## His Work, the Spirit's Work, and Our Work

We cannot go into the breaking of bread room without faith. As a matter of fact, if we go in without faith it is sin. Our forefathers did nothing without faith. Hebrews 11 tells us that faith is the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things not seen. If you do not have that you do not have faith. It is a gift that our Father gives us. We are saved by it.

Heb 11:1 - 12:4 — By faith we know that the worlds were prepared by the Word of God and that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible. By faith we are convicted of this; we know it; we are sure of it beyond the shadow of a doubt. Faith is not a feeling but it is assurance and conviction. Everyone who has received the anointing from the Holy One knows (1 Jn 2:20). Whoever has not received the anointing of the Holy One, the Holy Spirit, does not know. No matter what we do, it is impossible to please Him without faith (Heb 11:6). The reason we work is because we have faith. Noah worked 100 some odd years to build the ark because he had faith until it was finished.

Once we are His, born of the Spirit into His family, we find ourselves on the road to growing up in Him and filled with assurance (Heb 11:1), filled with the faith that we belong to Him, filled with the faith that we have passed out of death and into life — the faith that we can experience life and peace as we set our mind on the spirit — the faith that knows we belong to Him because we love our brethren and we have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Then we begin to bear fruit. And when we start bearing fruit, we start being pruned. Then we start suffering in order to bear more and more fruit. And then an "old friend" we once knew in the world comes to us — a familiar spirit, a nagging sin we seem unable to overcome and then guilt and condemnation and accusations flood in and turn us to introspection. Then we start tottering and faltering and we become weak and start doubting. We begin to think that if we were really a disciple we never would have done this or thought that and we think "maybe I was never saved." Instead of clinging to His unchanging love and promises, we pay attention to our feelings from our bad experiences and we begin to doubt more and more and then surrender to the wilderness of unbelief. The accuser takes advantage of the situation and brings about a tidal wave that sweeps us away in a sea of unbelief.

Then we think, "Can God really accept me when I am so unfaithful and faithless?" But if you could hear Him, He is saying, "My acceptance of you is based on what my Son did for you, not on what you do." The failure to hear Him say this to you requires you to try to be saved all over again to receive the Spirit (whom you have been sealed with) over and over again. You walk a faltering course as the faltering son, going around in circles — you have come to the stumbling block of Messiah (Mt 11:6), what He is doing in your life to make you a true son. The foundation of your life is Messiah Himself. It is built on the very promise of God and not your own personal experience.

So how do you as a disciple find assurance after this? By trusting the objective Word and not your own subjective feelings. Trust in the truth of His promises rather than relying on the subjective inward feelings that come from our own experience. When fear and guilt and doubt rush in, put away your feelings and take comfort and counsel in His Word, His promises.

1 Jn 3:14 — We know we have passed out of death and into life because we love the brethren — love is action. When we quit loving our brothers, our assurance goes out the window and we start reverting to subjective feelings. You can see in Heb 11 that faith is always action.

So when these things come upon you and you have doubts, the opposite of knowing. What are you supposed to do about it? Love your brothers. You do not have to try to receive the Spirit again; but you can love over and over again when you fail. Our love is not complete or mature, it is increasing. We must stop thinking doubts and start loving our brothers and sisters. If we do not love, then we have every reason to think the worst about ourselves (1 Jn 2:1-5).

We do not have to return to the cross for a fresh conversion or be re-baptized every time we sin. Rather we go to the throne of grace to receive mercy in time of need and receive help (Heb 4:16) because we have an advocate before the Father.

Our assurance is based on fact not feelings. And the assurance we know is not just based on proper doctrine but on action also. Heb 4:16 says we must do something: "let us draw near with confidence..." That is something we have to obey. Jms 4:7-8 says we must do something: "submit therefore to God; resist the devil and he will flee from you."

What do we have to do first? Submit — surrender your will. It does no good to resist unless you have surrendered your will to the will of our Father. Make no mistake about that. Do not accuse God for not helping you if you have not submitted your will to Him. It says, "draw near to God and He will draw near to you." What do we have to do? Draw near. Who moved, Him or you? You. (Heb 2:1)

Heb 12:12-13 tells us how to treat the faltering brother or sister: "Therefore strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble... so that the limb which is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed."

What is social intercourse? A conversation — a relationship between two people — interpersonal exchange. In any social intercourse (i.e., between you and your Father or between you and a brother or sister), how you behave yourself with the other person has a definite effect on that relationship. You have a relationship with our Father through Yahshua; the Holy Spirit has been given to you to speak to you in your heart. How you behave in that relationship has a definite effect on it. So we are all responsible for that relationship — to carry that relationship on, to have social intercourse, communication.

1 Jn 3:14-18; Jn 14:21; 13:34 — "He who has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father and I will love Him and will disclose Myself to him."

So we have His commandments today. We can love Him not by a feeling but by being a responder. Passivity is an evil spirit that dwells in a person. They love an evil spirit. Anyone who has passivity in them will not enter the kingdom. How do we love Him? By obeying Him, keeping His commandments. His commandments are always towards other people, towards your brothers and sisters (Jn 15:11-12). "The one who loves Me, I will love Him and disclose Myself to him." That is a PROMISE. You can see the responsibility in responding. Gal 6:7-8 is to be worked out with absolute certainty. That is the basis by which we will be judged (Heb 6:7-8). If our life produces good fruit, we will be rewarded, if it does not, we will not be (Jn 15:7-8). So, if we produce things in our lives that are not acceptable to Him then what can we expect if we do not fear and reverse our behavior? If we produce good fruit we will be rewarded with the kingdom. If not, everything we did will be burned up (1 Cor 3:14-15).

But we are free to love our brothers and sisters, our wives and children and say no to evil and to not believe accusations. We do not have to believe the evil one — the lie when it comes along. We do not have to believe those things about ourselves.

Heb 6:11,12,18,19 — "And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the assurance of hope until the end, that you many not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises ... this hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil." By this we can enter through the veil into the Master's Table.

The work He did for us, we can add nothing to. It is finished. We must accept it — receive it. By faith we are saved. (This is the understanding that we can add nothing to the work He did for us. It is completed.) But the work He does in us now is something we give ourselves to wholeheartedly — seeking it.

Heb 11:6 — He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. It is impossible to please Him without faith. What does seeking mean? How do you seek for Him? It is like when you lose your hammer. You are on a job and you are helpless without that hammer, so you look for it. What about when you lose Him? Do you look for Him as much as you look for your hammer? He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Storms, winds that blow hard, tornadoes, hurricanes will come. Anxious moments will come, with uneasy feelings. But our assurance is based on the fact that our life is in Him — tied to Him, grafted in, one Spirit (1 Cor 6:17). Col 1:23 says what all of us desire with all of our hearts to do, but very few in the first church continued to do it. We desire it because we have assurance. It says (verse 22), "He has reconciled you in order to present you holy and blameless and beyond reproach if..." What is theif talking about? How do we do that? "If, indeed (what you do) you continue in faith firmly established and steadfast and not

moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard." Not moved away from that assurance (Heb 3:6). If only we keep what is required of us then He will do His part in perfecting us.

The Holy Spirit's work is to unite a people, to sanctify us. He cannot do it if we do not believe.

Our Master Yahshua's work — He did it. We cannot add to it.

Our work is to believe.

We have an anchor for our souls (Heb 6:19). What is the anchor for? It keeps us from drifting. What is going to happen if we do not have an anchor? What do we have to do? What if we do not use our anchor? It is no good keeping it in the boat, is it?

Our work is obedience, faith, believing. Is it too hard? Is He a hard taskmaster who made it impossible and no one can do it? NO. We must take His yoke.

Heb 2:1-3 — "For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it..." It is unalterable, cannot be changed. But did the first church neglect their salvation? We must confess the sins of the first church. How would we neglect this salvation? Is there a tendency in us to drift? What is a tendency? A DRIVING FORCE. We have to use our anchor. A lot of things are lost by default or neglect. What do we have to pay to not drift away? ATTENTION!

We have to pay attention. What do we have to pay attention to? To what we have heard or we will drift away. To combat this drifting tendency, this driving force, we have to pay with our attention. [Yoneq emphasized this point, saying he knew people who had not paid attention and they drifted away.] We must pay with our attention. What is attention? Does your child have your attention? If he does not, he is not yours and he needs to go be with someone else. If you have lost his attention, you have lost your child. Heb 3:7,13,14,19; 4:2; 6:17-20

If you hear His voice, PAY ATTENTION. Do not harden your heart like our forefathers did. They did not pay attention to His voice and when they heard it they hardened their hearts. We are going to enter into that rest. Those who have faith will. If you have faith on the completed, finished work of our Master to save you and that you are on a road and you are going to experience conflicts, battles, storms, everything else will come your way. What are you placing your trust in, your own experience or His Word?

Malachi shared that he knows how he pays attention to someone who is speaking: to look at them. It makes sense. That is how you pay attention. You fix your eyes on them. Our Master fixed His eyes on His Father and we can fix our eyes on Him and the things He is saying and we do not have to pay attention to the doubts and feelings but to Him.