

[Faith, Hope & Love_Part6](#)

We are back in our study on the Kingdom of God and most specifically what it means to live by faith—which is one of the three building blocks of the Lord’s kingdom—hope and love being the other two. We have been studying our King and His names in order to better understand what it means to bet our lives on His name and to truly *call on the name of the Lord in order that we might be saved*. After all, faith is merely the practical application to our lives of the facts about God—facts that we are learning from the name. Last week we studied the names **Jehovah Shammah** – the Lord is There and **Jehovah Tsidkenu** – the Lord our Righteousness. These were powerful names. Just to understand that He is with us everywhere all the time because He is There in us is an incredible realization. We are never alone. The one who created all things dwells within us. It is amazing. And He is the one who brings His righteousness with Him. Thus, to the extent that we give Jesus room in our souls we will know and experience His righteousness in us and through us. Hence, we can give up trying so hard to be good and fighting for our own goodness and rest in the fact that His is our goodness. The good child/bad child syndrome that has plagued our lives can be crushed by truly believing on these two names. These two names are so liberating. They free us from fear, guilt, shame, and all the internal bondage which comes from the tyranny of human goodness.

I want to quickly refresh our goals in these studies:

1. To know our King so well that we become fully convinced—based on all the facts—that we would be stupid to put our trust in anything or anyone else (especially ourselves); and

2. To likewise be fully convinced that all our decisions must be made based on the reality of the character and nature of our King which has been revealed by the name.

We now come to the tenth name in our study.

10. **Jehovah Mekoddishkem** – the Lord who Sanctifies you. This name comes from a couple of passages in the Old Testament and its meaning is different from what you might think.

Exodus 31:12-17

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, But as for you, speak to the sons of Israel, saying, 'You shall surely observe My Sabbaths; for this is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that *I am the Lord who sanctifies you*. Therefore you are to observe the Sabbath, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does any work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people. For six days work may be done, but on the seventh day there is a Sabbath of complete rest, holy to the Lord; whoever does any work on the Sabbath day shall surely be put to death. *So the sons of Israel shall observe the Sabbath, to celebrate the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant.*' It is a sign between Me and the sons of Israel forever; for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, but on the seventh day He ceased from labor, and was refreshed.

Leviticus 20:2-8

Any man from the sons of Israel or from the aliens sojourning in Israel who gives any of his offspring to Molech, shall surely be put to death; the people of the land shall stone him with stones. I will also set My face against that man and will cut him off from among his people, because he has given some of his offspring to Molech, so as to defile My sanctuary and to profane My holy name. If the people of the land, however, should ever disregard that man when he gives any of his offspring to Molech, so as not to put him to death, then I Myself will set My face against that man and against his family, and I will cut off from among their people both him and all those who play the harlot after him, by playing the harlot after Molech. As for the person who turns to mediums and to spiritists, to play the harlot after them, I will also set My face against that person and will cut him off from among his people. You shall consecrate yourselves therefore and be holy, for I am the Lord your God. You shall keep My statutes and practice them; *I am the Lord who sanctifies you.*

This notion of being sanctified can be confusing as this word communicates something quite different than we would otherwise imagine. When I hear that He is the one who sanctifies, I start to think of all the trials I must go through to live a sanctified life. But that is not exactly what is being communicated. What we have here is more of a declaration of spiritual fact. He has sanctified us; that is a statement of fact. This word “sanctified” carries with it the notion of separation and can be understood that those He sanctifies are by definition set apart from everything and everyone else. Thus, the Lord who sanctifies you is not talking about an action so much as He is making a firm declaration that He has set you apart and

has made you holy. Hence, from God's perspective there are two types of people in this world, those whom He declares are set apart and those who do not have this designation spoken over their lives. It is very similar to the way the Old Testament classifies people in two groups, the Jews and the Gentiles.

This "separation" was imaged for us in the use of certain animals in the Old Testament system of sacrifice. There were animals that were considered to be "clean" and acceptable to God for the purpose of sacrifice and those that were "unclean" and unacceptable for offering. Certain animals were "set apart" for this purpose and others were not. And why was this so? Why was the cow considered to be clean but the pig was not? Why was the dirty catfish considered to be clean but the Lobster was not? Because God declared it to be so. There has been all sorts of analysis done as to why certain animals were likely considered to be clean and others not, and they usually address issues of health and safety. But that is silly since all those health issues could have been dealt with through specific cooking instructions. Boil the lobster (add a little butter), roast the pig leaving no pink. But the reality is that God determined and choose what was clean and what was not because that was His determination; and it was not really about the quality of the meat. The same goes for the temple vessels that were set apart and holy and were to be used only in the temple as part of the sacrificial system. If they were ever used for anything uncommon they would have to be put through the fire or destroyed.

This notion of our being "separated" from others is imaged for us in the context of the passages we just read in dealing with the Sabbath and with spiritual harlotry. In *Exodus*, the Lord explains that He has chosen one day—the Sabbath—and set it apart from all others. And this day acts as a symbol of the covenant the Lord made

with His people to set them apart from all others on the earth. The point is that His people were not like all the others—they were chosen—therefore, their lives were not to be like all others. Celebrating this one day served as a constant and ready reminder that they were sanctified. The general tendency of mankind is to always want to be like everyone else since social acceptance is high on our priority list. But He called His people out from the masses to be distinct and separate. He wanted to make this point so badly that He placed into effect two major consequences for those who choose to profane the day that was set apart as a symbol of the eternal relationship He made with His people: 1) they would get cut off from the people of God. It's as if the Lord was saying, "If you want to be part of the world and live like the world, then I will respect your wishes; if you want to turn away from me then my face will be set against yours." 2) The death penalty was applied to those who choose to ignore the Sabbath.

The Sabbath day was to be willfully observed as a personal proclamation of the spiritual reality which that day represented. The choosing by God of a person's life is something to be observed and appropriately honored in order that it might be appropriately celebrated. Applying this to our lives, those who are chosen of God are to live separate from the world (a Sabbath life) in order that they can truly understand, appreciate, and celebrate this separation which God has given them. This separation is intended to be glorious and not a burden. The only reason the Sabbath ultimately became a burden to the people of Israel is because they did not understand the power of their calling because they did not receive it by faith—they did not put action behind their belief (**Romans 9:30-33**). This is why those who choose to profane the Sabbath day were symbolically choosing to profane their own calling and God's personal choosing of their life. They were thumbing the Lord

declaring that they did not want to be chosen of God and they preferred to be like those in the world. And as I said, this was a declaration that He would honor to their own personal detriment. The Spirit addressed this in the **Hebrews 4** and it is tied to the idea of a Sabbath rest for the people of God.

Hebrews 4:1-7

God's promise of entering his rest still stands, so we ought to tremble with fear that some of you might fail to experience it. For this good news—that God has prepared this rest—has been announced to us just as it was to them. *But it did them no good because they didn't share the faith of those who listened to God.* For only we who believe can enter his rest. As for the others, God said, "In my anger I took an oath: 'They will never enter my place of rest,'" even though this rest has been ready since he made the world. We know it is ready because of the place in the Scriptures where it mentions the seventh day: "On the seventh day God rested from all his work." But in the other passage God said, "They will never enter my place of rest." So God's rest is there for people to enter, but those who first heard this good news failed to enter because they disobeyed God. So God set another time for entering his rest, and that time is today. God announced this through David much later in the words already quoted: "Today when you hear his voice, don't harden your hearts."

Similarly, in **Leviticus**, the Lord addressed those who had been set apart but refused to live like it. From among those He had called were those who played the harlot and choose to give themselves to other so called gods and follow the ways of spiritists and mediums. These people faced the same two consequences. They

were cut off from the people, as the Lord promised He set His face against them, and they were subject to the death penalty. You might be thinking that the Lord overreacted a bit and His consequences were a little extreme. But consider the fact that the Lord God Almighty, the One and only, the Creator of all humanity and all things, personally chose them to be set-apart and dedicated to His purposes only. That is a pretty magnificent reality for those who will accept it.

The “Lord who sanctifies you” is in the Hebrew *Piel*, which normally is understood to intensify a statement, but in this case is causative and means that God is the one who personally causes you to be sanctified or made clean; and, since it is a *participle*, He causes you to be continually sanctified and continually made clean. Therefore, your sanctification is not something that is dependent upon you, but on Him; He chose you and He set you apart from all others. Yet, it is something you can reject (which we will get to a bit later). Yes, you can thumb God and there are real consequences of such a decision.

In the New Testament, this notion of the God who sanctifies you is picked up in the idea that those who are the **Beloved** have been “chosen” by God as saints; chosen in Him from before time—from before the foundation of the earth—to be His own, holy and blameless. In **John 15:16** Jesus said: “You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain.” He chose us, which is why we are called sons of the living God. He has called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity (**Romans 1:1-7; 8:28-32; 9:23-26; Ephesians 4:1-6; 2 Timothy 1:9; 1 John 3:1-2**). As John says, “See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are.” And to think that not only did He call

us to be His own because He loves us, He also made us holy just like He is holy. For this reason the world does not know us because it did not know Him.

Not too surprisingly, both Job and David understood how amazing the love of God truly is. They both declared, what is man that you should think of him so often and make so much of him (**Job 7:17; Psalm 8:4, 144:3**). It is truly a remarkable thing. Who are you that God has taken notice of you and made such a to-do about you? Why did He come and die for you? Why has God lifted you up to live in His Kingdom and left others down to make their abode in the kingdom of the world? Why did He separate you from all others? Why did He choose you out of this world and in so doing choose you to be an enemy of this world?

I don't think we can ever truly answer these questions as to "why me" until we are in the presence of God, and so we might have to suffice it to say that He chose us because He loves us. But the more salient issue is our response to having been chosen. It seems that for the most part the people of God do not live as if they are chosen and set apart from this world. Rather, it seems they are always trying to blend to their benefit the kingdom of God into the kingdom of the world. But as we have learned, they simply do not mix. If God has chosen you, why is it that you do you not act as if you are the luckiest person alive and honor the Sabbath by living a Sabbath life?

I really struggled with this name because I simply do not feel I can explain to you with enough zeal, enough passion, enough force, or enough wit to convince you of the magnitude of this reality. He sanctified you and He didn't others! He chose you and set you apart from all others on the face of this earth; and you can never truly be like "them" because you have always been set apart for Him and for His use. You are not a common vessel, but an extraordinarily uncommon vessel to contain the

very glory of God. This reality permanently sets you apart from those in the world. As a result, you are not their friend; in fact, you are their enemy simply because you belong to the one who has declared you sanctified.

John 15:18-21

If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me.

Jesus chose us out of the world; we simply do not belong any longer to the kingdom of this world. We have been rescued. And since we know that the king of the world is the devil, it is such a relief to know that Jesus plucked us out of his nasty evil grip. And then to shame the devil, the Lord made us holy like Him. And He did this for so few; and if you are truly one of the **Beloved**, He did this for you. In ***Matthew 22:14*** Jesus made it clear that many are called but few are chosen. The Father has sent the message out to the whole world that there is life in Jesus Christ, and this message has gone out far and wide like a big dragnet that pulls in everything it can catch; but the reality is that so few are chosen from those who are gathered (***Matthew 13:47***). But rest assured, Jesus knows the ones He has chosen (***John 13:18***).

I want you to dwell on this statement: *“many are called but few are chosen”* and couple it with the fact that Jesus knows each and every one. To help you with this thought process, think of the Israelites who came out of Egypt. Out of the possible 6,000,000 or so (the many), only two (the few) were chosen to enter the Promised Land; which amounts to approximately 0.000033% of those that were called. Then take this number and compare it to the population of the world at that time and you get a mind-blowing extremely small percentage. If you have chosen to bet your life on the name (which is different than just raising your hand in a sinner’s prayer), then you are one of the “two” so to speak of all those who have been called, which amounts to a mind-blowing extremely small percentage of the population of this world. What does that say about God and what does that say about you? “See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are.”

To me, this reality totally grounds me and stabilizes my life. It gives me perspective that allows me to separate from this world because I am not like everyone else. I’m not! The Lord sanctified me and I am not of the world just like He is not of the world (***John 17:14, 16***). Jesus picked me; and that motivates me to live for Him—to live a Sabbath life. Personally, I often obsess on the fact that Jesus not only knows me, but He personally chose me and has given me a purpose to fulfill in His Kingdom. In fact, Jesus says that I have been called out of this world in order that I might be sent back into the world to be His ambassador, as through God were making an appeal through me to those in the world to be reconciled to Him (***John 14:18; 2 Corinthians 5:20***). I am a sanctified one and this fills me with joy, fills me with praise and thanksgiving, and helps me begin to appreciate the seriousness of the role I have in His Kingdom.

The “roles” which the chosen ones are to embrace are unique and each role, in its own way, is intended to accomplish something supernatural and unfathomable which is indicative of our separation. Do you think that way about your life? Do you realize who you are and what you have been called to do? Think about what Jesus was called to do. He said that He did not come to be served but to serve and give His life a ransom for many (**Mark 10:45**). He came to serve and to die. Likewise He says in **Mark 10:43-44**, “but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all.” How is that for perspective? We have been called to serve one another, and in the Kingdom of God that is considered greatness. Does your perspective of serving others match that of your King?

I am privileged to have been called, chosen, and employed by our King, and if you are one of the chosen, so are you. It is important that you wrap your head around this truth. It does not matter what you have been asked to do, it is a privilege and you should be filled with an overwhelming sense of awe that you are in the service of the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. There are so few of us that we need to be bound in unity for His purposes. We must not be found striving and complaining or arguing about who is doing what. Each one of us has been called to accomplish something supernatural and amazing. To thrive in the Kingdom of God and truly live during our time on this earth, we must adopt this perspective.

In summary, to call upon **Jehovah Mekoddishkem**, *in faith*, means that: 1) you understand that you are set apart for God by God and you are declared holy because He said so; and 2) in response to that reality, you choose to live separated from this world and devoted to God’s purposes and His purposes alone. To live this

way is to observe the Sabbath and to celebrate the Sabbath. Consider this perspective

John 12:25-26

He who loves his life loses it, and he who ***hates*** his life in this world will keep it to life eternal. If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.

He who now hates and continues to hate his life in this world (it is in the *present active participle*) will find true life. But we must literally detest all the things we try and find in this world and take from the world: prestige, glory, honor, respect, success, happiness, and on and on it goes. We must hate such things; and we can do that by resting and rejoicing in the fact that we get to live the Sabbath life and that life is to be celebrated. We are separate, we are unique, we have real eternal purpose, and we have been given everything we need for this life—we have been sanctified and Jesus has done it.

I want to spend a few moments talking about what happens when we reject this perspective. To do that we will go back to the consequences we read about in ***Exodus 31*** and ***Leviticus 20*** where people would 1) get cut off from the people of God, and 2) be subject to the death penalty. These same two consequences are applicable to our lives in God. Let's consider each consequence.

One of the practical ways to reject your sanctification is to try and be “good” without **Jehovah Tsidkenu**—the Lord our righteous. You see the Lord has declared you sanctified, set apart, holy. And since our God is our righteousness, and **Jehovah Shammah**—the Lord is There—lives in you, then His righteousness by definition is

your righteousness. He is your true goodness as only God is truly good. But when you live from that place where you are trying to validate the reasons why God should love you and are doing all you can to get Him to honor you, lift you up, and bless you in this life, then the reality is that you have been cut off from Christ. You have rejected His declaration over your life and so you have been cut off from His people as you have fallen away from God's grace and His face is turned against you.

Galatians 5:4-5

For if you are trying to make yourselves right with God by keeping the law, you have been cut off from Christ! You have fallen away from God's grace. For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for [*or literally, expect fully*] the hope of righteousness.

Now, this does not mean that if you are one of the **Beloved**, one of the chosen, that you become unchosen. But it means that practically in this life you have chosen to live as the unchosen without His grace—without the supernatural power to live as the **Beloved**. You have chosen to be crippled and to stumble through this life instead of living with the great power of the name that is experienced when it is accompanied by faith. “For the eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous, and His ears attend to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil” (**1 Peter 3:12**). When you choose to live like the unchosen, you have turned from God and you have chosen to present yourself to another master (the devil). In this state, the Lord's face is by definition turned against you while He waits for you to come back and choose to present yourself to Him. But keep in mind, you are the one who has turned from Him and you have moved away from His presence. It is tragic.

There is great power in knowing and *by faith* living as one who is chosen. Therefore, you must choose to bet your life on this name or you will live as one who has been cut off from Christ always striving to get God to work for you. This same idea is communicated by the Spirit in **Romans 11:22** when it says that if you stop trusting—stop betting your life on the name—like a branch you will be cut off. Jesus affirms this reality in **John 15:1** when He says that every branch that does not bear fruit He takes away. And as to the second consequence, this way of living leads to death. Jesus said, if you love your life in this world and are living for this world instead of the Kingdom of God, you will lose your life (**John 12:25**); you will die. Let's turn to **Romans 8** and I will explain this more thoroughly.

Romans 8:5-8

For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Romans 8:12-17

So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh — for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of

adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

If you do not connect to the fact that you are chosen and separate from this world, if you are constantly trying to find the way for the Kingdom of God to fit in the kingdom of the world, if you are constantly obsessed with yourself and what is happening to you, if you are trying to make a life for yourself in this world, you are the living dead and you cannot please God (as we know, without faith it is impossible to please God). Think about how many people are living in this state (the many) and those (the few) who reject this way of life. The many don't truly understand faith; they have never been taught what it means to bet their lives on the name. They don't know what it is like to live as a chosen one. As a result, they endure the death penalty. The mind set on the flesh is death and that does not mean something that will happen in the future, but "death" is their reality all the time. For if after the flesh you live (*present active indicative*) you shall (*present active indicative*) die (*present active infinitive*). The *indicative* means it is a statement of fact and the *infinitive* in the Greek indicates that death is in progress; it is a real-time experience.

But the chosen are those who reject the flesh and chose instead to put to death the deeds of the body (yes, the *body* not the *flesh*). You see, the flesh is an evil nature that does nothing but lie, but the body is what follows the lie and enacts the lie. The chosen put to death the deeds of the body by rejecting the lies of their old sinful nature (which always lies and is always disobedient to God) which says they

are enslaved to sin and enslaved to the weaknesses of their flesh, that God is not enough for them, that God works for others, that they will never be good enough, that they are not really loved, that they will never find true acceptance and understanding, that they are alone, that they must fight for themselves and protect themselves, that they need these “things” to cope with their unfair life, and so on and so on and so on. The chosen take comfort in the fact that they are set apart by God and are holy; and they refuse to let their bodies follow these lies. They make the active choice to say no to the lie and thereby choose the pathway of the Spirit—the pathway of life. This is what it practically means to live as one who has been sanctified.

And keep in mind, according to *Exodus 31:17*, living as one who is sanctified, a.k.a. honoring the Sabbath, is an everlasting covenant between you and God; which is why you are to always observe the Sabbath (live as one who has been separated from this world) for it is holy to you (*Exodus 31:14*). And if you choose to observe the Sabbath and live day-in-and-day-out believing that you were specially chosen from amongst all the people on the earth, this Sabbath will be celebrated in you. You will love being chosen. You will rejoice in the fact that you are chosen. You will praise His name that you have been chosen. You will live day-in-and-day-out with thankfulness in your heart over the crazy reality that **you are chosen**.

Jehovah Mekoddishkem—the Lord who sanctifies you is the same God who is always there and grants to you His righteousness. He is the one who Shepherds you and is your Banner of victory, as He always leads you in victory. Your flesh has no chance against the Mighty God who is all powerful. In fact, there is no way your flesh can dominate your life if you decide, by faith, to put to death the deeds of the body. Your flesh needs your body to thrive; and without your body it just withers

into a pathetic powerless want-to-be. You, the chosen one, gets to live and not die. You get to stand in front of all the world fully confident that you have been chosen. Pick up this identity, embrace it every single day; love it and let it change your mind and the way you think about yourself. Yes, rejoice in the fact that to God you are His holy instrument, set apart for His glorious purposes.

Let's Pray.