



Walking in the Steps of the Master:

A Twelve Step Guide to Discipleship

COME TO ZION MINISTRIES

Isaiah 49:6...I will give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be my salvation to the ends of the earth.

Located in the Western Galilee, Israel

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Step Three: Learning Who We Are

Following the instructions of GOD, which are outlined in the Torah references, has always been a difficult job. The people of Israel had struggled for years to be a light to the world by following these instructions. There were times like in the days of King David and King Solomon, when the light shone brightly. Unfortunately there were times when the light was not so bright and GOD had to discipline Israel.

It was during the time of the great exile from Israel that GOD spoke through His Prophet Jeremiah, to proclaim a new covenant that would be with the people of Israel. The reference to this covenant is found in Jeremiah 31:31-33 NLT:

"The day is coming," says the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant, though I loved them as a husband loves his wife," says the LORD. "But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel on that day," says the LORD. "I will put My instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be My people.

The Book of Hebrews describes this same covenant, but clarifies that the problem with the covenant was not with GOD or the instructions, rather the problem was with the inability of the people to choose to follow them, Hebrews 8:9. With the renewing of the covenant, GOD was going to give us the power to follow the instructions. This power was connected to the inscribing of the instructions on our hearts, so that they would be a natural part of our being.

Yeshua confirmed this aspect of the of the renewed covenant when He told Nicodemus that one needed to be born again to see the Kingdom of GOD, John 3:3. The process of being born again is this very act of GOD inscribing His instructions on our hearts and giving us the power through His Spirit to follow them. We could never follow the instructions by our own power, but the Spirit of GOD makes it possible to do so.

The Apostle Paul spoke of this act like a circumcision of the heart. Circumcision was performed on the male babies on the eight day of their life. This act was an outward sign of an inner submission to the ways of GOD. Now, with the presence of Yeshua, the act of circumcision was done inwardly by the Holy Spirit. The sinful nature of our being was cut away, leaving the heart pure and able to follow GOD. The outward circumcision was rendered unnecessary, as it became a matter by which the inner circumcision of a person's heart would identify them as a Jew (family of GOD), Romans 2:29 NLT:

No, a true Jew is one whose heart is right with God. And true circumcision is not merely obeying the letter of the law; rather, it is a change of heart produced by God's Spirit. And a person with a changed heart seeks praise from God, not from people.

This whole process means a change of identity for the believer. The believer is no longer a sinner, for the old nature has been taken away. The believer is now a new person in Yeshua. The old nature has passed away and all things have become new, 2 Corinthians 5:17. Our being new, means that the power of GOD resides in us to assist our ability to make proper choices for GOD.

One application of the new power for the disciple, is to use the power within us to resist temptation. Temptation is a deceptive act that tries to persuade us that we do not have the power to stop sinning. People have come up with many excuses to justify the continuing of sin in their life. The born again disciple however, has no such excuse, for when the deception comes, they are to profess the truth that they are a new creation, not subject to sin. This type of profession confirms the word of Yeshua when he said that the truth would set us free, John 8:32.

Paul described it another way , where he states that walking in the Spirit will prevent us from following the lusts of our sinful nature. Paul understood that when we are born again, we identify with the death of our old nature on the cross with Yeshua. We are free therefore, from the power of our old nature. When we speak the truth of our new nature, we are thus walking in the power of the Spirit and fulfilling our duty as an obedient disciple.