



The Zion Letter

The Monthly Newsletter of For Zion's Sake Ministries, Inc.
PO Box 1486 Bristol, TN 37620
www.forzionsake.org

Phone: 276-644-1678 * Fax: 276-644-1689 * Email: 4znsake@earthlink.net * Web: www.forzionsake.org

Blessed is He Who Does Not Take Offense at Me, Mt 11:6

According to the Scriptures, in the last days, **“Many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. Because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved,”** Mt 24:10-13.

Do you notice that people seem to be easily offended these days? The Bible tells us that in the last days most people’s love will grow cold due to an increase in lawlessness (see MT 24:12 above). **1 John 3:4 tells us that “sin is lawlessness.”** So it follows that because of sin and lack of repentance, people will increasingly become offended with us. So what can we do about it?

First of all, God has always impressed upon me to keep a short list. What I mean by that is I am by no means perfect and if I offend someone or think I may have offended them I make every effort to go to them to work it out. If I sin in other ways, I make every effort to seek the Lord’s forgiveness and so should you. Keep a short list. Repentance is good for the soul. It’s the only way to walk in freedom. If we don’t deal with our sins (pride, anger, jealousy, envy, greed, lust/sexual immorality, hatred, bitterness, grudges, etc...), the weight of that sin will put spiritual shackles on us. The heavier the shackles get, the more difficult it becomes to break free.

Second of all, we must recognize that we are all sinners, saved by grace. The Scriptures say **“There is none righteous, Not even one,” Romans 3:10.** Yet the Lord says, **“By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many...” Isaiah 53:11.** If you read all of Isaiah 53 you will see that the Righteous One is Yeshua/Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!

So by dying on the cross for us, Yeshua, God’s perfect

Son, set us free from sin/lawlessness and all unrighteousness. **So as our founding fathers would often pray, “it is through the merits of Jesus Christ that we pray...”** What these men meant was that we have no righteousness of our own, but if we receive the righteousness of Yeshua by believing in Him, our unrighteousness will be overlooked by God. That is His promise to us: **“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us,”** 1 John 1:9-10. **Are you righteous through the merits of Yeshua/Jesus?**

Back to Offense:

Beloved, you can’t stop someone from being offended with you, but you can choose not to be offended back. Make a conscious decision to love your neighbor even if they are a really difficult person to love. Serve one another, even those you don’t really like and watch your heart begin to expand and your love increase! If you have anger or bitterness, ask God to cleanse you and give you a spirit of forgiveness. Read Psalm 51 out loud. Guard your heart and don’t allow your love to grow cold! This does not mean you should compromise and accept false doctrines (See **Romans 16:17, Galatians 2:4-5, 2 Corinthians 11:12-15**), or be a doormat for an abusive person. Pray for discernment regarding your particular situation and ask the Lord for Solomonic wisdom.

“Blessed is he who does not take offense at Me” Mt. 11:6

When Yeshua/Jesus said this, He was referring to the previous verse where He talked about restoring sight to the blind, healing the lame, cleansing the lepers, opening the ears of the deaf, raising the dead and preaching the Gospel to the poor... **This is the stuff that offended many people.**

This is also the stuff that made me want to follow Him. I needed the power of God in my life, not just ceremony

Don't Be Offended

and religion in a language I barely understood. Jesus was talking powerful stuff like raising the dead! Does your religion do the things Yeshua spoke of above? Is there power in your religion?

I have seen people get out of wheel chairs after twenty years by God's power, through my own hand. I have seen a mute woman speak who had not spoken in years when (at the request of her niece) I pinched her cheeks and commanded her tongue to be loosed in the name of Jesus! I have seen God work many more miracles through my own hands that I will not bring up now. And I have seen Him heal me of stage-four cancer with little time left to live... Hallelujah!

Many of these things will offend certain people, especially the last one, "*preaching the Gospel of the death, burial and resurrection of Yeshua.*" That one seems to offend many folks. If you are looking for a faith that has real power to change your life, ask Yeshua/Jesus to demonstrate His power to you and make Himself real to you. You can do it in your car, in your bedroom, in the woods, wherever you feel comfortable to talk to God. Read the New Testament/Covenant; it's a very Jewish book, and those who read it will find life, healing, and redemption.

Conclusion:

Believers should not allow offense to overtake them. We are called to turn the other cheek. Do you do this, or do you hold onto grudges, bitterness and resentment? Beloved, those who hate their brother or sister, will not enter the Kingdom of God (1 John 3:15). So let the offenses roll off and serve one another in love. If you need forgiveness, ask for it. Go to God, and go to your neighbor. If you need cleansing, read Psalm 51 out loud every day until it happens to you, "*Create in Me a Clean Heart O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence and do not take Your Holy Spirit from Me. Restore to me the joy of my salvation and sustain me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will be converted to You.*"

May you be exceedingly, abundantly blessed beyond all you could hope, think or ask!

*In Yeshua's love,
Rabbi Joe ✨*

7/14 Prayer Service

Praying for Israel & our Nation

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

A Fast will begin at Sundown, Saturday, July 13th at 7:00 pm with a Concert of Prayer and Worship. All are Welcome!

On Sunday, July 14, at 5:00 pm we will hold a concluding prayer and worship service. All are who are burdened for Israel and America are heartily encouraged to come and be a part of one or both services as well as the fast.

*At the Tri-Cities Messianic Center
1128 New Hampshire Ave.
Bristol, VA*

(Break-fast covered dish to follow Sunday's service)

If you are not able to attend, consider praying "with us" in your home, with your friends, or with your church group.

7/14 Prayer Points

Break the yoke of oppression:

- ~ Nation of Israel/triumph over the attack on it's borders
- ~ Remnant of Israel / the Messianic Jewish community, salvation of the Jewish people.
- ~ Remove the discrimination and persecution of the Messianic community in Israel
- ~ Establish Messianic leadership in government & business
- ~ Healing: Rabbi Joe

Pray for mercy on our Nation

- ~ Sins of the nation
- ~ Sins of the people
- ~ Give us more time to prepare/ push back the judgment – (Suggested reading "*The Harbinger*" by Jonathan Cahn or watch the Harbinger video on Youtube)

Pray for Protection over this region

- ~ Allow message of Biblical Zionism to penetrate hearts and dominate over anti-Semitic / anti-Messiah spirits
- ~ Release people in this area to sow into and build Israel
- ~ Establish this area as a safe haven from storms to come.
- ~ Pray against spirits of Ishmael/Sodom bind them as well as spirits of rebellion, religion, disobedience, anger, pride, envy, bitterness, strife, etc... Loose peace, brotherly love, kindness, gentleness, patience, long-suffering, forgiveness and repentance.

**Isaiah 10: 20-27
2 Chronicles 7:14**

Update on Rabbi Joe's Health and the Ministry

Beloved friends,

Many of you have requested an update on my health since my bout with cancer about a year ago. It was only in March 2012 that I was wearing a mask, not because I was contagious, but because I had virtually no immune system. By the first week of April 2012 I was going out speaking in churches teaching Christ in the Passover. Hallelujah, God healed me from Stage -four cancer!

But that wasn't the end of it. I never knew how cancer can ravage your body: The chemotherapy, the side-effects of other medicines, and the ravages of the disease itself. In my case it left me with knee problems and a very stiff and sore back but I never gave up! While I was at home recuperating, unable to go out, I would preach to my congregation by Skype.

I am grateful to God that He has provided us with good help in the bagel shop who are able to do things that I can't do.

It has not been easy running the shop and the ministry while recovering from a rare form of Leukemia, but God has not released me from the load we carry. In 2012 the Lord blessed us with a new synagogue building in very good condition where our kids have grass to run and play as well as class rooms. Finally after thirteen years we no longer have to set up chairs and sound equipment, move tables and then reset everything after the service. The ministry is moving along nicely and I think we're doing pretty well for

one year out from Leukemia.

Lastly, we have resumed our fundraising work for "The Joseph Project." This Passover we raised close to \$15,000 for the needy in Israel! Through the years we have helped raise over two million dollars for "The Joseph Project" and "Operation Tikvah (Hope)." In spite of all the personal troubles, God is doing great things at For Zion's Sake Ministries! We believe it is good ground for planting and I am doing better and better as time goes by. Dawn and I still appreciate your prayers for strength and continued healing in my back and knees. I still struggle with tiredness quite a bit.

Beyond that, the boys are well and growing fast. Isaac is ten and Joshua is seven. They are both getting ready for their second season playing Jr. Vikings football. They love it!

Thanks to all of you who asked for an update and who care about us. We love you too! Please pray that God will free us up to do more in ministry in accordance with Acts chapter six.

In Messiah,

Joe and Dawn

Numbers 6:24-26



Sign up for the Newsletter at:

www.forzionsake.org

Help us get the word out
Like us on Face book



Lion of Judah Messianic Congregation



Meets weekly

Saturdays

10:30 AM

1128 New Hampshire Ave.

Shabbat School

For Children 3-12 years old