

Ahavaḥ 3Love Never Fails

This week was Malachi, Thomas, and Jonathan's last week here in Sus before Malachi and Thomas are sent back to Judah, and Jonathan to England first, then to Judah, and on to New Zealand. Yesterday was a special breakfast at the Yellow House for them when Yoneq shared about *ahavaḥ*. This morning, all of the disciples at Tabitha's Place gathered for another special meal for them and Malachi and ha-Emeq shared about what they had heard the morning before:

Malachi: Yesterday we heard the greatest love story ever — the gospel. How our Father wants to dwell in man (Jn 14:21). "He who has My commandments and keeps them loves me and He shall be loved by My Father and I will love him and will disclose myself to him." "If anyone loves Me he will keep My Word and My Father will love him and we will come to him and make Our abode with him" (verse 23). These are the words of our Master — how much He cares for man. Man is our Father's highest creation. He wants to dwell in man. It stirs my heart to appreciate His love for us, who we are as His people, and His Word. His words are life to us. He is life to us. "I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me." All of our life, He has known us and He will continue to know us and fill us more and more.

ha-Emeq: What I heard yesterday was in Jn 10:17: "For this reason the Father loves me — because I lay down my life." Our Master gave His commandments that we would love one another, but it is not burdensome because we are His sheep and we heard His voice and no one had to try to convince us it is the truth. Like Jonathan [our new brother], he listened and he did not argue because he is one of our Master's sheep and he knew that voice. We came into this New Covenant life which has many commands, but we have His love put in our hearts and we want to obey. "No one took my life away from me, but I did it on my own initiative." It is the same with us. We lay our life down because we love Him and not because we have to. He loves us because we use our own will from our own initiative and we lay our life down. This life is not pressed on us by a hard taskmaster, but because we have that love in our heart — and then He reveals Himself to us. That is how we get revelation — we keep His commandments and He will reveal Himself to us. It makes me want to lay my life down.

Malachi: Because of how we were raised, the word *command* sounds hard; *law* sounds hard. But when you love our Father and our Master, you want to be obedient. You want it in your heart. It is not burdensome. His yoke is easy and His burden is light because of what He has done in our hearts. We see that love meant that you do His will — do His commands. We want Him to command us. "I and the Father are one" (Jn 10:30). So when Yahshua walked on the earth, if you wanted to know how the Father was, you looked at Him — He was the exact representation of the Father, the fullness of the Father. The way He loved people was the way the Father loved.

After this, Yoneq continued to feed the flock:

Is there anything our Father cannot do, anything that He could not do if He tried? Is it impossible for Him to conceive of a greater plan or purpose than He has already planned? Is it possible for Him to make a human being better than He has made him? Man is His highest creation, His highest thought. If He were to create man again, He could not make him better. He made a human being perfectly suitable for Him (like a woman is the most suitable thing for a man — they are made for each other in every way).

Our Father has already thought His highest thought. Can He think of anything greater than you? He cannot think of anything more wonderful than man. Since he was making a suitable vessel for Himself to dwell in forever and ever, He was going to make it perfect and make it to be in love with Him and so thankful. So He had a predetermined plan. He knew what would have to happen since Satan had already fallen. He knew that man would be under the dominion of Satan and that He would have to redeem him with His Slain Lamb. It says that Yahshua was a Lamb slain before the foundation of the earth. So knowing all of these things He made man, a vessel who would be so thankful and grateful for his redeeming love, to manifest that love throughout eternity. God is a spirit and what he lacks is a suitable vessel to express his love. The Son was created as a human being — the spirit took on human flesh. When you spoke to Him it was like talking to the Father. He was the exact

representation of Elohim (Heb 1:3). And that is what He is grooming us for. He is preparing us to be exactly like Yahshua. We are all going to be just like Him. Wherever you go in the far reaches of the universe, when they see us they will see the Father. We will be just like the Son. He is going to have many sons. This is the ultimate purpose.

“My sheep know my voice” (Jn 10:14,27). Our Father gave His commands to Yahshua. Our Master said that His commands are not hard, they are not burdensome. If His commands are burdensome, that means that we do not love our Master because it says that His sons have His commands and whoever has His commands and keeps them is the one who loves Him. Our Father gave His Son the commandment to come and die for us. It was not a heavy command, not burdensome, because it says that He did it from His own free will (Jn 10:18). And so with us, anything we do must be from our own free will. Whoever is under the law is not under grace. We are under grace. Grace does in our own lives the very thing that the law would have done if it could have. It forms us into the very likeness and image of our Creator. So therefore, we fulfill the requirements of the law by walking after the Spirit (Rom 8:4).

What is the love that we must show toward others that we would know that we are not in death anymore? We know we have passed out of death because of the Spirit He has given us, who has given us commands which are not burdensome because we love our Master and we love the Spirit. The commandment is always that we would love our brothers and sisters.

The love that we must have in order to know we have passed out of death is recorded in 1 Cor 13:4-7. This, of course, is Ahavah love, the very love of our Father. Our Father loved us so much He sent His Son to die for us.

If people are to look at us and say, “That is what the Father is like; that is what Yahshua is like,” then this is what we have to be like: Ahavah love is always kind and always patient, it never envies, never boasts, is never proud, never rude, never self-seeking, is not easily angered and never keeps a record of wrongs. Ahavah love always protects, always trusts, always hopes and always perseveres. Ahavah love never fails (not even once). It never fails.

Someday our brothers and sisters are going to depend on our love at a crucial moment, and if it fails, it will be devastating. If a husband’s love fails for a wife, it can be devastating. If a wife’s love and respect fails for her husband, it hurts. If our love fails for our children, it hurts. If we have a failing of our love for our children, then our love failed toward that child. It did not live up to the standard of love. Pr 13:24 says that if you love your child you will be diligent to discipline him. So therefore, if you are not diligent to discipline him, then you actually hate your child. Your love fails — it turns into hate. (That is what the Proverbs teach us. If we never read Proverbs we will never have understanding.)

Ahavah love never fails. What makes our love fail? The flesh. Our flesh is dealt with in baptism, but it has to be put to death daily. That is what caused the law to fail (Rom 8:3) — our flesh. There is nothing wrong with His law. Ps 19:7-8 — His law is perfect. We love His law because we love Him and because our flesh is dealt with (Gal 5:24). If our flesh is not dealt with, the law is hard and burdensome.

There will be a crucial time in our lives when our love cannot fail. An evil day is coming to test our lives and our love cannot fail then. Our Master said a time is coming when love will be turned into hate. It will be a dark hour, a black spirit, and at that time, love will turn into hate and men will betray each other. Love will fail then (Mt 24:10-13).

Right now we are being taught by the Holy Spirit to love. Our life must conform to that love. Our love must express that kind of love 1 Pet 1:22 and 4:8 speaks about — a fervent, ardent love for one another. A fervent love was expressed in Jonathan and David. It is a warm love we are to have toward one another. We cannot regard our flesh and look at each other (regard each other) as fleshly beings (2 Cor 5:16) if we are to be able to love. If we are thinking about ourselves — “What is he thinking about me?” “He’s looking at my eyes,” “He’s looking at my nose,” “I’m not expressing myself well enough,” etc., that keeps us from responding properly to the other person in love. We must put self-consciousness aside.

Let’s go back to love. What does Pr 13:24 say? “He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently.” When an act of passive rebellion rises up in your child and then you as a father or

mother do not correct that attitude in him, your love fails toward that child. Our Father's love does not fail toward us. Our love cannot fail toward our children or each other. If it fails toward our child he is going to have his own mind and is not going to go in the way he should go. You will lose him. Who does our Father discipline? His sons. He disciplines those whom He loves. He scourges His sons. (It speaks about this many times in the Word.) Have you ever sinned and gotten away with it? Have you ever not loved a brother and gotten away with it?

Rom 13:8-10 talks about the commandments that love fulfills: "Love does no wrong to a neighbor; love therefore is the fulfillment of the law." What is it that makes us conform to the Law? LOVE makes us conform to the requirements of the law. He who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. Any other commandment is summed up in this: love your neighbor. Love fulfills everything.

Rom 8:2-4 — "in order that the requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh." If we are walking according to the flesh and we see our child have an act of passive rebellion, we may not be able to judge it right, just like we are not able to judge our sin right when we are in the flesh.

Our Father wants to get us to the point where our love will not fail in that crucial moment in that crucial day, so that our love will not fail then.

So, Ahavah is patient. Sometimes our love fails. It does not measure up to what patience is. Love is patient. Why are you patient? Because you love. If our love is not patient, it is failing. It fails to meet up to the high standard of what love is. Will we ever come to this point or is it an impossible standard or is it even something we are supposed to do? Our Father wants to get us to the point that we will be patient when wronged. When someone slaps you on the cheek, you will turn the other cheek. Patience is the quality of enduring evils without murmuring — as in the patience of Job. Old Israel failed to meet up to this, but it is certain that there will be an Israel who does.

How do we know we have passed out of death and into life and that it is not just a doctrine we have in our mind?

How are we going to know? Because we have patience and there is nothing accusing us that we were not patient. There is no judgment there. And if we are not patient, we may have to confess it before we can continue on.

In 30 years, we will be expected to show a greater deal of patience toward our brothers than He expects from us today, but right now our commandment from our Master is to lay down our life and love our brother and we are expected to do that as best we can and as best we know now. If we are not doing it as best we know, we will be disciplined (Jms 4:17).

Patience is a fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22). If you have a fig tree in your heart, figs will come out of your mouth (Jms 3:12-18).

Ahavah love is kind. We are to love one another the same way He loved us. Is Yahshua kind to you? Is He patient? We are to be kind and tenderhearted (Eph 4:32).

Ahavah love is not jealous. If your love is jealous, you do not really have love; that love will only be a passing thing. Are you jealous of all of your husband's time? Jealousy is suspicion. You suspect someone. You are conscious of rivalry, uneasy that someone has withdrawn his affection from you. But love hardly notices when others do it wrong. We are to always love and never make people think that we have withdrawn our affections from them and we are never to suspect our brothers in the same way. Mt 7:12 — "Therefore however you want people to treat you, so treat them for this is the law and the prophets." That if is everything the law and the prophets tried to teach us. If you want to live up to the law and all that the prophets have spoken, do that. Are you perfect on that? Do we get reproved in our heart and spirit if we do not do that? If you are not perfect in it, do not be condemned, but increase.

As we go on as a nation the light will get brighter and brighter because more and more we are loving with that love.

When N'su confessed that he was jealous (see *Ahavah 2*) the Holy Spirit had brought that out months later because it was still there. Once he heard the Word of God concerning jealousy and love (Heb 4:12), he saw that it was sin and he repented. Now he is coming to the knowledge of the truth concerning love and hate.

Whoever does not love abides in death. If we are not loving, we are abiding in death. It brings our responsibility to respond to the Holy Spirit whom to us. If we respond to the Holy Spirit whom we have been given, then we are going to be perfected in that love and unity in the bond of peace (Jn 17:23; Eph 4:2-3). And when we are perfected, we will know when that unity is broken. And whenever our peace is disturbed we will know that our love has failed. Our Master said “My peace I give to you and no one will be able to rob you of that peace.” That will be because there will be nothing accusing us of not loving.

Our love is going to fail now, but when it does, we confess it and we grow. Our Father is not going to shoot us out of the pond because we fail. So yesterday when I saw someone’s love for his child failing, when I saw him fail to discipline his child for being passively rebellious, I told him. That is how we grow up into the head — by speaking to one another in truth and love. My name was put into the book spoken of in Mal 3:16 and I have to keep speaking the truth in love so that it stays in there. I grew up, he grew up and, as a matter of fact, the whole Body grew up a little bit yesterday because passive rebellion was dealt with (Eph 4:15). The father had told the child to go out to the front and she resisted but then she went, but she went very slowly. That is passive rebellion. It was not with all of her heart. It is the same with us — when we do not do something with all of our heart, willingly, it is passive rebellion. We do not want any passive rebellion in us or our love will fail. David was a man after our Father’s own heart. He was wholeheartedly willing.

Then Yoneq expressed his thanks to have had Thomas and Malachi with us, how much they have increased the tribe here, and how instrumental they were in Santiago. They were with us for what Havah had called in her letter to him “the first touch of the Stone.”

He also spoke about how thankful we were that Juan and Jonathan fell on that Stone. Their hearts were cut just enough and had just enough faith that the Holy Spirit could eke in. Some people’s hearts are cut more initially than others, but all it takes is a little cut. As we go on, the full circumcision of our heart is done. His Word is able to cut our heart (Heb 4:12-13). He knows where His Word has to cut us. There is no use trying to pretend in front of our Master.

“If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy, and know all the mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.” (1 Cor 13:1-3)

Thomas: It seems only right that our Creator would reach down to the earth and grab a handful of clay and form it into a being and breath his very life into it so that it would become His highest thought, His highest creation and call him man and provide for him a place for this man where everything is provided for him — that this man would be perfect. Our Father’s highest creation does not have imperfections. This man would walk with our Father, he knew his heart and mind. He was adequate, suitable to be our Father’s highest creation.

But something unjust happened. That this being would turn and listen to something other than what His Creator was telling him and be deceived and fall from communion with our Father and be forced to leave that dwelling and his offspring being more and more effected, further and further being fed by the deception of sin. With all kinds of thoughts coming to him, making man think he is inadequate and every evil thing. That he is worthless, inadequate. And with separation from each other — not even regarding each other’s presence. Not being able to pay attention.

I know it is only when a person sees that state of man, sees that deep sin that is in us, only when a man can see it in himself — the maladies that are in him, the scars and deception — his condition, that is the point where if there is any hope in him, any burning ember in him that he would turn to the Father and say “I see the state I am in, and the only thing I can do is cry out. You are the one who created me and the only one who can help me.” And that is dying. Only when a man — dies can he begin to love because you have to die to yourself to love. You cannot be overcome with all of these things (worthlessness, inadequacy, separation) and try to love because our love will always fail if we do not cry out. Yahshua laid his life down of his own volition.

To fervently love with all your heart is just to simply pay attention to someone because to fervently hate somebody is to ignore him and not regard him because you have something on your mind. If we are going to

ever be our Father's people we will fervently love one another. It is not hard to pay attention to someone if you died because you are not thinking about yourself. Because you want to hear from Him and that comes from His highest creation. I pray to my Father and my answers do not come from the sky into my ears but through each other.

If we do not pay attention to every single one, then the weak ones and the ones who are so easily overcome with rejection, loneliness, etc., will fade away because we are not regarding each member of His Body. We cannot just pay attention to a few people we call our friends. I want to pay attention. I do not want to sit in a corner and play my little violin but I want to regard each and every one. Because there is no sense in my crying out [if I don't]. I want that love to be perfected in me. It is only just that He would do that. It would be unjust that I would have a defect in my love for others. In order to do that, I relinquish all my own power over my life. It is futile to go on in the flesh. I have done it and I have been disappointed every time. I love our Father. I've laid all my chips on the table.