

Covenant of Life and Peace

A foundational teaching is a teaching that builds a foundation. We need a foundation that will be solid and perfect so that when the rest of the people come in on it, it will not crush the foundation. Yahshua Himself, His very word, is that foundation in us. We must know him and His word so that we will be able to pass it on, otherwise the building will crumble underneath. These foundational things must be in us before we can begin any period of time that will bring about the end of the age.

In 1 Cor 3:10, Paul spoke of a foundation that he was laying and others were building upon. A foundation is filled when we receive the knowledge of the truth (Heb 10:26,29). We come to a foundation when we have been enlightened, when we understand the Word, tasted the good word of God. Once we have a foundation in our lives, we are responsible for not falling away or deliberately sinning (Heb 6:4). It would be better to always remain babes and ever come to the knowledge of the truth than to deliberately sin after a foundation has been laid in us, and publicly disgrace in our Master (Heb 5:2; 6:10). But if we remain babes, we will never accomplish our Father's purpose and go on to maturity and enter the race that will bring about the end of the age.

We must have a foundation of repentance from that works and ritual which are deeds that lead to death, and have faith toward God. Also, we must understand washing, laying on of hands, resurrection, eternal judgment. We cannot go on unless we understand these things and our Father permits (Heb 6:1-3). Those who have been enlightened must pass on to others. If we come to an understanding of these things and then fall away, we will put our Master to open chain and there is no repentance. We are judged according to the light we have — the more that is given, the more is required.

Our Sovereign renders to every man according to his deeds; he is a righteous judge for those who have a stubborn and unrepentant heart and for those who have tried to do good (Rom 2:5-10). Our Father doesn't tolerate deliberate disobedience and will judge it wherever it is found (Rev 20:12; Rom 2:11-16). Unbelievers will go on to the second death if they had deliberate disobedience.

In the Old Covenant, there is a distinction between deliberate and unintentional sin. Unintentional sin is when you err, you make an error, unwittingly, unconsciously fall into sin, not deliberate. There was one law for native and stranger alike for unintentional sin (Num 15:22-29). When we fall into error, we must be forgiven. For example, in baseball, if the ball comes at you and you miss it, you didn't intend to miss it, it was unintentional, you didn't mean to do it, but you erred. If you make too many errors, you are penalized — you don't get as much money. In the Old Covenant, if you erred and sinned, you had to make an offering. But, if you intentionally missed the ball, to throw the game, you would be thrown off the team. If anyone sins with a high hand, deliberately, on purpose, he blasphemes and reviles our God and would be completely cut off with his sins still upon him and he would go to the second death.

If the Holy Spirit appeals to unbelievers to bring them to the Son, and they reject him, they have sinned against the Holy Spirit and are most deserving of the second death.

But in the Body of Messiah, when the Holy Spirit knocks and you will not open the door, would this not be a despising of the Word of God, which is insulting the Spirit of grace? This is a sin leading to death, which cuts you off from His people (Num 15:31). His sin is upon him so he has to die for his own sin (Heb 10:26). His sin was intentional — he was despising the Word (Acts 3:23; 1 Jn 5:16).

The story of the man gathering sticks on the Sabbath is an example of high-handed revolt. This person should expect nothing but Heb 10:27 — to bear the guilt and consequences of his own sin. Num 15:32-36 — This man knew that he should get ready on Preparation Day, but just ignored the thought. He knew what to do (Jms 4:17), but he deliberately chose not to do it and was stoned to death. (Even we, today, should make sure to get our wood in on Preparation Day so that we can do the minimum work on the Sabbath to keep our fires going.)

What if it was high-handed, rebellious, deliberate sin to not set your mind on the Spirit? (After all, we know what it says in Rom 8:6.) It is within the will where it is determined to keep the mind *controlled* and set on the Spirit. 2 Tim 3:6 — It is "*weak-willed* women" who cannot keep their mind on the Spirit. This

leads to open sins – being guilt-ridden, weighed down with evil desires and impulses. It is within the will where a decision is fought out. A mind set on the Spirit will decide for the Spirit, but if the deliberate decision comes forth from the will to sin, the result is death.

To *set* means a deliberate action. It is deliberate, willful disobedience or obedience which is the determination of the will. If you do not set your mind on the Spirit, you will be unable to keep yourself from setting your mind on the flesh. When you set your mind on the flesh, it is deliberate because your will is involved, choosing to allow your mind to be set on the flesh. You are either doing one or the other.

Rom 8:6 is clear: a mind *set* on the flesh is death, a mind *set* on the Spirit is life and peace. If you *set* (a deliberate act) your mind on the flesh, you have only the terrifying expectation of judgment to look forward to because you have willfully sinned. We know not to do this, but when we realize that we have lost our life and peace it is the Holy Spirit knocking, signaling to us that we are drifting toward death and need to come back. We must not despise His voice (Rev 3:20) and insult the Spirit of grace (Heb 10:29). We should not fall away from the state of grace, kindness (Rom 5:1-2), of experiencing communion with Him and love for our brothers and sisters (Heb 6:4-5). We can always judge where we are by how willing we are to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters (1 Jn 3:14, 16; Jn 13:34), obeying His commandment (Jn 14:21). It is possible for us to drift away from what we have heard (Heb 2:1).

To drift may not be deliberate, but to not open the door is! (Rev 3:20). But if one cannot even *hear* His voice, then he has drifted too far – that is, his mind is too far away from the Spirit. Thus he becomes like a silly, weak-willed woman (2 Tim 3:6). Rev 3:21 says that if we do not overcome by opening the door, we will go to the second death. Only overcomers who overcome as our Master will sit with Him on His throne (Dan 12:1-2).

The power of the age to come is the power to overcome the accuser and to stop obeying the enemy. Heb 6:4–8 — We are tasting the power of the age to come, but if we continue to hear about this and know what we should do, but only produce thorns and thistles, we are close to being cursed and burned. This happened to the early church and there's nothing left of it except great apostate shrines and people who are not living lives after the Spirit of the true God.

What if life and death were the options with a disciple has set before him? Rom 8:6 is a sworn covenant that Yahweh made with His people. Dt 29:18–21 — Beware lest one among you or a family or tribe falls away to go serve other spirits or other anointings. Then nations would wonder why Yahweh had destroyed the land of His people, for He had forsaken the covenant He had made with them. We do not want to forsake the sworn covenant of life and peace that our Father made with us. If we do this and go serve other spirits and other anointings like old Israel did and walk in the stubbornness of our own heart, we will bring a curse upon ourselves and be cast away from His presence.

Now our Father is bringing His people back (Dt 30:1–3) and making that covenant of life and peace with us.

Our hearts must be circumcised not just at baptism, which is the first cutting, by continually until the “operation” by the Holy Spirit is finished (Heb 4:12; 1 Ths 5:23; Col 1:28; 2 Ths 2:13–15).

We can keep the covenant by our testimony. His word is in our mouth and heart. We can say, “I will keep His covenant. I will set my mind on the Spirit.” We do have two ways set before us (Dt 30:15). Therefore, let us set our mind on the Spirit so that we may live and the *Zakar* will be raised up (verses 19–20).

We must cleave to our Father, deliberately setting our minds on Him, and stick to him like a leech. This will bring us life and length of days.

The first church died because they quit setting their mind on the Spirit and quit confessing their sins. For this, fire consumed them because they heard His voice and did not obey. Why should *WE* die? (Dt 5:25–27). If when we hear His voice, we fear him and obey His commandment and adhere to His covenant, we will live (verse 33).

The Law of the Old Covenant that old Israel was supposed to set their minds on is now fulfilled in Rom 8:2,4. As a nation, old Israel did not keep the Law; only a few individuals did — that is, the law of the sacrifices with

pure intentions. In the first church, only a few individuals overcame by setting their minds on the Spirit, thus fulfilling the requirements of the Law. Our Father doesn't need a few individuals. He needs a whole nation of people in which every last person obeys and sees to it that no one misses the grace of God — by **SETTING** their minds on the Spirit.

We no longer have to be led by the flesh because we are not under the dictatorship of the flesh (we are under the Spirit now), but if we allow the flesh to lead and dictate to us, we will surely die. If by the power the Spirit, we put to death the evil deeds of the flesh, we will live (Rom 8:12-13). *This is a covenant of promise.* We are no longer obligated to the flesh, because at baptism, we crucified our flesh (Gal 5:24). If we truly did the set baptism, we will be able to continue doing it to the end (2 Tim 2:11-12). If we never crucified our flesh, we will always be unable to and will always be led by the flesh. If we are being led by the Spirit, we are sons (Rom 8:9,14,16,17,19). We have received a spirit of adoption as sons, so we can cry, "Abba, Father" when we are drifting away to our flesh.

The whole universe is waiting for the sons of God to be manifested. Our Father cannot go on with His plan for the universe until we are brought into true sonship so the Body can be built up and come into this fullness and completion. He cannot do anything more until we are ready. This is what we were chosen for, the reason why we exist. Isa 62:12 —*DERUSHA* means necessary. We are that city — *HIS BRETHREN* — many sons of the Father. His program for the universe **CANNOT** go on until **WE** come in the sonship; so we are necessary.

Our Master subdued the flesh and did not sin, and He has given us His Spirit so that we can do the same (Col 3:5-7). These deeds of the flesh cannot be in the foundation or they will be in the whole building and the kingdom will be left to another people (Dan 2:44) because we didn't set our minds on the Spirit. This happened with the first church, but the day will come when Dan 2:44 will be fulfilled and our Father will get a kingdom that will not be destroyed or left to yet another people.

We belong to Him if the Spirit dwells in us. And if we belong to Him, we have crucified the flesh, and so we can subdue it daily (Lk 9:23). We can overcome it because it is dead, we have crucified it (Rom 6:11).

The Word is the contract that we have between our Father and us. Our Father will keep His word. If we obey His word, He promises us life and peace. If not, He promises death. Those with their minds on the flesh are going to die. They are hostile toward God, and come close to despising Him by ignoring Him. The sin of not setting your mind on the Spirit but instead, setting your mind on the flesh, **COULD** be a deliberate sin (Lev 6:1-7), because we will not obey the word. We have a contract, an agreement, and we must be faithful to our part of it. We will be faithful to Him if we belong to Him because we are betrothed to Him (2 Cor 11:2-3). Verse 3 says "*their minds*" are what is led astray (1 Jn 2:20,27; Rom 11:22).

The Corinthian church was betrothed to Messiah, but was led astray by false teachers from their pure devotion of keeping their mind on the Spirit. They were unfaithful, receiving another spirit, a different gospel. They went astray even though Paul had laid the foundation. This can happen to us to if we are *carnal* and do not **set** our minds on the Spirit; we can lose our lampstand, the true light from our life in Him.

We have a contract, His Word, that gives us life and peace if we keep our minds on the Spirit. The sin of not setting our mind on the Spirit **could** be a deliberate sin and may have to be taken into court and judged, if a person just wouldn't do it. If a person walks around without life and peace, he will stir up strife and confusion, for that is the only fruit he could bear in this state.

In Heb 12:15-17, the Hebrews were not obedient to make sure that no one came short of the grace of God, so it bitter root came forth and defiled *the many*. Some walked in the stubbornness of their own heart (Dt 29:19) and destroyed the moist and the dry, the whole land. Esau didn't cleave to his inheritance but walked in the stubbornness of his heart, so he lost his inheritance and couldn't get back even though he sought for it with tears. The early church did not set their minds on the Spirit, walking in the stubbornness of their hearts, so they lost their inheritance even though they were warned with Esau's example. How much more should we take heed of this warning.

There is no condemnation for those *IN Messiah*, i.e. *abiding in him* (1 Jn 3:6), with their mind on the Spirit, walking after the Spirit because they are free from the law of sin and death (which says that if we sin,

death follows) if we keep our mind on the Spirit (Rom 8:1-2).

Yahshua is our hope. This is the foundation. The foundation is Him (1 Cor 3:10). This foundation has been thoroughly, once and for all, built. If it is not perfectly plumblined, the building will fall. It must be plumblined — loving righteousness and hating lawlessness.

Rom 8:1,2,4 — The righteousness of the law must be fulfilled in us. We will have even greater condemnation if we do not walk after the Spirit because we're looking at the example of the first church *and* old Israel. The more that is given, the more will be required.

By this time, we ought to all the teachers in this, but some of us are still babes (Heb 5:12–14). Nothing can happen past this. Every last one of us has to be a teacher in teaching our brothers and sisters what the truth is and passing on what you have heard in your spiritual ear (Eph 4:15). They must shout it from the rooftops. *Everyone* must do this if they are spiritual people. It is only our flesh that would keep us from doing this.

ha-emeq: it says (Rom 8) that all creation was longing, right after it says that if we suffer with Him we will be glorified with Him. The suffering/glory goes right before “*FOR* all creation is waiting.”

Everything is waiting. If we don't set our minds on the Spirit, we can never be sons. I want the sons of Yahweh to be revealed. I want my flesh to be done away with and I'll have to suffer and will have life and peace. I want to do that. Only if we set our mind on the Spirit and things of the Spirit and cut off the flesh. Our Master is waiting anxiously.

Setting our minds on the things of the Spirit is setting our mind on the things the Spirit teaches us — loving our brothers, etc.

Jonathan Elezar: Gal 5:24 says we have to crucify the flesh with its passions and desires to be determined to live by the Spirit. I'm thankful that I saw that we have to be deliberate in determined to do this.

We are more and more responsible for the way we walk every day.

Ben Chesed: There is no excuse to not have life and peace and not abide. I can let it be all day long with my mind on the Spirit. That's really good news.

Yoceph: Rom 8:6 says the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, and in verse 15: for you have not received the spirit of slavery leading to fear *AGAIN*.

I saw that before, we were slaves to sin (before we came to Messiah) and the wages of that sin was death, so the fear we had was the fear of death, the expectation of judgment. But *NOW*, we are led by the Spirit if we are sons. This means we have our minds on the Spirit. But if we don't have our minds on the Spirit, but on the flesh, then what we will receive is death. If we continue having our mind on the flesh after tasting the good word of putting our mind on the Spirit, the only thing we can be waiting for is the fearful expectation of judgment *AGAIN* — the fear of death (Heb 10:26-27; 6:4-6).