

In our last podcast, we addressed the agony of it all and the fear, anxiety, and despair that can consume us when we do not know what is coming at us around the next corner or when it will all be over. We focused on the notion of is it possible for us to live anxious for nothing, such that fear does not dominate and define our lives. We explored that being afraid and being anxious is not the issue, for life circumstances can provoke those feelings, but living afraid and living anxious is a different issue, and one which can only be remedied when we are willing to go to the source and let God cause us to stand in faith, confident that He is our only source for hope, security, protection, provision, guidance, assurance, comfort and so on.

Let's pick back up in that discussion and address our tendency to make every spiritual truth a law, a pass/fail construct, which in and of itself produces fear, anxiety, and despair.

In **Philippians 4:6-7**, we are commanded to now be anxious for nothing. Is this even possible? Forever I did not think so, especially in the midst of my Storm! Backing up into **Philippians 3:20**, Paul reminds the Philippians that their citizenship is in heaven, not here on earth. He reminds them they are aliens and strangers and do not belong to this world; therefore, they are not to be attached to this world as those who belong.

Next, in **Philippians 4:1**, he tells them, considering this reality, to now stand firm in the Lord. The implication is that if we now stand firm in our faith trusting in **Yahweh**, we will learn to live anxious for nothing; for then we will know that no matter what is going on in our lives, He is attempting to teach us how to live as citizens of heaven, because we do not belong to this world. Even when we are commanded to now let our requests be made known to God (**Philippians 4:6**), the Spirit uses the *passive* voice and therefore it should be understood that we are commanded to now let the Spirit of God, in-and-through our lives make our requests known. Why? Because we do not even know how we should pray.

### **Romans 8:26-27**

In the same way the Spirit also **now** chooses to help our weakness; for we do not know how we may choose to pray as we **now** should, but the Spirit Himself **now** intercedes for with groanings too deep for words; and He who is **now** searching the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He **now** intercedes for the saints according to God.

God will do the work. We just need to remember that He is just circumcising us from this world and crucifying our flesh so that we might live free. *"It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore, you are **now** commanded to stand firm, and you are commanded to not **now** be caused to be subject to a yoke of slavery."*<sup>1</sup>

Going back to that passage in **Corinthians**, Paul further explains:

### **2 Corinthians 4:16-18**

Therefore, we do not **now** lose heart, but though our outer man is **now** caused to decay, yet our inner

---

<sup>1</sup> **Galatians 5:1**

man is **now** caused to be renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction chooses to **now** produce for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we are **now** looking not at the things which are caused to **now** being seen, but at the things which are caused to not **now** being seen; for the things which are caused to **now** being seen are temporal, but the things which are not caused to not **now** being seen are eternal.

Paul encourages us to not lose heart, and he speaks of momentary light affliction. Paul is speaking hyperbole by comparing our time here on earth to eternity, but I doubt that is how Job would describe his suffering. It is not how I felt, and I know it was not what Paul always felt.

For example, in speaking of his affliction in Asia, he said: “... *we were caused to be burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we were caused to despair of life **now**; indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves ...*” However, he ultimately realized the purpose for his suffering, “*so that we **now** may not be trusting in ourselves, but in God who is **now** raising the dead.*”<sup>2</sup> And in this he proudly boasted.

Remember, coming to God like a little child is a requirement for life in the Kingdom of God, and it is a mark of the chosen of God. A little child cannot trust in themselves to care for anything, they are wholly dependent upon their parents.<sup>3</sup> A little child receives the entirety of their provision from their parents. Even if they whine and cry about something they don't like, they have no ability on their own to go and resource some other provision. They are so limited in their innate capability that they accept their parents' choice for their lives and trust their parents with their care. And when they experience pain, little children run right to their parents for comfort and care. They seek them out whenever they are afraid.

These are the attributes of little children. And this is the way God is trying to get us to live, so we trust not in ourselves but in **Yahweh** who raises the dead.

Yes, this is a very hard lesson to learn (as He told me right before my Lesson, “it is going to be very, very hard”). It is no wonder Job felt complete despair; all he feared deep in his heart came upon him. Yet, when we adopt the perspective of an alien and stranger who has agreed to the goal, then we can begin to live free, anxious for nothing. Then we can say, “For what I fear comes upon me, and what I dread befalls me, but I am not caused to being crushed, not caused to despairing, not caused to being forsaken, and not caused to being destroyed, because I know that **Yahweh** is simply giving me the opportunity to let His life consume mine.”

As for me, I am excited to learn this lesson for real. I am excited to be done with the weakness and fear within my being that freaks-out and tempts me to think foolishly about **Yahweh**, as if He is doing a bad job at being my Father. This way of thinking always pushed me to find my own answers, my own relief, and my own comfort simply to limit or stop the pain, and to bring some sense of surety (fictitious as it may be) to the uncertainty that lays before me.

When we learn to believe that **Yahweh** the Son purchased our freedom and **Yahweh** the Father desires us to completely live in our freedom, and desires to take care of us like a Father does for a little child, then it is possible to be anxious for nothing and to seriously rejoice in the name of **Yahweh**.

Yes, we can choose to consider it all joy when we may encounter various trails knowing that the testing

---

<sup>2</sup> **2 Corinthians 1:8-9**

<sup>3</sup> **Matthew 18:1-6; Mark 10:13-16**

our faith chooses to now produce in us endurance, and we are commanded to now let this this endurance have its perfect result so that we may now be perfect, complete, choosing to now be needing nothing.<sup>4</sup>

As a practical reflection on these truths, please be careful not to bind this glorious freedom with legalism and beat yourselves up every time you do not live according to this reality. To live anxious for nothing does not mean that we will never be afraid or will never feel anxious, that is just not realistic. Even David cried out, *“I cry out to **Yahweh**; I plead for **Yahweh's** mercy. I pour out my complaints before him and tell him all my troubles.”*<sup>5</sup>

Besides, “little children,” which is our go-to example, become afraid and they become anxious over uncertainty. But here is the difference that matters, children know the source of their comfort, the source of their provision, the source of their safety, the source of their assurance, and so they run to their parents when they are feeling out of sort, so they do not have to “be” anxious or “live” anxiously. Instead, they can find comfort and solace in their parents care and protection.

Though all this instruction, the Spirit is attempting to get us to understand is that this is all about knowing personally and intimately, by name, our source of life. Returning to a central theme from the book of Revelation, we must always remember that **the source matters the source is everything!**

The Spirit wants us to run to our Father for all things and in Him find our comfort, our provision, our safety, and our assurance knowing that He, our Adonai, our Great Shepherd, has directed our paths and that we are where He wants us to be. And if we find ourselves in a Storm, or a Lesson, it just means that He has more of Himself to reveal to us so that ultimately, we know **WHY** we can bet our lives on His name and **HOW** to bet our lives on His name.

Our lives are not intended to be a pass/fail test, but a journey of learning how to let God cause us to be *willing* to let Him be our only source, our **I AM**. If we are *willing* to let Him cause us to stand firm in our faith, He will make us stand. And not only will He make us stand firm, He says the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension (including the fight or flight reactions of our mind), will in the future guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.<sup>6</sup>

As with any truth, our tendency is to make it a law, but there is no life in law. Jesus, who is our life, fulfilled the law on our behalf so we can live free. I encourage you therefore to fight against living in the pass/fail reality of a sin based Christian existence and embrace freedom, the freedom to learn, the freedom to grow, the freedom to fail, the freedom to succeed, and the freedom to exist in peace knowing your Father is God and there is none like Him, so we do not need to live afraid, anxious or in despair.

### **Unrest & Agitation**

#### **Job 3:26**

I am not at ease, nor am I quiet, and I am not at rest, agitation comes

---

<sup>4</sup> James 1:2-4

<sup>5</sup> Psalm 142:1-2

<sup>6</sup> Philippians 4:7

Let's talk about this peace. Pretty sure we can all relate to what Job expressed. He is completely annoyed at everything and probably everyone. He cannot get his mind, his emotions, or his body to settle down. He probably has repetitive thoughts just cursing through his mind, all focused on "why."

#### **This begs the question, is peace possible?**

In **John 14:27**, Jesus said, "*Peace I **now** leave with you; My peace I **now** give to you.*" Then He said, "*You are commanded to **now** not let your heart be caused to be troubled, and you are commanded to **now** not let it be fearful.*"

The word translated "troubled" could also be translated as "agitated" or "anxious." Do not let anyone or anything cause your heart to be agitated or anxious.

Though commanded by Jesus, truth be told, we don't have that much control over our own heart. If so, humanity would have nipped worry and anxiety in the bud centuries ago, and issues like alcoholism and drug addiction would faintly be a blip on our societal radar, and psychotropic medication would not be making the drug companies exceedingly rich.

"*Peace I **now** leave with you; My peace I **now** give to you.*" Rendered in the *present* tense, we can take Jesus at His word. His peace is available to us; it is not something we have to find; it is something we need to receive.

#### **Philippians 4:6-7**

You are commanded to **now** be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, you are commanded to **now** be caused to let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which is **now** surpassing all comprehension, will in the **future** guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**Yahweh** says that His peace surpasses anything we can grasp with our mental facilities, and His Peace will be in the future what guards or protects our hearts and our minds. His Peace will stand like an obsessed warrior around our hearts to fend off any attempt to bring trouble into our hearts.

I picture **Yahweh Qanna** (**Yahweh** who is Jealous) hovering over me to guard and protect me. In the original Hebrew, "Qanna" was imaged as a mother bird who vigilantly hovers over and protects her nest from invaders. This is what the Holy Spirit will do in our lives when we choose to be willing to let Him cause us to stand firm in our faith. Our not being troubled in heart, is something which falls within the province of the One who created our heart and knows us through and through. He will take care of it if we let Him.

It is odd to think of **Yahweh** being jealous. But consider that jealousy is a possessory emotion, and Qanna desperately wants to possess every aspect of our being. If we are *willing* to let Him cause us to give ourselves to Him, He will protect us and guard us. This is intended to fill us with a sense of safety and security so that we might be *willing* to receive the peace that He now gives. It is kind of like when the Spirit tells us that God is *agape* love.<sup>7</sup> That too is intended to fill us with a sense of safety and security,

---

<sup>7</sup> **1 John 4:8, 16**

letting us be confident that all He does in our lives and all that He sends into our lives is an expression of His supernatural and unending *agape* love for us.

What is *agape* love? It is a form of love that is associated with the divine because it is a love that is rooted in grace, in what God does for us, in us, and through us, if we let Him. This is the kind of love that comes with His personhood, again, He is *agape* love, just like His is our peace.

If we meditate on these truths and let them into our being, it is how we begin to receive the peace that He now gives. The text said that if we walk in the commands, the peace of God will in the future guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus. Being rendered in the *future* tense, we can understand that this is not some quick fix, but this “protection” over our hearts and our minds will be a result of letting His peace slowly replace the terror and fear which anxiety and worry produces in our lives.

We must not however ignore the commands, and this leads us to our responsibility. We are to now not let anyone, or anything cause our heart to be agitated or anxious or let anything or anyone cause us to be fearful. These commands are rendered in the *present* tense.

#### **Practically, what does this mean and how does this work?**

Our responsibility is to now not be afraid of God and what He needs to do, to let Him cause us to not be afraid of man, and by no means to fear the enemy who is just a tool which God uses to carryout His plans in our lives. It is another way of saying that we need to believe in the GOAL, agree with the GOAL (which is the *Design Point*– *the substitution of all that we are for all that He is*), and be willing to ask Him to cause us to stand firm in it. If we do, He will make us stand.

This kind of talk tends to engender a lot of fear in people because we are not entirely comfortable with the GOAL, and we are not convinced that God is not just being mean and punishing us for something. To help us agree with the Goal, we can mediate on the truths He has given us and ask Him to cause us to bet our lives on these truths, for His truth is our hope and the light that will guide us through the journey.

- He is not dealing with us on the basis of our sin, for He died for our sin, and has thrown it as far as the east is from the west.<sup>8</sup>
- He is not dealing with us on the basis of accusation which the enemy makes against us, for every accusation that could ever be made was nailed to the cross.<sup>9</sup>
- He is giving us the opportunity to enter His rest by understanding why trusting in ourselves or anyone or anything else will always end in hopelessness and despair.
- He deals with us in compassion, understanding our frame (how He has made us), and He is mindful that we are but dust, that we have no strength within ourselves.<sup>10</sup>
- He is giving us the opportunity to be *willing* to let Him cause us to stand in Him and to learn **WHY** we can trust Him and **HOW** to trust in each of His names because He is jealous of us and wants all of us, not just a part.

---

<sup>8</sup> **Psalm 103:10-12; Colossians 1:14, 2:13, 3:13; Ephesians 4:32; 1 John 2:12**

<sup>9</sup> **Colossians 2:14**

<sup>10</sup> **Psalm 103:13-14**

- He is only doing what is necessary to give us a future and a hope by disrupting everything in us that functions as our own I AM, which does not want Him to be our **I AM**, and which fights against His victory over our heart, mind, soul, and strength.
- He wants us to get to that place where we volitionally choose, on our own free will, to be a little child trusting that He alone is our source for all things all the time, because **the source matters, the source is everything**. All that is produced from our lives that is not His life expressing itself through our bodies, is worthless and irrelevant to Him because it is not good, for Only God is Good!

And we can be confident there will be an end to it all, that is if we are *willing* to let Him accomplish His purposes. If so, He will in the future guard our heart and our minds in Christ Jesus and He will establish us firm in Him. Cling to this promise.

### **1 Peter 5:10**

After suffering for a little while, the God of all grace, who has been calling you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself in the future perfect, in the future confirm, in the future strengthen, and in the future establish you.

Previously, I said I was finally so excited to learn my Lesson (you remember, that Lesson that that can only be found in stillness and in waiting). I have a confession. When I began writing this study on Job, it was the first time (yes, the very first time) I have read through Job and not been mad at God; and I have read and studied Job so many times it is ridiculous. This is the first time however I did not feel like a victim to God or to man. Perhaps I am finally willing to accept what He wants to do with me and believe that it will accomplish His beautiful purposes.

With that said, I literally hate the anxiety, worry, and terror that has been the faithful companions of my heart and mind. I hate waking up at 2:00 in the morning unable to sleep because of the thoughts that circulate over-and-over in my mind.

- What terrible things will happen next?
- Will He let me pay my bills?
- Will He provide me work?
- Will I be shamed before others?
- How will I be provided for when I am older?
- Will I always be alone?
- Do I always have to do everything by myself?
- Will I ever know the security of true intimacy?

On and on the list may go, but I am sick of it; I am sick of living this way. I want to be able to sleep in peace and rest trusting that my Dad is going to take care of me. After all, I am His responsibility.

I want to learn this “Lesson” and abide in hope no matter what is happening around me. Honestly, the more I meditate on His name, **Yahweh**, the more I am becoming convinced that I don’t need to be afraid. And I am continually seeking him like a child, talking to Him about everything, and asking for the Holy Spirit to continue to do His work to both stabilize and guard my heart and my mind.

We have made progress on the “mind” part of it, but the “heart” part seems to be lagging. The deep seeded fear in my soul that loves to show its face in the wee hours of the night, and which the spirits of wickedness love to exploit, is still something I am asking God to completely remove.

I have mentioned the if/then God many times. Let me clarify something about the if/then theology. It is premised on the idea that judgment, punishment, and the resulting suffering is the fate of all sinners. Whereas “blessing” is the fate of the righteous.

Therefore, it is assumed Job is a “sinner” because he suffers so greatly. The implication is that God would not be “just” if He allowed a truly blameless man to suffer in this way. Thus, there must be a “cause” as opposed to a “reason.”

Many have said the “cause” is found in Job’s statement, “*For what I fear comes upon me, and what I dread befalls me.*” They say that Job was ruled by fear and fear is sin, hence the judgment. But we know from **Job 1-2**, that Job’s time of immense suffering had nothing to do with sin. After all, God twice boasted about what an awesome man Job was, “*blameless and upright.*”<sup>11</sup> As we will see at the end of the story that his suffering had nothing to do with punishment for sin, but about what God wanted Job to learn about Him and about what God wanted to impress into the DNA of Job’s soul.

This type of if/then thinking comes from the one who whispered into our ears all manner of lies and accusations about God. Remember, God said Job was blameless. Of course, that does not mean he was without sin; after all, he is human, and no man is pure before God.<sup>12</sup> But it means Job was a man of faith and therefore was a man who was pleasing to God, for without faith it is impossible to please God.<sup>13</sup> He bet his life on what he knew to be true about **Yahweh**. Accordingly, there was no “cause” for Job’s suffering, just a “reason.” There was no terrible secret sin, be it fear or anything else, which prompted this experience. **Yahweh Qanna** wanted more of Him and **Yahweh Mekoddishkem** had something more to teach Job about **Yahweh**, something to add to his faith.<sup>14</sup>

Every one of us, at some level (known or unknown), fears personal disaster, physical impairment, and psychological distress. That fear is not sin, that is living in a frail tent we call our human bodies, that is because we know we are but dust. That fear is our biology in action and our limbic system operating according to God’s design. That is our being in touch with the reality that we are not lord over our own lives, no matter how much we have deceived ourselves to believe we can be in control. At some level, we

---

<sup>11</sup> **Job 1:1; 2:3**

<sup>12</sup> **Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 3:10, 23; Psalm 14:1-3; 143:2; Proverbs 20:9; 1 Kings 8:46**

<sup>13</sup> **Hebrews 11:6**

<sup>14</sup> **Yahweh Qanna (Yahweh who is Jealous); Yahweh Mekoddishkem (Yahweh who sets us apart for Him, or Yahweh who makes us holy)**

all know that the notion that we control the outcomes of our lives is fictitious, delusional, and if God were to lift just His little finger up and away from protecting our lives, we would all be vulnerable to great terror and disaster.

Sin is birthed in our lives when we respond to our survival mechanisms and decide to be our own protector, our own deliverer, our own shelter, our own provider, i.e., our own I AM. In other words, when like the boastful Lucifer we try to supplant the role of **Yahweh** in our lives, we choose sin. Remember, **the source matters the source is everything!**

Struggling with disaster as it is happening is not sin. The fact that the Spirit said that in the future He will guard our heart, and mind indicates that the journey will be filled with a lot of stress and anxiety as we learn what He needs to teach us. It is a byproduct of the process of eliminating those parts of our soul that try to be our own I AM.

Please do not fall into the trap of trying to charge Job with sin just because he feared in this way. As we move forward in the narrative, setting aside all the flowery poetry and great discourses about God, every single argument made by Job's friends contains some element of truth, but these arguments are premised on the lies and distortions of the if/then God.

Practically, every argument begins with the notion that the righteous are blessed and sinners are cursed. Sinners get what they deserve; therefore, if there is tragedy, there must be terrible sin, whether obvious blatant sin or some deep dark secret sin. There must be a **cause**, no matter how hidden and masked the sin may be. They simply did not comprehend that perhaps God might have a "reason."

When evaluating our lives, or the lives of others, it is so easy to fall into this trap because the if/then God is such a cultural phenomenon and has survived for thousands and thousands of years. We always believe there must be a "cause" for our pain, a cause that is justly connected to our failure. Imagine if there was only a "reason." The peace that this thought evokes is supernatural.

I hope that through this study this if/then idol will be forever destroyed, and you will say to it, "be gone and never return."<sup>15</sup> If you do, when you face dark days you will be able to quiet your soul before God and let Him take you through a journey, no matter how terrible it may be, a journey that will change you forever and establish you firm in your faith.

Let's stop here for now

I am glad you tuned in and have been ready to listen.

---

<sup>15</sup> *Isaiah 30:22*