

Jesus Has a Name

Episode 13

Call upon His Name

Yahweh Rapha – Part3

In our first two episodes addressing **Yahweh Rapha**, we first came to grips with the fact that **Yahweh** is the one who first wounds us because He is trying to get to areas of our soul in which we keep Him out, those areas that do not let Him be our **I AM**. Sometimes that wounding is physical, and other times it is mental or emotional. Whatever means by which He chooses to bring forth the wounding, He is the one who has done it. For all things are from Him, by Him (or through Him), and to Him.¹

In those areas where we are convinced that we are the I Am, we tend to cling to our *flesh* as if it is our lifeline; and in those areas we are thoroughly convinced that the Spirit cannot be trusted, much less understood.

And this is the reason why **Yahweh** must hurt us. Ultimately, His aim, as our **Yahweh Raah**, is to teach us to no longer listen to the voice of the *flesh* and instead to listen the voice of His Spirit and to follow the Spirit wherever He leads: with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. Remember, His sheep hear His voice, and they follow Him.²

But we are deceived, deluded, and entranced with our own self-love, self-pity, and victimization that He must show us the futility, the absolute worthlessness, of depending upon ourselves, our *flesh*, and our worthless generational inheritance, for any part of our life.

Accordingly, He starts early and wounds us from our earliest of days, some are even wounded in the womb. Regardless, each is wounded in their own unique way, based on how He made each of us, and on what He knows will cause us to start to doubt the strength of our self-reliance. His goal is to get us to become so disillusioned with our *flesh* and our own wisdom, that we start to look to Him, that we start to listen to Him, and start to desire Him, and seek His help with all those wounds that afflict us.

¹ **Romans 11:36**

² **John 10:27**

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As I stated in the first couple of episodes, it is only because of our pain that any of us even cried out to God in the first place. It is as if the pain of our trauma provides enough of a **shock** to our system that our soul and our mind starts to doubt the integrity of our *flesh* and its ability to protect us, help us, and to provide for us.

Job 36:15, 22

But by means of their suffering, he rescues those who suffer. For he gets their attention through adversity...Behold, God is exalted in His power; who is a teacher like Him?

And then God amps up the instruction, the lessons, until those little shorts in the system lead to a systemic collapse in our heart, and we finally begin to look outside of ourselves, outside of the world we have created, and outside of our own capabilities to Him who is bigger, stronger, and more determined than we are to be our God. Who is a teacher like Him?

Once we have been “re-programed,” so to speak (transformed), to believe in the futility of our own ways, the worthlessness of our *flesh*, and the unmeasurable superiority of the wisdom of His plan for our lives, then He, **Yahweh Rapha**, begins to heal the very wounds He has inflicted. Once He knows we will no longer cling tooth-and-nail to our *flesh* (even though we might turn back to it from time-to-time), He is free to begin to heal us; and through our healing, the Spirit strengthens our conviction that He is good and worthy of our trust.

Psalms 103:1-5

Bless **Yahweh**, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless **Yahweh**, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits; who pardons all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases; who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion; who satisfies your years with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle.

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Yahweh Rapha will heal our wounds and the diseases which run rampant through our soul, though pardoning all of our iniquities (causing us to accept the reality of the cross where we live in unrestrained freedom from the law) and redeeming our lives from the pit (transforming how we think and what we believe such that we live as children of light and not of darkness³).

As we are healed, He will be free to express His *agape* love in and through our lives, and from our lives will flow torrents of living water, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.⁴ We will begin to relate to others with a love that is frankly, unfathomable, and incomprehensible. After all, His love is not jealous, does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly, it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not consider a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth, bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Simply said, His Love never fails.⁵

Another way to say it is that His *agape* love does not react to people and circumstances because of any underlying pain, an open wound, or bad memories which causes us to self-protect, defend, and attack anyone who we think might want to hurt us in some manner. In fact, as we are healed, we become able to prioritize others over ourselves, and we become able to love those who are still deeply hurt and are caught in that reactive responsive cycle of the *flesh*.

The Scars

You may not be aware of it, but Jesus still has a body of flesh (its supernatural, but flesh none the less, it is not just spirit). Before He ascended to heaven, but after His resurrection, His disciples touched Him, clung to Him, and He even ate with them to prove that He was not an apparition. As for the supernatural part, He was able to appear in a room where all the doors were locked and closed. And this body still bears the scars from His traumatic ordeal; the disciple Thomas had to touch those wounds in His hands and side before he would believe.⁶

Jesus' scars are an eternal reminder of what He did and what He had to do: what the Father required of Him to get His reward. Hence, He is imaged in His heavenly court as a lamb that had

³ *Ephesians 5:7-21; 1 Thessalonians 5:5-11*

⁴ *John 7:38; Galatians 5:22*

⁵ *1 Corinthians 13:4-8*

⁶ *Zechariah 13:6; Luke 24:39-40; John 20:14-17, 20-27, 25; Isaiah 49:16*

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been slain.⁷ In like manner, as **Yahweh Rapha** heals our open wounds, we will always bear the scars from our traumatic ordeals, and we will always remember what we had to go through—what in His love, **Yahweh** had to do.⁸ And although His love was the cause for our wounds, so it will be the impetus to our healing. As a result, we will no longer feel the pain, the tenderness, and the agony we once did. We will no longer react to being touched in those areas. They will just be scars.

For the Sake of Freedom

As **Yahweh Rapha** works to heal the damage, pain, torment, and distress that **Yahweh** has caused, we come to realize that He did only what He had to do to free us from ourselves and from the mastery of our *flesh*. It was **Plan-A**, the only pathway to our freedom and our healing. It was all measured out and perfectly dispensed to accomplish His goal of giving us the freedom He promises is ours.⁹ After all, it was for freedom's sake that He set us free in order that we might no longer be subject to a yoke of slavery to our *flesh*.¹⁰ Hence, it was all necessary!

With that said, honestly, it is incredibly hard for this to be more than just words until you have let **Yahweh** have His war against your *flesh* and coming out on the other side you have tasted of this promise of freedom, which is another sort of existence altogether. It is quite unlike what we have known in our religion. It is living like an alien and stranger in this world.

Now, I am not suggesting that it will all make sense to us, for the details of our agony and our suffering are sometimes beyond comprehension, especially since we tend to always think that there should have been another way or that it was not ALL necessary, just some parts were, and that other stuff was way overkill. Moreover, everything felt far too much like some sort of awful punishment for our sin (even though it was not and even though we sinned plenty). And quite often God does not explain the details, and even if He tried to explain it in hindsight, there is still probably so much we would not understand because our own hearts are more deceitful than all else and desperately sick.¹¹ Only He knows our hearts. He searches our hearts and tests our

⁷ *Revelation 5:6, 12*

⁸ *See Lamentations 3:20*

⁹ *See Jeremiah 13:22-25; Hebrews 12:5-12; Acts 9:16*

¹⁰ *Galatians 5:1*

¹¹ *Jeremiah 17:9*

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minds, even to give to each person according to their ways, according to the results of their deeds.¹² In other words, it is all extremely personalized. He knows what each of us needs to be able to burst through in **unrestrained freedom**, and that is the type of personalized war which He wages.

Personally, I have experienced great wounding at the hand of **Yahweh** and remarkable healing at the hands of my **Yahweh Rapha**. My wounding started so early that by the time I was an adult, I had been living in a state of PTSD for most of my life. You see, God had made me strong, He had made me a fighter; however, I focused most of my fight on an attempt to prove that He should have done things different with me and that others should have done things differently. I was sure He could have found creative ways to have been gentler and more tender.

But instead of just snapping His fingers and healing me, He took me through a terrible storm to destroy everything in my life to show me how much He loves me (got to love those ironies). It was brutal, far beyond anything I could describe. Mercifully, He warned me in advance about what He was going to do so I could expect it. He spoke to me from ***Psalms 107:23-31*** and ***Lamentations 3***. Those passages are simply terrifying, and I lived them in detail.

God literally became my enemy because He was after the enemy that was controlling my world view, my perspective of Him, my perspective of what was done to me (the victim mentality), and my perspective of what He wanted from me (suffering obedience). He wanted to desperately eradicate my Amalekite, my king Agag, and all the deep-seeded religion that ran through my veins (which was far more than I had ever realized).

I will never forget the torture I endured within my soul, within my body, and the agony of my mind; in fact, the thought of my suffering is bitter beyond words. I cried out, "Everything I hoped for from the Lord is lost."¹³

During that time, I was so confused and did not understand why He was hurting me so badly. How could that be love; it felt like meanness, cruelty, and terrible punishment. Then amidst my anguish, He spoke to me and said, "I am sorry about all the punishment I **had** to bring upon

¹² ***Jeremiah 17:10***

¹³ ***Lamentations 3:18*** (New Living Translation)

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you.”¹⁴ And then it clicked. God was not being mean to me and hurting me for no reason; He had to do it. It was all necessary if I was ever going to become the person that He needed me to be, to fulfill His purposes in my life.

Yahweh needed to kill those places in me that refused to let Him be my **I AM**. He needed to uncover all those places in me where I was absolutely convinced that I knew Him, but where I only knew a shadow of Him.

Once He said, “I am sorry about all the punishment I **had** to bring upon you” I felt His tenderness toward me and His desire. This softened my heart. Suddenly, I could see the beauty, wisdom, and perfection of His ways. And this was the start of my healing. I was finally able to see what He had to do to me through the lens of His love for me. This altered my view of Him from some mean man in the sky to a God who knew me and knew exactly what it would take for Him to have me. I began to raise the banner of **Yahweh Nissi** over my life, even though I was in the midst of a terrible war. He became my rallying place and my safety.

I could see how in His eyes it was all good, pleasing, and perfect, regardless of what it did to me, what was squeezed out of me (quite publicly at that), and how it made me feel. To Him it was worth it and worth the risk.

From there I was able to seek out **Yahweh Rapha** for my healing. Soon (relatively speaking of course) I was able to pick up my mat and walk and no longer live like a broken victim. Now, I run to Him for healing, just like I to run to **Yahweh** to continue to destroy anything in me that does not want Him to be my **I AM**. I am even able to rejoice when I see my scars and realize they are no longer triggers for me—they are no longer open wounds oozing with pain. They now speak of His love for me. Those areas hold no more pain, no more regret, just a beautiful scar.

Simply said, Steve had to die (and still must die) so that Christ may live. With that said, the most pronounced experience of healing I have known came through the act of surrender (though **willingness**). It came through letting the Holy Spirit convince me that it was safe to let God have His war; and through letting the Holy Spirit convince me that it was the pathway to life and was

¹⁴ **Jeremiah 42:10**

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not punishment or revenge, or anything like that; and letting the Holy Spirit convince me that He had goodness for me, even though this war would last a very, very, very long time. In effect, the Spirit gave me HOPE to endure, HOPE to fight, HOPE to keep going forward in what He had shown me to be true. And I now get to live in HOPE, and it is HOPE that has brought so much healing in the distress of my mind and emotions. HOPE has been like a soothing balm that continually tempers my anguish and despair. It is HOPE that keeps me focused on today, while looking forward to Him fulfilling all His promises to me, knowing it is just a matter of time.

With that said, I could not choose to surrender to Him, I could only choose to let the Holy Spirit cause me to be **willing** to surrender. And even then, my willingness was not a sudden act of bravery and valor, rather, the Spirit had to over time bring to me that willingness. He had to teach me **WHY** it was ok to trust that **Yahweh** will fulfill His promises, and that **Yahweh Rapha** will bring forth healing, just as He said.

Once I accepted the **WHY**, the Spirit started to teach me the **HOW**. He wanted me to practically know **HOW** to bet my life on the promises of God, which overtime became my armor and protection throughout the terrible war.¹⁵ In fact, it was the myriad of promises that He made to me that ultimately became my HOPE.

I do have to say, however, that the deep seeded wounds which He has healed in my soul were not healed overnight, nor have I been completely healed; it seems there is always more to go. But I have experienced the gentle and tender touch of **Yahweh Rapha** as He bandaged what **Yahweh** had wounded; and I look forward to more healing. My point is that there is life-giving power in His name; that is not just another religious cliché. And to know this power, one simply must be **willing**; the rest will be up to Him.

Physical Healing

We have been talking mostly about our emotional and mental wounds. But I want to address the issue of physical healing; after all, many of us want physical healing now. And throughout much of the gospels, we are given stories of physical healings from diseases and from demonic oppression. Throughout my life, there have been a few dramatic physical conditions that **Yahweh**

¹⁵ *Psalm 91:4*

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Rapha healed me from, diseases of which He has set me free. He healed me once from a lung condition that kept me from being able to compete in sports. And He has also used me as the instrument to pray over others and see them miraculously and suddenly healed. I have even seen him free others from demonic possession. It was all mind-blowing. It happens, it is what He does.

With that said, there are other medical conditions that I have that I would love for **Yahweh Rapha** to heal. But to date, He has not brought forth my healing. There are those whom I love dearly who also suffer from various maladies, physically and mentally, and I have sought **Yahweh Rapha** about them as well. Still, He has not brought forth their healing.

WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

Is He fickle? Is He reliable? Did He mean it when He said that He is the one who heals all our diseases or just some of them? Was that just another metaphor, that will be explained by another metaphor, by another metaphor? Do we keep praying? Are we to be like that woman who came before the unjust judge and kept bothering him until he gave her what she wanted? Is constant annoyance our best strategy? Is that even what Jesus meant when He was telling that parable?¹⁶ Is it somehow our fault? Are we not doing things right?

To even begin to think of these questions with any sort of cogent thought process (and they are good questions), we should return to the three primary scenarios which give us some sense as to why we have infirmities, disease, sicknesses, and maladies. We must also remember that with **Yahweh**, everything is personal, therefore, everything comes with purpose and intent.

- 1) Perhaps, there are still places deep within our soul that He wants to get at, which we would otherwise not allow Him to touch.
- 2) Maybe He wants to use our body to glorify Himself, both through the problem and ultimately in our miraculous healing. And like the man born blind, we are just waiting it out until His perfect timing.
- 3) Then again, maybe He is simply protecting us from ourselves and, like Paul, He has determined that our various infirmities, diseases, sicknesses, and maladies are necessary to

¹⁶ **Luke 18:1-7**

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keep us in a place where we will learn to be dependent upon Him and only Him realizing that without our wounds, we just might go our own way.

Whatever His reason, **Yahweh Adonai** is my Sovereign, and He is the one who, in His love, gets to call the shots for my life. And if it is in His good, pleasing, and perfect will for me to be healed from all my infirmities, diseases, sicknesses, and maladies, then I am confident that **Yahweh Rapha** will heal me.

In the meantime, I will ask the Holy Spirit to help me come to grips with the full implications of the cross, and the **unrestrained freedom** that it provides, so I do not be one of those who judges others, abides in unforgiveness, and takes communion in an unworthy manner and thereby incur judgment in my physical body.

I will also ask the Holy Spirit to keep me willing to let Him go after every enemy within my being that does not want **Yahweh** to be my **I AM**. And of particular importance to me is that I will ask the Holy Spirit to help me legitimately arrive at that place where I agree with Him, with my heart, mind, soul, and strength, that His will for my life has been, and will always be, good, pleasing, and perfect. And this is something that I want to come to know and experience in my now, not just in my religious mind, but in the entirety of my being.

And finally, like that woman before the unjust judge, I will continue to ask **Yahweh Rapha** to bring healing into my body, my mind, and my emotions; and I will continue to ask the same for those I love and for all those whom **Yahweh Adonai** has brought into my life.

And I would encourage you to take the same steps and see what **Yahweh** does in your life.

“For I will restore you to health and I will heal you of your wounds, declares **Yahweh**.”¹⁷ “Praise **Yahweh**! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant and praise is becoming. **Yahweh** builds up Jerusalem; He gathers the outcasts of Israel. **He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.**”¹⁸

¹⁷ *Jeremiah 30:17*

¹⁸ *Psalms 147:1-3*