

Victory Cup – Letter from Almah

Notes from Almah's letter to Sarah, December, 1986 about teachings Yoneq gave in Island Pond about the Victory Cup.

The anointing of Messiah is on each and every one who has received His Spirit. In each one of us is a manifestation of His very Spirit. How far would one travel to see a manifestation of the Holy Spirit? Think of how the Catholics are about certain manifestations of saints, traveling thousands of miles to see them. Yoneq went on and asked if we ever go out and take walks or, at different times in the day while doing whatever, just take the time in our hearts to praise our Master, to adore Him and just to thank Him. Walking with Him means praising Him. Yoneq said that no one should be taking the victory cup if they're not walking with Him. This really was good news to me because I saw that winning the victory is not a matter of having a so called perfect week—doing certain things and abstaining from doing certain other things. But it is a matter of maintaining fellowship in our hearts with our Father, praising our Master, walking with Him. Yoneq warned us about introspection. He said that our brothers or our heads can help us develop a good conscience. If we have a good conscience it will tell us what sin is and what it is not. Yet our conscience has no power to keep us from sinning, no more than a red light keeps us from crossing the street. It is merely a signal to us. The power to resist sin is in our will. Spiritual food strengthens us to distinguish between good and evil.

Yoneq said that our spirits are in preparation to rule and reign with Messiah. He really stressed the importance of clothing ourselves (Rom 13:14) with Yahshua in the morning. He said that is just as important as selecting and putting on our clothes in the morning; we must put on our Sovereign Yahshua. If we don't wake up every morning and put Him on as our Healer, our Comforter, our Advocate and Liberator of intimidation, we won't be able to walk with Him and be taken up like Enoch. Enoch walked with YHWH and was taken up.

Kharash shared at our table this morning that putting on Messiah not only means to pray but also to really think about and determine within ourselves just who we are and what we are doing. We are priests and just as the priests of old would never carelessly get out of bed, forgetting to clothe themselves with their priestly garments before serving in the temple, so we should never think about getting up and starting our day without first seeking our Father and being clothed with Messiah. It really spoke to me of the responsibility we have in doing this and how we are rendered totally useless to our Father if we don't.

Yoneq said that we are here for just one purpose: to demonstrate Yahshua's victory, that He crushed Satan's head. This is the only purpose we have. If we just float on through the day we can't drink the victory cup because we haven't been a disciple — our minds trained. A disciple is always conscious of his Master. He knows and is learning his Master's commandments — His love and His kindness. The commandments teach us how to love our brothers and our sisters. Jms 2:12 — Now we have been set free by the law of liberty to show mercy towards one another. Yoneq said that if we will but show mercy, it will make up for all our many lacks and failures at judgment. Mercy smiles in the face of judgment. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy... The beatitudes are for the judgment day. We live in view of it so we can enter in with confidence. Yoneq asked if we had to have a gift of mercy to be merciful. Well, if we don't want to shrink back at judgment we will be merciful to one another whether we have a gift of mercy or not. Not all have the gift of mercy but we **a** // can show mercy.

Our conscience knows all things and our spirit knows everything in our conscience. If our conscience is never restored, we'll always be living in a dull state.

Lk 22:14 20 — When the disciples sat down with our Master, this fulfilled the prophecy of Jer 31:31 33, to bring Judah and Israel (the 10 tribes) back together. Yahshua inaugurated that precious, holy, wonderful new covenant that Jeremiah prophesied about hundreds of years before, which will bring together even the strangers, as well as all the lost tribes and Judah — into one.

The first cup, or the victory cup, is the overcomers' cup. Yoneq said that it is normal to overcome and abnormal not to. We are under the law of liberty. We don't have to fall. We've been set free to overcome. Adam shared

after the teaching that when our Father forbade Adam to eat from the tree of good and evil, it was not a burdensome yoke or a heavy restriction for him because our Father had given him the wonderful liberty and freedom to carry out His purpose of tending to and eating from all the other plants and trees in the garden as well as ruling over every creeping thing including His enemy Satan. In the same way that Adam was given liberty to do his Father's will, so we have been given liberty to do His will — liberty and freedom to be completely consumed with loving one another and putting His enemies under our feet. We don't have to be defeated and preoccupied with sin, but we can be preoccupied with His purpose because He gives us grace through His commandments, His word, and His Spirit to overcome by. We will overcome if we walk in this New Covenant grace.

1 Cor 11:23,27 34 — Yoneq explained how the cup of victory is the last guard of the Body and Blood. A stipulation of grace that we would never eat the Body and the Blood of the New covenant in an unworthy manner. The first cup — the victory cup — is to judge ourselves by. We must examine ourselves and not be dull or calloused or overlook what our conscience is bringing to our mind. If we judge ourselves rightly, we will not be judged along with the world at judgment. 1 Cor 11:23 — ...in the night in which He was betrayed... We remember the night when Judas Iscariot betrayed our Master. He did not judge himself rightly at the first cup, but went totally against his conscience, deceiving his brothers. Woe to us if we drink the Body and Blood in an unworthy manner.

Lk 22:17-18 — We can see what the first cup is to signify till He comes back—the preparation of the bride for the wedding feast. The first fruits are prepared, those who will enter the wedding feast, those who will reign with Him. Rev 19:7 speaks of a time of restoration. The righteous deeds spoken of in verses 7 8 are the deeds we did when we were in communion, acts prepared beforehand for us to walk in.

We don't partake of the victory cup because He won the victory but we must *partake* in His victory. We must overcome as our Master overcame, and He overcame by His helpless dependence on His Father. We haven't arrived yet to overcome as He overcame but we must overcome in order to be there. Rev 3:20 is not talking about eternal salvation, but Him living in the center of our being and experiencing daily communion with Him. Verse 19 21 — We must overcome day by day by getting up immediately and answering the door when He knocks. If we don't, we'll have to search for Him as in the Song of Songs (we hesitate and He's gone). This is all a part of daily walking with Him.

Yoneq reminded us that the only way one can come into that Holy nation it speaks of in 1 Pet 2:9 and become a priest is to cut off any tie or influence that any relatives in the world have over you. We are here to proclaim His excellencies, His victory. Ex 32:25 35 — Messiah brings the sword between us and our relatives; we have no inheritance unless we do this.

Only if one is properly judging himself can he partake in the Body and Blood. We need to honor the bread and wine and eat it as if it were His very own precious body and blood. In the New Covenant, His laws are being written on our hearts, therefore we should judge ourselves and if we judge ourselves *truly* we shall not be judged. In 1 Cor 11:31 it says 'rightly' but actually it means truly: in a true manner; properly; honestly; genuinely; accurately. The first cup has been instituted for us, so true judgment can be rendered in the conscience of the saint who walks in the light. We don't have to fall away like in 1 Jn 1:6 but we can discipline our spirits to be in fellowship with Him. When we walk in darkness we can't pass on life. Our word must match up to the word. The victory cup makes us walk the narrow way. We must abide by our own conscience. We must judge our own self and not judge others and be judged. We will stand or fall by our own conscience.

Yoneq stressed how important it is that we put a proper conscience into our children. He said that if we let our children take the victory cup when they didn't win the victory, we don't belong in the church.

The victory cup makes us walk the narrow way *in order* that we may partake in the victory week after week yet if we judge ourselves not worthy of the victory cup, truly this qualifies or allows us to partake of the bread and the New Covenant cup — then we have judged ourselves. Our Father loves us even if we don't drink the victory cup, but we can't please Him. Only by drinking of the overcomers' cup can we please Him, by our faith. This is the cup Messiah will drink with those who have overcome with Him.

We also cannot please Him by being deceitful, taking the victory cup when we really didn't win the victory. Although some may be weak or feeble-minded in their conscience, and they just need to be led along. He also warned us to be careful and not tell someone to go ahead and drink the victory cup when they haven't had victory — false encouragement, because people need to learn to judge *themselves*. 1 Cor 2:11 — The spirit of a man knows all things. His conscience never forgets anything. It knows if we have demonstrated our Master's victory or not and can take the cup, unless of course our conscience has been seared. If we are not confessing our sins, failures, and shortcomings then we need to feel lousy — we need to feel condemned. The victory cup is based upon living out the victory, proclaiming the victory over Satan. If we confess our sins, we are regaining our standing, being reconciled in fellowship, but we still don't have the victory. We need to judge ourselves truly concerning our besetting sins.

When Obediah and I first came to Boston, we were blessed to spend a Sabbath there with them. Before entering into the special meal on Sabbath Eve, Derush expressed his heart telling us that he wouldn't be able to drink the victory cup because that week he had fallen into his besetting sin of depression, yet because he confessed it he received hope in still being able to drink of the New Covenant cup. Then First Day eve, while we gathered together before we lifted up the victory cup, Yoneq brought even more clarity about what we were doing and how to judge ourselves.

Being introspective is not judging ourselves rightly either. Another sister had been crying most of that evening as we came together, because she thought she couldn't drink the victory cup because she put a little too much sweetener in the cookies she made and was now so condemned about it. Because she couldn't judge the difference between accusation in her conscience and the conviction of the Holy Spirit, she wore her husband out that week with 5,000 confessions. Those with a weak conscience would never drink the victory cup because the enemy would always condemn them for something. That is why we really need one another sometimes to help us judge ourselves. With tears of relief she drank from the victory cup *in faith* and Derush also. Yoneq said that Derush had fallen but he also had confessed his sin and got right back up again. It wasn't as if he'd gone into darkness for one or two days. That night we all with much joy and thanksgiving drank the victory cup, except for one brother. Although it wasn't talked about much, it was a very clear situation with him, as the elders had gone to him. Judging himself truly in not being able to drink of the victory cup qualified him to partake in the body and blood of the New Covenant. I'm sure that through this, he received much hope and determination for the next week.

In the teaching, Yoneq explained how the conscience is the inner voice, the faculty that lets us know; reproving and accusing us when we've done wrong, and also commending and approving us when we've done right, giving us a satisfactory peace. It is not on a *performance basis*, but on a *conscience basis*, that we do anything. A good conscience is one that functions properly (Acts 23:1). In reading this verse I gained an even greater respect for Paul. Yoneq said that Paul drank the victory cup whenever he was around, not that he didn't sin, but he won the victory. He kept his garment white—he walked with our Sovereign. May we all attain to such a confession. 1 Tim 1:5-6,19 — When we sin against our conscience, we defile it (Titus 1:15). If *our* conscience is defiled, our children's conscience will be defiled. We can sear our conscience by persisting and continuing to sin. This leads to an evil conscience, a hardened conscience, one that reproves you for doing right and excuses you when you do wrong. Jms 4:17 gives the definition of sin.

Our conscience depends upon knowledge, and it functions based upon the highest standard of level of light it knows. To whom much is given much is required. Little is required of the nations, but much is required of us. Yoneq spoke about how every man will die, but before the judgment they'll be held in the hopeless clutches of death, in bondage, in a world of spirits. Rev 20:12 — They'll be judged by their deeds at the second judgment. Rom 2:15-16 — They'll be judged according to their conscience as much as they knew.

Believers who don't know the Word — our Master's commandments — have a weak and dull conscience, but the one who knows His Word has a strong conscience. We need a strong and good conscience. After the teaching Glory stood up and gave so much life to everyone. She shared how these words really encouraged her to want to

come to know the words and commandments of our Master so she could develop a strong and good conscience. She said she was tired of living in dullness and confusion. When she was speaking I could only identify and agree with her wholeheartedly. In the past there has even been something in me to shrink away from coming to know His Word because I feared so much the responsibility of gaining any revelation or knowledge. The results of this thinking has left me like Glory, in a very dull and confused state, more or less out of touch with our Father's heart. But, also like Glory, I want to know His Word. I want the piercing light of His commands to reach me. This teaching has begun to put within me a hunger for light and revelation.

Yoneq went on to say that no one will be thrown into the lake of fire or miss the kingdom unless they fully deserve it. The more we have heard the more is required of us but also the more our conscience will be strengthened if we put into practice the things we hear. Our Father is raising up strong pillars in the church whom He can build upon. As I looked around the room, my eyes fell on so many who have endured for years, allowing our Father to handle them, to crush them and remold them again. Yoneq said there was a time when many people used to fall away from the church almost regularly but now its not that way so much anymore. He said that its because through time our consciences are getting stronger, therefore we are able to help develop a good conscience in those who come in.

Yoneq also stressed how there is a tendency in us to make us lose heart and fall away. He said that that tendency means a driving force sending a person in a certain direction. The tendency to drift is in us if we don't pay *close* attention to what we've heard as disciples—otherwise we will shipwreck. If we are obedient to Lk 18:1, it will save us from drifting and loosing heart. He'll give us the grace to obey His commands

Yoneq ended by encouraging us with these words, but he also said we must cut off every little suckling of the flesh.

The encouragement and vision I received in this teaching filled my heart so much that I wanted to share it with you.

P.S. (from Nun)

There is yet more clarity to come on how to properly judge ourselves truly concerning the victory cup.

Jms 4:17 is the key. There is a difference between faults and sin. If we do something we *know* our conscience told us not to do—this is sin. We have no victory, and it would only be proper to judge ourselves unworthy of the victory cup that week, to discipline ourselves and then the following week regain our proper judgment. This will strengthen our wills and responsibility to the truth. "If we *know* the right thing to do and don't do it, it is sin." Though we confess our sin (if we *truly* confess it), it would still be proper to not drink from the victory cup, for we transgressed our conscience. We can't change the *fact* that we disregarded our conscience, having lost the victory. Of course, this hurts us deeply, grieving the Holy Spirit, therefore discipline *yourself* that week and set your focus on remaining in more complete communion with your conscience and with Yahshua the next week. We just can't overlook sin.