also be able to find true peace during our awake hours each day. For we who are connected through Him, through the RUACH YAHUAH [Spirit of God], we are promised that...

“...the Helper, the RUACH HA’QODESH [Holy Spirit], whom the Father will send in [YAHUSHA (Jesus)]’s name, [that] He will teach [us] all things, and bring to [our] remembrance all things that [He] said to [us]”. And He promises that “He will leave Peace with you, that [the] peace He will give to you is not as the world gives peace”. And He promises this so that you should “not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be afraid”. (John 14:26-27)

(Our phones in our office here talk to us, so if we aren’t within range to look at the caller ID, then we can at least hear who is calling in to us.)

Yes, dear friends, dear brothers and sister here and around the globe hearing this message today, LOOK at your receiver now... LISTEN to your receiver now. Use your body’s members... use your eyes and use your ears now. Do you recognize the One Who is calling you now? Do you recognize the One showing up on the caller ID? The name that is being read out to you? For in this very moment, the ID that is showing on your receiver and mine... the ID that is within an earshot, the One Who is calling you... Who wants to speak with you now... is no other than the RUACH HA’QODESH [Holy Spirit]. He is the One through Whom YAHUAH [God] the Heavenly Father is transmitting to you right now... yes, YAHUAH [God] is transmitting to you through your mind, through the ultimate Transformer, through the MESSIAH YAHUSHA [Christ Jesus].

Yes, dear friends, dear brothers and sisters, this is the call that you need to pick up! Now! Before He hangs up! Before He stops trying to call again. Yes, this is One Whom you need to recognize... the One Whom you need listen to – to heed, to obey... that is, if you want true peace in your life.

IV. PICK UP YOUR CALL NOW

We learned last week that the only way to change our chaotic world... to change the lives of those in the outside world, to solve the world’s problems... as well as to change the lives of and solve the problems of those within our body... and within our families – to bring world peace... and to bring peace and unity within our body, and our families – is by you and I to:

- 1. Pray (and fast; to pick up YAHUAH [God]’s call now and having a conversation with Him; and then by**
- 2. Seeking YAHUAH [God]’s Face: to desire Him and to want to be like Him. And then, by**

3. Leaving the world behind; by turning away from our wicked ways, our sin with the help of the RUACH HA'QODESH [Holy Spirit], Whom YAHUAH [God] sends you in YAHUSHA [Jesus]'s name.

Any now that you have picked up the most important call of your life, you must make sure that His call is never dropped, that you never hang up on the most transforming conversation, the most transforming relationship on your life. Don't worry about the technology on the other side of the Transformer, for it is flawless. But instead, worry about the technology at your end of the call.

V. NEVER ALLOW YOUR HEAVENLY CONNECTION TO BE DISCONNECTED

We all know that in this day and age many of us rely heavily on our mobile phones, to keep connected to our friends and family, and with the world. So how is it then that what is supposed to be a reliable connection is still an iffy prospect? Bad connections and dropped calls happen to everybody: you're on a call, there's static, you can't hear well, and often the connection drops off. Or maybe you're using a GPS app, you want to find an unfamiliar location, and then it suddenly! It quits working for you because the signal has disappeared. So now what do you do? Do you drive around, in every direction, hoping to pick up the signal again?

According to WeBoost, here are some things we can do to improve your connection:

1. Take the cover off our phone.
2. Don't block our phone's antenna.
3. Keep the battery charged.
4. If we're moving, stop.
5. We go outside; get clear of obstructions.
6. Try a different location.
7. Increase our elevation.
8. Try a more stable Wifi connection.

This is really no different than what we need to do to improve you (eternal) life-saving, life-changing conversation with YAHUAH [God]... through the RUACH HA'QODESH [Holy Spirit]. Yes, there are some things that we will need to do in order to improve our connection: to be sure that we don't lose our connection... that our signal doesn't disappear... that there is no static that interferes with our conversation... that keeps us from hearing, from understanding what we are being told (in sing your ear body member) ... that we don't lose our navigation. Yes, we

CAN avoid being disconnected, and improve our connection with YAHUAH [God]; here are a few things that we can do, we:

- 1. Remove the outer barrier, *anything* that prevents the RUACH [Spirit] from getting through to us.**
- 2. Don't block our mind's receptors with Cherished Sin (Psalm 66:18).**
- 3. Keep our temple, our mind and body, full charged (1 Corinthians 6:19).**
- 4. Stop striving... instead, we recognize that our Caller is ELOHIYM [God] (Psalm 46:10).**
- 5. Get clear of all obstructions: false teaching, fear, doubt, pride, busyness, shame, ...**
- 6. Try a different location. We recognize when we are too far from YAHUAH [God], our Tower. "The name of YAHUAH [God] is a strong tower: the righteous run into it, and are safe" (Proverbs 18:10).**
- 7. Increase our elevation, by developing a closer and higher relationship with YAHUAH [God] with the help of the RUACH HA'QODESH [Holy Spirit].**
- 8. Try a more stable connection: the connection to YAHUAH [God] through His Word – The Holy Bible and a personal relationship with YAHUSHA HA'MASHIACH [Jesus Christ] is the most stable connection that we can every achieve.**

VI. NEVER HANG UP: MAINTAIN YOUR EVERLASTING CONNECTION

Many believe that they can live a separate secular time, a secular life that is possible to live within a zone that is outside of their sacred time, their sacred life. That is a fallacy! Please don't make that mistake. Today's text says that we are to "pray without ceasing". How is it then, that you think that you can put down your holy conversation with YAHUAH [God], put Him and your conversation with Him "on hold" so to speak, and keep that "everlasting" conversation going? It's just not possible! And what is it exactly that you would consider "secular" in nature, that you would even think could be something that you would put your Helper, your Savior aside to handle separately from Him? For whatever it might be, I would say that it is something you either think is too secular to bring to YAHUAH [God] in your prayer, in your conversation... or worse yet, that it is something that you are so ashamed of, that you are either too ashamed, or too afraid to bring to Him, because He might not approve. And so now we need to remember that YAHUSHA [Jesus] tells His disciples that "if [we] would come after [Him], [then] let [us] deny [ourselves], and take up His cross and follow [Him]" (Matthew 16:24). We are also told that we are to "seek **FIRST the kingdom of YAHUAH [God] and His righteousness, and [then] all these [secular] things will be added to [us]" (Matthew 6:33)... at a time and to an extent**

that HE decides, if ever. That is up to Him; not up to you... for He knows what is in your best eternal interest.

VII. THE SACRED VS. SECULAR DIVIDE

What about our “secular” jobs, our “secular” work, our “secular” activities? Doesn’t even the fourth commandment say that that “six (6) days shall we labor and do all our work, but the seventh day is the Shabbat (Sabbath) of YAHUAH ELOHAYKA [the Lord your God]” (Exodus 20:9-10a)? I believe that we can answer this question and obtain guidance by looking at the written word through Nehemiah (1:1-10) (per the Tow Project Bible Commentary):

The connection between the temple and the wall is significant for the theology of work. The temple might seem to be a religious institution, while the walls are a secular one. But YAHUAH [God] led Nehemiah to work on the walls, no less than he led Ezra to work on the temple. Both the sacred and the secular were necessary to fulfill YAHUAH [God]’s plan to restore the nation of Israel. If the walls were unfinished, the temple would be unfinished too. The work was of a single piece. The reason for this is easy to understand: For without a wall, no city in the ancient Near East was safe from bandits, gangs and wild animals, even though the empire might be at peace. The more economically and culturally developed a city was, the greater the value of things in the city, and the greater the need for the wall. The temple, with its rich decorations, would have been particularly at risk. So practically speaking, no wall means no city, and no city means no temple.

Conversely, the city and its wall depend on the temple as the source of YAHUAH [God]’s provision for law, government, security and prosperity. Even on strictly military terms, the temple and the wall are mutually dependent. The wall is an integral part of the city’s protection, yet so is the temple wherein dwells the Lord (Ezra 1:3) who brings to nothing the violent plans of the city’s enemies (Nehemiah 4:15). Likewise, with government and justice: the gates of the wall are where lawsuits are tried (Deuteronomy 21:19, Isaiah 29:21), while at the same time ADONAI [the Lord] from his temple “executes justice for the orphan and the widow” (Deuteronomy 10:18). No temple means no presence of YAHUAH [God], and no presence of YAHUAH [God] means no military strength, no justice, no civilization and no need for walls. The temple and the walls are united in a society founded on YAHUAH [God]’s “covenant and steadfast love” (Nehemiah 1:5).

This at least is the ideal towards which Nehemiah was fasting, praying and working... and the basis towards what we should also be praying continually about, in our everlasting connection, and conversation with the RUACH of YAHUAH [God] made possible through YAHUSHA [Jesus].

VIII. OUR ETERNAL CONNECTION: HOW THEN WILL THE RUACH [Spirit] GUIDE US?

As Paul, the Apostle of MESSIAH [Christ] says, this is how we will be guided by the RUACH HA'QODESH [Holy Spirit] in our daily walk, through our eternal connection:

We will let our love be without hypocrisy. We will hate what is evil; we will cling to what is good. We will be kind and loving toward one another with brotherly and sisterly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in our diligence, but fervent in spirit, serving YAHUAH [the Lord]; rejoicing in our hope, patience in tribulation, CONTINUING STEADFASTLY IN PRAYER; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

“We will bless those who persecute us; bless and not curse. We will rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. We will be of the same mind toward one another. We will not set our mind on high earthly things, but associate with the humble. We will not be wise in our own opinion. We will repay no one evil for evil. But we will have regard for good things in the sight of all men and women. And to the extent possible, as much as depends on us, we will live peaceably with all men and women. We will not avenge ourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for we will know that it is written, ‘vengeance is YAHUAH [the Lord]’s, and He will repay’. Therefore, ‘if our enemy is hungry, we will feed him or her; if he is thirsty, we will give him or her a drink; for in so doing we know that we will heap coals of fire on his or her head.’ And finally, we will not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” (adapted from Romans 12:9-21)

Friends, brothers and sisters... today, while it is still called today, let us determine to Stay Connected with the Triune RUACH [Spirit], through YAHUSHA MESSIAH [Jesus Christ]. First and foremost, let us determine to never hang up on Him... to place our conversation with Him on hold... but instead, let us determine to remain connected to Him by our ceaseless, eternal prayer.

And so, as we close now, let's pray together that “the grace of our ADONAI YAHUSHA HA'MASHIACH [Lord Jesus Christ] be with us” (1 Thessalonians 5:28). Let's pray that as we remain here on this chaotic earth, a place with the unending distraction of sin and our pride and self-will... let's pray that as lawlessness abounds and the love of

many toward us and toward each turns into hatred... the WE remain connected in continually prayer for others, and for yourself... that you continually seek YAHUAH [God]'s face... and, that we will turn from our wicked ways.

Amen.

References & Credits:

- 1 "Why Your Phone Keeps Dropping Calls and How to Fix It", Nicholas Jones, 6/24/20, WeBoost;
<https://www.weboost.com/blog/causes-of-dropped-calls-and-how-to-fix-them>
- 2 "Bridging the Sacred-Secular Divide (Nehemiah 1:1-1:10)", Theology of Work, Bible Commentary, Tow Project;
<https://www.theologyofwork.org/old-testament/ezra-nehemiah-esther/nehemiah/restoration-of-the-wall-of-jerusalem-nehemiah-11-773/bridging-the-sacred-secular-divide>