

## Blessed Holy Spirit — Letter from Stephen

Dear Hakam,

This letter mostly concerns two teachings that Elbert brought to us about the blessed Holy Spirit. Kirsten is also sending a wonderful letter dealing with the same teachings. My hope is that our letters together, will communicate the spirit and encouragement of these words to us. Elbert said that he was not wanting to teach about the ministry of the Holy Spirit in such a way that would tempt us to over-teach this, (crystallize) but he is desiring that our letters would do justice to the teachings. Those of us who write these letters pray that the power of the Holy Spirit would be alongside of us — that we might give to you the indescribably wonderful spirit of this teaching!

**The Holy Spirit! His place and ministry in our lives is so rich that the translators of the Bible groped in vain to find that one certain word that would describe Elohim. And of course this is the case, because those outside of the New Covenant cannot possibly communicate the right spirit about the Spirit. He is certainly the Blessed Holy Spirit — the One given to those who obey Yahshua. In Acts 5:30 it says, “The Elohim of our fathers raised up Yahshua, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross. He is the One whom God exalted to His right hand, as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and the forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses of those things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom our God has given to those who obey Him.” Can you imagine this? That the Holy Spirit witnesses the truth about Messiah, even to those who haven’t ever seen Him or touched Him, but who believe on His name for salvation. And this ministry of the Holy Spirit has cut through the centuries and the fabric of time itself, to convince us who believe! How blessed are those who haven’t seen and yet believe. Such miracles as US only confirm the age-abiding power of Yahshua’s words — “HEAVEN AND EARTH WILL PASS AWAY, BUT MY WORDS WILL NOT PASS AWAY” (Lk 21:33).**

If anyone doubts that baptism is a vow of marriage, let him consider 1 Cor 6:17 — “The one who joins himself with YHWH is one spirit with Him.” We only receive the reality of this if our heart is true to our confession at baptism. We recently witnessed how one of the Spanish men that was baptized had not really received the Holy Spirit. It was Beltze (Bel-cha) who evidently harbored impure motives in coming here. It seems he was hoping that he would eventually marry Shua, his former girlfriend, who was baptized with him. For several weeks Beltze manifested a life completely void of any of the normal fruits of regeneration. Finally, being unable to “adapt” to the life of the Spirit, he decided to go and *think*. We are still praying for him, but are certain that he did not receive the Holy Spirit at baptism.

Once again, we know that men can strive to think the best and give all the benefit of the doubt and abundant mercy to those newly baptized, but you can’t fool the Holy Spirit. He will not come to make His abode in an unyielding heart. You only receive “another life” if you give up your life. And yet, because of how He has had to initiate the beginnings of this work, many of us have been abnormally born — many of us actually receiving the Holy Spirit at a time after our baptism — how patient our Father is to bear with us until we come to a point of surrender sufficient to receive the Holy Spirit. He has covered over many things in the beginning years of our Nation. But the *norm* is, of course, that men receive the Holy Spirit upon their baptism — as the saints in whom dwell the Spirit, lay holy hands on them. This standard is coming more and more into focus. Only in the Body, in connection with the Body we receive the Holy Spirit. Acts 3:22-23 — Only given to those who obey — and if we don’t obey Him, we’ll find ourselves cut off from those who do (Jn 3:36). The Holy Spirit is variously referred to as a Comforter, Paraclete, Advocate, and Counselor — and He certainly is all these things to us. But those who translated the Bible couldn’t capture the Holy Spirit in one word — but they all tried; that’s why there’s so many versions of this verse. Those who have become one “one spirit with YHWH” are those whom the Holy Spirit has taken a hold of. He came into our spirit. And the Spirit we’ve become ONE with bears witness with our Spirit that we are His. In our INTUITION we know, and it’s this deep knowing that carries us through our darkest hours. It’s not just our intellect, but it’s our spirit. Isa 41:8-10, and especially 13-14: “Do not fear, you worm, Jacob, you men of Israel; I will help you,” declares the Sovereign, “and your redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.” Who is this a prophecy of? Of us! “Do not fear, for with thee I

AM.” He is firmly grasping our right hand. We had no backbone, no stability — Jacob here, had not become Israel yet, and neither have we.

As Mary would surely know, when the child is conceived in the womb, the first major thing that the cells gather together to produce is the HEART. Our Father doesn’t have Israel yet, because Israel is twelve-tribed. This man has twelve entities, so we can’t call ourselves Israel in that sense until then, but our Father has labored with many of us to produce this HEART; and so we stand on the frontier of building what it describes in 1 Pet 2:9, we have not in any sense *arrived*, but are just starting. It’s exciting! Remember how we used to say, “Did Yahshua finish His mission on earth YES! Then is the Holy Spirit not going to finish what He has started?” He knows the day will come that all the seed of Abraham will become like Abraham in following Him fully. We will all come to give Him our *Isaacs*, not doubting His goodness, even in the hour when our child or our wife or husband is taken away from us — like Isaac was taken to Mt. Moriah to be sacrificed. It’s going to go against all our logic, against everything we ever knew, but we will be enabled because He has taken hold of us.

He has spoken to us — we are His seed. It’s something He has done in our Spirit. Why has the Holy Spirit been given to us? He has been given to restore our soul. I think of Ps 19, and although it talks about the law of YHWH, I know that the law is fulfilled in those who are filled with the Holy Spirit. The ministry of the Holy Spirit “restores our soul,” “makes wise the simple,” “rejoices our hearts,” “enlightens our eyes,” “cleans righteous altogether.”

Some people don’t realize that we live continually in the presence of YHWH. All of our deeds, even the secret thoughts of our heart, and the deeds we do in private everything is known to Him, because we are one Spirit with Him. The Holy Spirit is not an *it*, as if He were some impersonal force. You cannot grieve a force, but we can grieve the PERSON who has come to live within us. We can even take Him (and our angel) into places that He doesn’t want us to go - but the Spirit never coerces us. If we go somewhere that we weren’t supposed to because we are lawless, then we take the Holy Spirit with us, much to His great grief. But it’s amazing that He will never leave us or forsake us — if we are sealed — by this, I mean, if our spirit has indeed been regenerated by the Spirit. In the Old Covenant, the Holy Spirit would come upon men and leave them also, if they grieved Him. But we live in the covenant that is full of the *better promises*; the New Covenant has eclipsed the Old — it has come to fulfill what the Old Covenant pointed to in type and shadow. This something we must worship our Father for, but certainly it is not something that we would desire to take advantage of for our flesh. How could we think that it’s all right to just continually grieve the Spirit? If we take advantage of the New Covenant, then perhaps we’re not really a part of it at all, yet. Those who have become One Spirit with Him can never live in peace knowing that they are resisting the Holy Spirit.

Many people have their crystallized ideas of who and what the Holy Spirit is; some even teach that He is a manifestation of God. In other words, they deny that there are three distinct Persons in the Godhead, explaining the Holy Spirit as only a manifestation of God’s ONE PERSON. But those without the Spirit are doomed to distort the truth, because He can’t be communicated unless He, Himself is with you, you pass on the exact spirit that you are full of, even if you are ignorant of what spirit that really is. Hakam, we are so blessed to have received the one spirit of truth that came to us because we received the Apostles’ ministry of passing on this seed. Yahshua promised His apostles that He would give them another Helper and that He would be with them throughout the age. “Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Jn 14:16) The ministry of the Holy Spirit is different from the Fathers’ and the Sons’, even though He is one with them. His ministry is to finish what the work of Yahshua made possible, yet His purpose is the same - He has entered our spirits, He has laid hold of us, latched on to us.

It was 25 years before He appeared to Abram as Ed Shaddai and breathed upon him and changed his name to Abraham. Even if it takes years in the Church, He knows who are His, and the best part is, you don’t want to do anything about it — we want Him to possess us. If we love Him, we’ll come to give our soul to Him; our will. “If you love Me, you’ll obey Me.” We go through so many things as our soul is being restored — hard seasons, valleys, testings, and also seasons of refreshment. But we are coming to know that suffering is part of God’s

economy. If we only knew that He is never so close as when you think He is SO far away. This is the time when the Holy Spirit is brooding over you, brooding so closely to bend every effort to bring us through. Sometimes I wonder how thankful I would really be if my eyes were opened, as Elisha's servant, to see the spiritual warfare around me. How much superhuman labor does the Holy Spirit and the angels at His command go through to save us? Elbert said that if we really want to honor God, we will obey Him. Obedience is the one most honoring thing to YHWH. And if we really want to delight Him, then in the times of suffering we will offer a sacrifice of praise. If we ever truly pray, "Father, open my mouth to give thanks to Your name," then we will find ourselves doing that very thing. We will be honoring Him — with our lips, in the congregation, at our tables, in the presence of all the angels. This is the sweet savor incense that we priests are able to offer, because we live in His temple (Ps 51:15).

Advocate — defined as the one who comes along and takes care of our cause — our advocate (1 Jn 2:1). Yahshua, the man, is our Advocate to stand before the Father to plead for the saints 24 hours a day. He lives for this reason He never leaves the Father's side. Don't expect Him to leave the Father's side. He's our Advocate. He will do His job, faithfully. He is there because we are here, in this world, with Satan prowling about as a roaring lion. We need Him so badly. Yahshua has filled the role as Mediator between hopelessly lost men and their Creator. But now He lives in the presence of the Father to Advocate for us who are in the New Covenant. Did we think He just ascended to His throne when He had finished His task on earth? Is He just reclining back in some sort of regal and detached manner those of us down here finally get it together? FAR from it. He is so very involved with our personal lives, pleading for us before the Father, making it possible to have our access to Him, to go on. And His spirit, the Holy Spirit within us, Advocates for us, calling the angelic powers alongside of us and interceding for us with inexpressible groans as we pray, because we really don't know how to pray.

Heb 10:13 — Yahshua is in Heaven until we possess the gate of His enemies; until He no longer has to be our Advocate. So don't be looking for Yahshua, Himself, until the consummation of this age. He won't neglect His priestly duties for our sake until all is completed.

So, in this age we have Messiah in Heaven and the Holy Spirit with us as our Paraclete. He is the One who comes alongside of our Spirit. How amazing is our relationship with Him. He retains His divinity, and we retain our humanity, and yet we are ONE, like a truly unified man and wife — they are two unique personalities, two persons, yet they have somehow meshed together in their will, PURPOSE, mutual love and effort. We don't become Divine, do we? Yet, somehow, we are inseparable from Him. This is the wonder and the fearfulness of how YHWH created man. What other created being is so fashioned as to be able to have this unique relationship with the true Elohim? Are the angels able to do this? NO. As fearfully and marvelously as the angels are made, they are nonetheless less glorious than man in this way. They are certainly persons, and the agents of His power — they are vital — but, still, it's not the angels He makes covenants with. It's not the angels He gives help to, but the seed of Abraham MAN. The angels act and obey for man's sake, that Israel could be formed. There is even a particular mighty angelic PRINCE who stands watch over Israel. He is Michael. And Michael's name has the most wondrous meaning: "Who is like El?" And the answer to this splendid name is YAHSHUA, and the Ones whom He will finish redeeming. Only man, in Messiah, can show forth to all galaxies and created realms, what the true El is like. And did you know that the Holy Spirit is the Commander of angels? He is the chief commander of all the forces of Heaven; carrying out the Will of our Father, YHWH the Lord of Hosts, (Sabbath)

And who has the Holy Spirit been given to? MAN, MAN, MAN!! HUMANITY (Ps 8). Is there not something indescribably wonderful about being man? Hakam, someday we are going to grasp who we are.

Sometimes I look out from our front gate at the Pyrenees Mountains. They are, well "majestic" is really the only word that does them justice. This time of year they have snowcaps. They spread out in a vast panorama as far as your eyes can see from East to West. They dominate the horizon. Sometimes, I think about their timeless, rocky, peaks and how long they have been there, and how long they look like they could endure. And I think of Mt. Everest in Tibet, miles high and able to kill the men who try to climb it. And YET, our eternal souls and spirits will know no end we are ONE with the wondrous Spirit who thought of and created those very mountains. Part of us is of a whole different realm from the created order. We transcend what we can see with our eyes. That's why Hebrews 11 says, "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not yet seen." And by

this faith (that lives in our heart) we know that the things that we see were created by things unseen — ANGELS! And we know by faith that the angels carried out the Word of YHWH in creating all that we see. And so, we know that we are ONE SPIRIT with the Master Creator of all that surrounds us, and we know that the most splendid and most sublime of all His created works is the very men and women that we live with every day. The same order of creatures as the ones that sinful men abort every day; the same creatures that they fill up garbage cans with at their medical clinics, the same creatures who starve to death everyday, the same ones who die in wholesale numbers every time there is a war over some selfish national interest. How earnestly do you think Yahshua is Advocating for the seed of Abraham? How zealous is He to accomplish the end of this age? How important are we to Him, really? Or our children? Is it crucial that we pour everything we have into them? Selah.

We need the Holy Spirit within us, but we also need the power of the Holy Spirit without us — coming upon us. What is the power of the Holy Spirit? Certainly, His person dwells within us, but His person and His power are not the same. The Holy Spirit is the chief commander of all the forces of Heaven. And, of course, these forces are angels. Remember, when the Holy Spirit came to the earth at Pentecost, He came in POWER. He was ushered onto the earth by His ministers, and they manifested their awesome command of wind and fire, these spiritual beings are the power that YHWH wields. This is how the twelve tribes are going to be raised up, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

So, we ought to pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to do the tasks that we are called to do. There are certain times when the power of the Holy Spirit needs to come upon you, in order to accomplish things. When Elbert, Yowceph, and Abigail went down to Spain, and our Father saved the Spanish brethren, do you not think that it took a great expenditure of angelic power to accomplish this? And even in things more seemingly *mundane* than this — like loving your wife, training your child, or doing the laundry. In these things, we need His power, too. We can pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to do specific things because we're not full of selfish ambition and self-serving interests. We don't want to pray for His power to perform some lawless deed. We pray for His power that we might do His will, in order for His Kingdom to come, and His will to be done on earth. And it is easy to discern the ones who are really praying for the power of the Holy Spirit. They are the prayer warriors, the peacemakers, the encouragers, those who have a ministry of giving life to those around them. They are those who are faithful to pray for our daily bread. They pray this prayer of intercession and PETITION everyday — crying out for it. Perhaps only one person at your table cried out for the daily bread today, and if your household received it, it was only because at least one overcomer prayed for it. And even if we somehow forget to pray for it, we receive the benefit, because of that one obedient person crying out.

Think of the edification, exhortation, and consolation coming to our household if all prayed for this daily bread? And what is our daily bread? It is He, Himself, His Word, the living word that comes forth from our inspired, innermost beings to feed all those around us. Cracked wheat is necessary, but how much more do we need His word?

If we pray for the Holy Spirit to encourage us or speak to us, don't look out the window for a disembodied, ethereal being to float into the room. Understand that He only speaks through inspired vocal cords. And if He has already whispered in your ear, who can we fault but ourselves, if the table was filled with awkward silences and small talk? Without us, even the mighty Holy Spirit is mute. Because of the wearing down of the saints and our eternal mission, we of all people, must be continually encouraged (lubricated) with His Words. We need more grace than anyone who has ever come before us in history. No one else has ever made it all the way to the end (speaking of a people). How much prophecy do we need, how much teaching, how much exhortation? One of the names of the Holy Spirit is COMFORTER. Comfort is being rendered as consolation. The Holy Spirit lays hold of men to be like Barnabas of old, using their mouths to strengthen the hearts of the saints. Barnabas means "son of consolation," or "son of encouragement," "son of prophesy." Nehemiah means "Yah's consolation." Is consolation just a patting on the back; a little hug of sympathy? Simeon, in Lk 2:25, was looking for the Consolation of Israel. Simeon was longing for the consolation of Israel. Was Simeon just waiting for something real comforting and peaceful to happen so that he could go ahead and die in peace? Nahum was the prophet of

consolation, yet there are many words in the book of Nahum that are anything but soothing. How did Nehemiah bring consolation to the faithful ones of Jerusalem that were in the remnant? He came and rebuilt a wall around the city. He strove to protect the peace of Jerusalem. The wall would shut out all the opposing spirits, and cause what was happening in Jerusalem to flourish, (And Nehemiah lives on today to encourage us as a type.) Only the word of YHWH can bring consolation. Nehemiah brought YHWH's word, and His word mobilized and motivated the despondent people to action. Daniel says that in the last days of history, "the people of God will display strength and take action" (Dan 11:32). Rather it says, "the people who KNOW their God will display strength and take action." The Holy Spirit speaks through His encouragers to "proclaim the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light." These people make HIM known to us, we start to see Him and His excellency! In Acts 14:21-22 — Barnabas and Paul "strengthened the souls of the disciples." With soft words? NO, but saying, "through many tribulations we must enter the Kingdom of God." This didn't discourage the disciples in the least, because the scriptures say they were STRENGTHENED by the words (meaning they were enlivened, they found new vigor for their spirit). They received consolation. The consolation was: "You will enter the Kingdom of God if you continue giving yourselves, having a mind to suffer, for we must suffer in God's economy." But this was strengthening the disciples; it was the word of God, the consolation ministry of the Holy Spirit. Barnabas was full of consolation, full of encouragement. The Holy Spirit emboldens us when He speaks. ENCOURAGEMENT is defined as when a soldier is growing faint and weary during a desperate battle and all of a sudden the GENERAL, the VERY COMMANDER IN CHIEF of the ARMY, rides alongside of him and speaks a word of encouragement. And this word causes him to hold his head up once again, his step regains its bounce. HE HAS NEW STRENGTH (Isaiah 40:31). THE COMFORTING HOLY SPIRIT strengthens us as though by a personal visitation of the COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF HEAVEN'S HOSTS. Of course, the natural man cannot receive any encouragement from this ministry. The very words which are so endued with life-giving power for us, are mere words, mere platitudes to the earthly man, for he has nothing working within his own deadened human spirit to receive by. He just cannot take in Spiritual things. So, we can gauge whether we are alive or dead of spirit by our response to the Holy Spirit's consolation, through people speaking, letters, prophetic music — our daily bread is the consolation of the Spirit, THE COMFORTER.

And you can see how much it is the spirit of error for men to apply Jn 14:26 on the lone-ranger basis — "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things." You cannot receive this promise individually. It's in the Body where the Holy Spirit teaches all things. And it is only in connection with this Body that the Holy Spirit is given. AND when you receive the genuine Holy Spirit, He certainly will not teach you that you are all-sufficient in yourself. On the contrary, He will show you YOUR DEPENDENCY, and this is only the beginning of the "all things" that He will teach us. Without this crucial revelation all else is in vain. Without discerning your brother as part of the Body and the vessel of the Holy Spirit, you will never hear from the God whom you think you seek. And you will even wonder why He seems to oppose you. But the one who can even receive the least of the brethren with a meek and thoughtful spirit, will have continuous revelation. For if we shut out our brothers in the body, we shut out the Holy Spirit's access to us through them. Perhaps He will still speak to you in another manner, even though you grieve Him; but must He send a transfer truck to run over you before you listen? His covenant binds Him to us to love us with a great long-suffering, but the way He has given us is the Holy Spirit, through the Body and in our own heart, where the Spirit also lives. But we must be vitally connected to the Body.

The Holy Spirit is our INTERCESSOR, our mediator; one who interposes between two parties, two parties that are at variance or at odds with one another. Elbert asked, "Does the Holy Spirit pray for us?" YES! He intercedes for us. He is one who pleads on our behalf. He is One who pleads on behalf of others, One who makes petitions before the Father on behalf of another. Are we able to plead for one another? Are we able to be moved by our love for another to actually plead for them? Is there any real emotional involvement in one another's lives? Even to the point of tears? How is the Holy Spirit going to intercede for the brother that sleeps in the bunk above you, or the wife that sleeps beside you, or the married couple that have been having a hard time, or the sister that's about to fall away? The degree that our love is real for one another is the degree that people are

being interceded for.

Are our lives really bound up in one another? Are they to the point that we can plead along with the Holy Spirit within us, for each other? This involves our human spirit and the Holy Spirit. It is our will coming into accord with His will. Does the Holy Spirit pray in a disembodied form for your brother? There's much here to consider.

COUNSELOR — A person who advises, not coerces of forces. He advises, but He will let you have your own way if you insist. He's looking for lovers, not those He has to coerce. Who needs a wife that they have to coerce to do their will? This isn't even a wife. A man needs one who will work with him, not against him. What man wants to be yoked to a partner who pulls against his direction. It's still within our power to disregard the counsel of our brothers. For example; if a person is utterly bent on going to visit his parents and he is resisting all counsel, he can get his way sooner or later, but his reward will be the woe that he reaps for stepping outside the protection afforded by obedience. Perhaps that person will survive the lawless visit and seem unaffected by it but the truth is, the aftermath of a lawless deed can go on for years, or even not be detected for years. How can you go against the Holy Spirit in your brothers and not reap what you sow?

When Solomon was receiving grace as the wisest man on earth, he said, "There is wisdom in many counselors." The wisdom of the Holy Spirit is within the Body, and if the Holy Spirit has given you wisdom, it will always be in accord with the Spirit within the Body.

Paul and the other apostolic brethren wrote to the Corinthians (2 Cor 10:6), "...and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete." People in the Body will be saved by His counsel when they have yielded themselves to be ruled and handled by the blessed Holy Spirit who lives in the brethren.

Apart from this you are not truly receiving the benefit and result of Yahshua's prayer in Jn 17:22, "And the glory which You have given Me, I have given to them, that they may be one, just as we are one." We are not fitting into His glory, His order, if we don't see the ministry of the Counselor in our brothers. The Holy Spirit will not act at variance with the brothers and sister.

How does the Holy Spirit fulfill all of these ministries to us? He isn't going to comfort, exhort, and edify us all by ourselves. Our personal portion of the Holy Spirit is to attach us vitally to Messiah's Body of others who are filled with the Spirit. This is our true kindred. The Holy Spirit is within us and in our midst as the One who helps us by giving us the ministry of each others' gifts' to make up for our lacks. He won't just give us everything we need — just for our own self. Love is the thread that sews us together with others who minister to our lacks from their portion of the Holy Spirit.

He will give us all we need. He will teach us all things in relationship to one another. There is no other truth but the truth of following Messiah in His Body. Surely He is one body, but with many members, yet all drink of the same Spirit. So we are blessed to be a part of the Body. We have been freed from the delusion that we, individually, can be the Body.

It's so wonderful that we have our spiritual gifts. These are the tools we've been provided with to love one another. If we were giftless, how could we really express our love to our Sovereign or to each other? But not one of us is without gifts. He has made us all with spiritual gifts. And these gifts, when used, stimulate a desire in one another to love Him. Isn't it wonderful that the exercise of your gifts can actually stimulate your brethren to love Yahshua more? It's exciting! I can't help but think of Dan 2:3, "Those who lead the many to righteousness will shine forever like the brightness of the expanse of Heaven."

Hakam, I hope this account of what I personally received from the two teachings will be a great encouragement. I want you all to share some of this precious outpouring of oil with us. I consider myself blessed to be under such wonderful teachings. They are truly feeding my impoverished soul. Kirsten's letter is somewhat more true to the details of the actual teaching; mine is more of an amplification. May you have wisdom in using them as you feel is right. I know you to be a *Hakam* — your name is wonderful because I know you are the essence of your name. My heart was warmed when I heard your voice on the radio a few days ago. May you prosper in everything that you do for Him.

Love,

Stephen

P.S. — Elbert wants to know if Yowceph's second long teachings letter has been typed up into teachings, yet.

It's the letter concerning the reason we are left here on earth, along with Satan, to demonstrate the victory of Yahshua. Could you find out from Joseph Gonyaw about it? Elbert would like to receive some copies as soon as it is typed. Thank you.