

Worship in Spirit / Story of Netsak / The Priesthood

When God created man He made him in His own image. God is spirit. Man is a spiritual being, but man fell and lost his communion, so man could no longer worship God. When Yahshua came, He told the woman at the well that the day will come, and is here already, when the true worshippers will worship in spirit and reality (Jn 4:23), for the Father is seeking those who will worship Him in spirit and truth. It is the same with us. We cannot worship Him with our mind. We cannot worship Him if our mind is on earthly things. Because God is a spirit. And those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth; and we have the truth.

Our Master was betrayed by a man who would not mind the Spirit. He would not mind what he knew was right. Instead, he put his mind on what he knew was not right. He put his mind on another spirit that was not with our Master's purpose. Our Master was put to death because of our misdeeds. He was raised up to secure our justification. We were acquitted. He took away our guilt. "Therefore since we are justified or declared righteous, we now have a right standing with God. It is through faith." Let us grasp the fact that we have the peace of reconciliation (Rom 5:11). We have the peace of reconciliation to hold onto; to enjoy peace with God *through* our Master Yahshua the Messiah. He was betrayed and put to death because of our sins in order that we would not have to be put to death. He died in our place. The main thing is that God raised Him up, delivered Him up from the dead, seeing that it was impossible for Him to be controlled by death (Ps 16:10). He went there and took our suffering upon Himself. It is as if He took our sins and died for them. He said to us, "You are not guilty. I am going to clear your account." We worship Him in spirit and reality and truth. The truth is that our sins have been forgiven; that He not only died and suffered being crucified, but He suffered the pangs and agony of our death in Hades and He was raised up for our justification and reconciliation. We are here tonight to celebrate His death; to never forget how He took our sins. If we had died for our sins, we would have remained in death. But death could not hold Him because He was righteous. That death He died for three days and three nights, He suffered cumulatively, collectively for all of our sins. Rom 5:1-5 — We are right now enjoying the state of God's favor, of His marvelous grace, because our Master died the death we deserved. He died it for us. Let us rejoice in our hope. Can we be full of joy right now? Let us exult and triumph in our troubles, which bring about endurance and faith that is approved, tried under the furnace of affliction. Rom 5:5 — Such love never disappoints or shames us. God is spirit. You cannot see a spirit. That is why we must have faith. You have to have faith to worship in spirit. We have to have faith to worship God. Faith does not operate in the realm of the possible. How possible is it to worship God in the Spirit? In the world we could be thankful for creation, etc., but we could not worship God. But now He has opened up our spirit once again to His Spirit. We can appreciate Him now. We cannot appreciate Him in our brain. We cannot worship Him with our brain. He made man in His own likeness. He gave Him a spirit and a soul and a body. So now we can worship Him. We can worship Him with all of our hearts, minds, souls and strength. I'm thankful He has chosen this way; that He is not sitting on His throne where we can see Him. Because then we would never grow in faith and grace. He would not be able to do the work He is doing in our hearts. That is the grace he has given to us. Few are chosen. Why? Because it takes faith.

Netsak — The Man Who Came to Him by Night

ha-êmêq told a story of victory:

Netsak walked into the big golden temple. He went there every day. He was a Pharisee. This day was the day of a feast and he heard people and animals yelling. There was a man with a whip there running the people who were selling things out. Netsak wanted to know (and all the Pharisees and leaders wanted to know), "What is going on? What are you doing? Show us a sign that you should be doing things like this."

Netsak knew that if the Messiah came, he would be doing things like this. "Show us that you have the authority to be doing things like this." "If you tear this temple down, I'll build it back in three days." *What does he mean? This temple took a long time to build.*

In the short time following, Netsak heard that Yahshua was healing people, and people were saying, "Maybe

it's the Messiah." "I don't know." "I believe it is."

Yahshua knew that they did not really believe. He would not speak to anyone of those people. Netsak wondered, "Could he *really* be the Messiah?" Netsak was afraid to ask Him on the street. He was afraid. And that was not like Netsak. He wasn't usually afraid. But he was nervous and choked up to go to Yahshua and ask him if he was the Messiah. "I'll go at night. I'll just go and find out. I'll just ask him." If the other Pharisees saw him going, they would wonder what he was doing. He wondered why he was so scared. So one night in the dark, he went to the place where Yahshua was staying. Yahshua let him in the door.

"Sir, no one could do things that you do unless God was with him." Netsak waited for a reply.

"Truly I say, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

"Born again?" Netsak thought, *What* is he talking about?" Netsak had studied the law so much. If Yahshua had said any verse in the scriptures, he would have known it. But "born again"? How could this be? He wished he would just tell him a verse, anything. But he could not understand this.

Can a person climb back into their mother's womb and be born again? (All the children answered, "NO.") But he said, "You have to be born by the water and the spirit. Don't be astonished, you have to be born again. The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from or where it is going; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit. *You*, a teacher of the law, you don't understand these things?"

Netsak knew everything about the law. But Yahshua was talking about the Spirit.

"Just like the snake was lifted up in the wilderness, so too must the Son of Man be lifted up so that whoever believes may in him have eternal life."

Ah, something Netsak could relate to. He knew *just* where this was in the scriptures. Netsak knew this story really good. Now he was saying something Netsak could understand. "Just like the snake was lifted up, so must the Son of Man be so that whoever believes in him would have eternal life." Netsak thought, "Believes?" He knew that if they did not believe in the snake enough to look at it, then they were not saved.

[Each of the older children read a verse from John 3 of what more Yahshua said to Netsak.]

Jn 3:16-21— "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil."

It was so dark, Netsak thought. He had come in the dark.

"For everyone who does evil hates the light and does not come to the light lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who practices the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God." Netsak thought, "Anyone who wants to can come to the light, that what they do might be seen."

Yahshua wouldn't say anything to anyone in Jerusalem, but in this little dark house He said alot. Only to Netsak

Later, Netsak heard where Yahshua was. He did not forget him. Two years went by. Yahshua came to the temple and this time he cured someone on the Sabbath. Netsak's friends said, "This man is coming from the devil, the evil one. We need to kill him." Netsak said, "There must have been a reason he did it."

Yahshua went away and then came back one more time. This time Netsak's friends gathered together. "We have to get him." Netsak was excited that at least he would get to see him again anyway, to ask him some more questions. But Yahshua was not with the policemen that Netsak's friends had sent to get him. Instead, those policemen came back wide-eyed, saying, "Never has anyone spoken like him!" "Have you been deceived by him too?" Netsak's friends said, "None of us in authority believe in him, only this ignorant crowd who don't know the law."

Netsak was silent. He was scared and intimidated. His heart was pounding just like that day when he wanted to ask Yahshua if he was the Messiah. He opened his mouth: "But does our law condemn a man without giving him

a chance to speak for himself?"

"Surely you are not also one of them, are you? A follower of Yahshua? Look in the scriptures. Is any prophet going to come out of Galilee?" They were all against him. Netsak put his head down. He was scared. Ashamed. He believed. He knew Yahshua was the Messiah. All the Pharisees were looking at him. He did not say anything.

The next time he saw Yahshua, it was too late. It was all worked out by Netsak's friends how they were going to get him. The next time he saw Yahshua he was *up* on the cross. And it came back to him. "Just like the serpent was lifted up in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up so that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life."

Netsak had the worst snake bite and he was dying. He was so scared, ashamed, intimidated of what people would say. But when he looked up, he *believed*. In the crowd, another man named Yoceph stood up. "I want the body of Yahshua. I want to take care of it and put it in my tomb." Yoceph believed too, but he was not afraid any longer to say anything. [He knew that Yahshua had died in his place because he was going to bury him in his tomb.] Netsak said to himself, "I'm not going to be afraid any longer..." "ME TOO!, I'm going to help." He helped Yoceph with the body of Yahshua. It was victory over intimidation. Netsak saw our Master again because he rose from the dead. "Netsak," he said, "you won the victory. You stood up." This is the story of Nicodemus.

Ben Nabi — Once he publicly took that stand, he would be cast out of the synagogue; it was like being cast out of society. He would be an outcast of society. But he believed. We believed also and became outcasts of that society. But Netsak was comforted because he saw our Master risen. And we too, are going to be rewarded because we will see our Master come back.

Meshulem — Heb 13:11-13 — Anyone who wants to lead a godly life will always suffer reproach (2 Tim 3:12). Anyone who goes out of the world will suffer reproach but he calls us out of the world to be transformed. So, as they persecuted him, they will also persecute US.

Ben Chesed — Yahshua's love for our Father's house touched the heart of Netsak.

Paul told the Corinthians that when our Master was giving thanks, He broke the bread and told His disciples, "Take and eat, this is My body which was broken for you. Do this to call me to remembrance, to affectionately remember me." Have affection; affectionately remember Him when we break the bread.

Ben Nabi — We can affectionately remember our Master, come out of our indifference and passivity, let His love reach our hearts all week and create an affection for Him and each other. And our Master wants that we would lift up our whole soul to Him. We actually have the privilege to remember this. That this is the character of the Most High, that He would give Himself. He was greatly humbled out of love for us. He is worthy for us to remember Him.

Yochanan Abraham — The way that He loved Netsak ... A lot of people were probably calling Him Lord, but no one else could He speak to on an intimate basis, knowing that person was going to receive Him. He knew all those others were not going to worship Him in spirit and truth. That is the kind of people our Father is looking for. How much were we like Netsak? You would not think they had that heart, but He sees the heart. Many people were saying Lord, Lord, but He sees the heart.

ha-êmêq — That is what made me want to tell that story. Because Jn 2:23-3:1 (and this was not written in chapters and verses, but continuous) says that "when He was in Jerusalem *many* believed in His name because they saw the signs that he was doing but Yahshua, on His part, would not entrust Himself to them because He knew all people... but there was a Pharisee named Netsak." "But" is not written in most bibles, but if you look in the Greek, you see that it continues there with "but." So after all this talk about those people, there is a "but this man Netsak." It is so encouraging to know that there was one man that He could entrust Himself to. All the words He spoke to Netsak are so foundational for us. This was at the very beginning of His ministry. He had just come out of the wilderness, having been tempted there. It was so important, in the very beginning, in the darkness, what He told to this man. It was a very compact message of "believe and you can have eternal life." Knowing that He could entrust Himself to that man, Netsak won my heart.

The Covenant of the Priesthood

It goes on in 1 Cor 11:25 that in the same way, when they were through eating, He took the cup. “This cup is the new oath, the new agreement, the new covenant. It is ratified, established in my blood. Call me affectionately to remembrance every time you drink it. Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup you are re-presenting and signifying and proclaiming the fact of the Master’s death until He comes again.

Now, remember that the next verse is the most important. “Whoever eats the bread and drinks the cup in an unworthy manner shall be guilty of the body and the blood” (verse 27). It is because this establishes the covenant that Israel broke. It is the new covenant because Israel broke the first, old covenant, in which our Father wanted a priesthood, a kingdom of priests; 12 tribes of Israel as a priesthood. So He told Moses (Ex 19:4-9) how He brought him out of Egypt for the purpose of establishing a covenant with them that they would be a kingdom of priests. They swore on an oath, so he told them the covenant which is stated in the next four chapters and then, in Chapter 24, they actually ate a meal together like this to ratify — establish the covenant, to set it up. Ex 24:4-11 — Moses built an altar and 12 pillars representing 12 tribes. The people gave an oath, “we will do what the Lord has commanded.” Moses took half the blood and sprinkled it on the people. “Behold the blood of the covenant...” They ate and drank to ratify the covenant that He wanted a kingdom of priests — twelve tribes of a nation of people. He took Moses on the mountain and gave him the tables and all through to Chapter 32 it talks about the establishment of setting up the covenant. But Israel broke this covenant (which has to be established again with 12 tribes), because then in Chapter 32, something was happening down below on the mountain. After they had vowed to obey His law and keep His commandments and do His will, they were down in the valley making idols to worship. Moses heard these rumblings, threw the tablets down and broke them. The people brought shame to our God. “Whoever is on YHWH’s side,” he said, “let them come to me.” And all the Levites came, but not the others. This is the establishment of the priesthood. It is where our Master got 1 Cor 11 — how to ratify the covenant — why He took twelve apostles into the room to establish the covenant He was making with them.

Ex 32:25-34 — In verse 29 it says, “...you have set yourself apart for the priesthood.” You are vowing to get your mind off earthly things that have no benefit whatsoever to the building up of the twelve tribes. You have been consecrated. It makes you common again to have your mind on earthly things. It is profane, unholy, it defiles you. You cannot worship God in Spirit after that. The Levites made atonement for their sins. The other 11 tribes made no atonement. They could never be a royal priesthood until a new covenant was made. They sinned an unpardonable sin (verse 30). Moses said, *perhaps* I can make atonement for you (verse 31-34).

You can see what the sin of Israel was, they could never be a priesthood. All they could do after that was go through a token offering as if they had given their all. But it was just a token until the day when He could bring about a kingdom of priests in the days of those ten kings. It would be more than 3000 years until the ten kings would start developing on the earth. Our Master ratified a covenant 2000 years ago in order for the kingdom to come about. But it did not. The first church went through hardships and fell away. Our Master said we would go through hardships, but He was going to put His Spirit in our heart and love and surely we would remain. But the first church did not remain in His lovingkindness. So He removed their lampstand. Because they did not obey every word that came from His mouth. They had a few overcomers, but most had stained their garment (Rev 2 and Rev 3).

So now His kingdom is being established. We are ratifying this covenant by drinking this blood of our Master in order that we might become that royal priesthood He spoke about, a chosen people (1 Pet 2:9). You are going to stand in marvelous brilliant light. You cannot walk around in darkness because your brother who is full of light is going to bring you into his light and so we will proclaim His excellencies because He has brought us out of darkness. Rev 1:6 and 5:10 is prophecy that He gets this kingdom of priests. It is history written in advance. “I have gotten my people. The Levites are mine.” We are His. We will do what He wants regardless of our feelings and hard times we go through. The hard times are to test us. No one has passed that test. Are we prepared to drink His blood tonight? No one should drink this blood without knowing you are renewing a covenant — it is a self-cursing oath. Did you know that is what you are doing when you drink this blood?

1 Cor 10 says they all murmured and complained. We cannot fall in the same way. This is recorded for us, for our instruction. History has always repeated itself. But we have to be the only people who have learned from our past mistakes. People never learn from their mistakes because they are bent, but we are *tamar*. We are upright. We have the nature, the tendency to bend, but we have a new nature if we put our minds on the Spirit. Our flesh will *always* want to do all sorts of things. That is why we have to put it to death and keep our minds off of it. As a man thinks, so he is. If I think about how worthless, intimidated, corrupt I am, then I'll be that way. But 2 Cor 1:20 — Yes, yes, yes. All the promises are ours. There are thousands of promises and they are ours. Every answer is yes. It is according to how we think. We have an adversary who tries to keep us from having our mind on the Spirit. But that is the covenant. That is what we are saying that we are going to do. We are saying "I am going to keep my mind on the Spirit that the blood has brought me into."

[As the cup was about to be lifted up, N'su asked Yoneq if he could speak.]

N'su — I want to make a confession about some things that have hindered me in loving my Master Yahshua and my brothers and sisters. I need Yahshua to help me with these things. [In tears he confessed before the Body] I have much doubt against our Father's anointing. I question it. I mistrust it in my heart a lot of times. A spirit comes to me, a spirit of unbelief, and I cannot fight against it. I love Yahshua. I love my God. I know he can wash me from unbelief if I believe He can heal me.

The other thing is that I give myself to different spirits, spirits of sexual immorality, because in the world I was involved in many things. And I give my heart to that spirit sometimes. I know if I look to Him He will heal me. I know if I believe in Him He can save me from these things. [N'su was weeping as he said these things.] I know I need Him. I want to be pure in my heart, have no deceit or evil in my heart. I know that every evil thing can come through this, especially the first thing, it could bring division. I need His blood. I want to trust Him with all my heart. I want to die to the wickedness in my heart. I need Him to heal me. I need His blood. I know that without Him I'm totally in death. I know I'm a dead man apart from Him.

Yoceph — If we realized what it means to be drinking this cup, would we be willing to do it? Let your yes be yes. Yes, I will drink it and realize what it means and say yes to Him and carry it out.

Yochanan Abraham — What N'su confessed really touched my heart. He stretched out his withered hand. Our Father can get to that thing that has been trapping us when we do that. Many of us have things like this . . . We will not be those who go through rituals, but those who really want to please our Father with all our hearts. Our Master said he would take the kingdom away from them and give it to a nation producing the fruit of it. The kingdom is going to come because people like that can make confessions.

I'm thankful that Yonah (Michele) came in here tonight because he is weak. This is where the weak people come. We strengthen each other. Yonah is like a gentle dove. He has to overcome where Yonah of old did not overcome. He is bearing his likeness, he has to overcome for him. Our Master says that His strength and power are made perfect and complete and made most effective in your weakness. Where you are weak, He is strong (2 Cor 12:9,10).

It goes to show you what we are required to do as a priesthood. We drink the cup of the covenant tonight.

Everyone in that covenant knows what and who to personally pray for.

Each of us must pray as priests and priestesses for each other when they are weak. When we know how people are weak, we pray for them. They receive grace through our prayers, through our concern and consideration we spiritually heal people by grace. But if you think about yourself, you are breaking the covenant. Let's pray for one another and you will all be healed. We will all be healed if everyone was praying for each other.

Gilles — I see something here that I never saw in the world. I see weak and strong live together and do something together. I'm so thankful for all my brothers and sisters.

It says that the strong must bear the burden of the weak.

Caleb David — This is the Body. It will always work together. On the human body, if you have a wound your whole body concentrates on that part.

I read today in 1 Pet 1:22. That is how strong and weak can live together. Sometimes we are strong, sometimes we are weak and we need someone who is strong right then to strengthen us. We need to fervently,

affectionately love one another. I'm thankful we don't just have religion. But our Master came to bring us life. A life of peace and love. We are living in reality. And it is just totally amazing. And in 1 Pet 2:2, We have to be born again by the living word. I want to desire the word. It is living and it actually gives us life. There is only one place to get grace: at the cross. If you crucify yourself, you can get all the grace you want. In your flesh, you cannot have grace. To get grace by faith, you have to go to the cross. If you have not gone to the cross, you do not have grace. We can do all things through the strength He provides for us.