

## Strife and Selfish Will

**What is strife? Selfish will? Strife causes dysfunction in your own human body. What kind of strife causes dysfunction in the Body of Messiah? Striving to go beyond your own capacities, striving in your own human nature, your own strength, not by the strength He supplies.**

**We have abilities, but we are not capable of functioning in the Body and bringing peace if we do not have grace and faith. We need grace and faith lest we bring strife and dysfunction in the Body, bringing breakdown. You have to know what strife is because you will be cast out of the kingdom for it — for functioning in your own human capacities.**

**We are not made capable except by faith. Faith comes by hearing. Before Nehemiah did anything, he had to hear in his heart. He could not have done anything without hearing faith. It was faith that made him go back and do what he did and say what he said and pray like he prayed. They had to hear the prophet before they built something. Faith had to come to them. They could not do it in their own natural ability. What a terrible thing is strife, selfish will, doing things in our own initiative.**

These songs that we sing have meaning to us. We do not just say empty words. We have to be careful that we do not do things in our own initiative but in the initiative of the Holy Spirit. It is good to have initiative, as long as the initiative is of the Holy Spirit. We do not have to have someone tell us exactly what to do all the time — it has got to be from the Holy Spirit, which causes peace. We have to have our initiative in the Holy Spirit. An elder does not have to come and say, “I want you to do this or do that,” or you just stand there. It is not that way at all. An elder might say how you are not functioning according to the initiative of the Spirit because what you did caused dysfunction. That is why not all those who say, “Lord, Lord,” will enter His kingdom, but those who do the will of the Father. He will say, “I don’t know you because you did it in your own initiative, not from hearing, not from faith.”

You did it in your own natural strength, and actually, it was by an evil source that you did it. Our flesh is an evil source. That is why we have to crucify it. How many times do you operate in the flesh? Whoever serves must serve by the grace that gives us strength through faith — the strength that He supplies. Whoever speaks, must speak by what? The initiative of the Holy Spirit — faith, by hearing our Father, hearing what the Holy Spirit in our heart is speaking. And then our mouth follows suit, speaking what the Holy Spirit wants us to say for the need of the moment.

Rose — That song, “Those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength, they’ll mount up with wings like eagles, they’ll run and not grow weary, they’ll walk and not faint” (Isa 40:31). I saw how learning to wait is the preparation to run the race — learning to wait for Messiah, running and not growing tired, walking and not growing weary. I was reading Titus 2:14 which talks about how our Master gave Himself to purify us from every lawless deed, to purify for Himself a people who are zealous for good deeds [good in contrast to lawless deeds]. I really saw that He *wants* us to have His initiative; He wants us to have initiative to go forward to do the things that He would do if He was here. But we have to wait to hear from Him about everything so it won’t be lawless.

Titus 2:14 is one of the first revelations that we had about lawless deeds — about Matthew 7. I guess if we did not have that, if we did not know about lawless deeds, good deeds and doing things in our own initiative, we would have been destroyed.

Titus 2:14 — He gave Himself to purify us from every lawless deed and purify us for good deeds. This contrasts good deeds as opposed to lawless deeds. It does not mean zealous to do good deeds in the flesh that sound good and look good, which are wasted, and which often have selfish will at the root of it. Sometimes our prayers are not answered because they are selfish, we want to spend it on ourselves. We have to pray for *His* will. Babies will ask for anything — “Gimme, gimme, gimme,” but as we mature and progress and grow little bit by little bit, we start asking only for His will. We have to judge ourselves — what is for me and what is for His purpose?

It is not just that He died for us but that He lived for us a life without sin so that He was qualified to be the atonement for our sins. He was abiding in his Father, perfectly hearing from Him so He never made a move that

was not His Father's will, but only that which would perfectly represent the Father. He was the exact representation of the Father. *"Have I been with you so long that you do not know me?"* (Jn 14:9).

The word teaches us that no one can come to Elohim unless they know that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him (Heb 11:6) — unless they know His name, that He exists. I EXIST. I AM THE ONE THAT I AM. I AM THE ONE WHO EXISTS. Yahshua is the One who brings into salvation. Yahshua is salvation. I EXIST — SALVATION. He only reveals Himself to those who know what His name is, brought into life, into existence. He rewards those who diligently seek Him — those who believe that *He is*.

Lev Hadash — Heb 5:9 — He is, the preexistent one, the eternal God — He gives eternal salvation. He was a perfect man but He had to go through something to become the perfect high priest, the atonement for our sins. He wasn't perfected until He suffered death for us.

Mk 11:28

Hakam — I'm thankful for the revelation about the morning and evening sacrifices. As we are here tonight we begin to sense the cool of the day. And in Genesis it says that in the cool of the day, our Father came looking for Adam. Adam had a bad conscience so he was hiding. But our God wanted him. He wanted to see him there; He wanted to meet with him there, speak to him there, give him life — He wanted to meet him.

It was at this time, also, when our Master rose again for our sake.

We are to have a pure heart — clean hands and a pure heart. Are you attentively listening? That is your spirit. If your spirit is not saved, there is no way you can listen attentively to the word of God. You will always stray.

Your spirit is the driving force. He says, *"My sheep hear My voice."*

#### **Jerusalem in Ruins — a Story**

*Tonight is different than other nights because tonight we remember our Master.*

*This story happened a long, long time ago, approximately 500 something BC, when our people lived in a foreign land.*

*Around Israel there were a people living. A grandfather and his grandson were on a trip home and they were walking through kind of dusty roads and then they came over a hill and on the other side they saw a town, a big town. It looked kind of strange. The boy didn't know much about this town, but the grandfather did. So they were walking. The grandfather was going to take the well-traveled path around this town, but the grandson said, "Let's go on in there, grandfather."*

*"My son, there's nothing in there."*

*"Really?"*

*"Nothing but some jackals and wild dogs and tumbleweeds and buildings that are all broken down and burned up."*

*"Let's go in grandfather. I want to see it. Tell me how this town got that way."*

*So they walked inside. And there it was, sure enough, all kinds of little houses all broken down. "How did this happen? It's awful in here." And big rats and dogs would run by. Then they came to one part that was really awful. It was a big pile of some thing that was really big, but it was broken down. It was a foundation of something really big. And the boy said, "Grandfather, what is this? What was this before? Look at how it's just piles and piles of stones and broken pillars."*

*"Oh, well, I'm going to tell you about this, because I know about this," the grandfather said. "You see, the name of this city, the people here called it Jerusalem. But they're not here anymore — they're gone. They were all taken away. Someone came from a land far away to take away all these people."*

*"Why did somebody take them away?" The boy asked.*

*"Because there was so much trouble. They were always causing trouble. But other people came and they moved all the people out and we, who used to live way, way, way up north, we moved down here instead. And we never saw this place; we lived a little ways away. But I used to walk down here sometimes when I was a boy. And I saw something going on here. I know it so clear. This big pile was just as it is now. I used to come down and walk through the streets. I saw something here. Because underneath that big pile of junk there is where those people used to worship their God," he said half laughing, "and those people would come down to this big pile of*

*junk here and cry and pray really loud and cry and wail about their God. Because, you see, it was their God who disciplined them and sent them away. There was a strong god over this place."*

*"Which god is it? I know lots of gods. Which one of them is it?"*

*"YHWH."*

*"Well I've heard of that one. We worship Him with all the others."*

*"Well, He used to rule here and when the people were disobedient, He had somebody come in and take them all away. And then they burned everything and just the few that were left hanging around would just cry and cry and cry. But after a while those people who cried, they quit coming. And it's just been a big pile of rocks all this time. So that's what happened."*

*"But you know why I know their God was mad at them? Because right after that, you know what happened? I couldn't come down here after a while, because there were lions here. Lions were roaring around everywhere, eating people. And we were here trying to set up our houses with our families, but lions were everywhere."*

*"What did you do?"*

*"We knew that the God of this land didn't want us here. We knew he was mad. Lions were eating people. So our leaders were wise and they sent for one of those people to tell us the name of their God and how to worship Him so we could do it and try to make Him not so angry anymore. Since then we haven't had much trouble. We don't know why, but we haven't had much trouble."*

*"Tell me more about it, grandfather."*

*"Well,... ..huuuuuuh? Gasp... Look at what's coming over the horizon! Thousands of people! Walking this way!"*

*"Grandfather, what is it? What are they doing?"*

*"Let's just see what they say."*

*They came down, looking around, climbing over the stones.*

*"It's the people coming back — the ones who were disciplined. They're coming back."*

*"What are they going to do?"*

*"I know they don't like us. We better get out of here without them really noticing. We better tell our leaders that the people of the land came back."*

*At the front of the group was Zerubbabel, a strong man. By his side was Joshua, the priest. And there was some boys around that stuck right by his side all the time, young guys, who were asking all sorts of questions like, "What's this?" and "What's that?" and, "When are we going to...?" They were real excited.*

*Sure enough, Zerubbabel walked up to that big platform there which was the temple and he called all the people. "Come down here." And they all came down. It was a big mess everywhere. "This is it. This is where our God was dwelling. This is it. This is where we need to work."*

*They only had one thing on their mind — they were going to build back the place that had been torn down. They were returning, returning to build that ancient ruin. Oh, it was so ugly there, so awful. And there were all these broken buildings. But it didn't matter. It didn't matter how long they had walked or how hot it was, they had vision for what they were going to do. And the people with families and children, they just kind of made little camps here and there — put up tents and made things out of things in the broken down houses, and they just said, "Let's work."*

*And they started. They started cleaning off everything. They had so much vision. Those boys, they were strong. They were young. They were working hard, digging that foundation. They were working day and night. And when they got to the foundation they started having trouble. It was starting to get to be winter and people didn't have a regular house to live in. They were just camping everywhere. They didn't have enough materials to do anything. They didn't have any fields planted that they could harvest. They didn't have any money. Besides that, the people up north were giving them a hard time, saying, "This is our land. What are you doing down here." Trouble. It was hard.*

*So people thought they'd take just a few weeks to build some houses or get some place to settle in so they could work, not so much for our own, but maybe for our family. We can just plant some kind of gardens so we could have something to eat. So Zerubbabel said, "OK, it's such a mess, we're going to go out to the little villages*

*around here and make nice places.”*

*You know what happened? They started building the places all right, fixing this up, fixing that up, and then there were more things to do in the house and more things to do here and there, and soon this man’s wife wanted to fix her room up a little bit better, and pretty soon the people forgot all about the work. All they got into was getting their little room all fixed up. And pretty soon one guy walked down by the place where they got that foundation built and there was nothing there. The only thing there was the foundation, and it was starting to grow weeds up around it.*

*But two special guys, they were young when they came but they were growing, they got older. They remembered walking down there and they couldn’t stand it any more. They were young. They said, “What did we come here for? We came to fix up the temple. We came to make Jerusalem a place to live, and now people won’t even come down here. The temple isn’t being built, and people are out there and they don’t even want to come down because it’s nicer out there, you know?”*

*So these two guys, Haggai and Zachariah, filled with the zeal for YHWH until they couldn’t stand it anymore, they said, “We need to have a meeting. Everybody needs to come down. We’ve got something to say,” Haggai said.*

*Zerubbabel called all the people together. And Haggai said, “What are you doing? YHWH says this: ‘Why are you fixing up your houses when the house of YHWH lies in a big pile of ruins here?’” He was speaking the words of YHWH and the people started getting stirred. The very words he said are right here in the Bible. Sometime you should ask your abba and imma to read it to you. Right here is what he said that day. “Let’s work,” he said.*

*And then they forgot all about their houses and things. They just came down. They said, “Let’s work.” And they worked and worked and worked and worked. And pretty soon a whole temple was built at the hands of these guys. And you know what? Zachariah was right there. The whole time they worked, he was working hard, but at the same time, you know what he was doing? He was saying the most encouraging things to the people.*

*Encouraging them about why they were working, the vision — the Messiah was going to come for them and His glory was going to fill the whole earth. He talked about things that are still going to happen. And it’s written right here. You should have your abba read it to you. It’s really short. Everything he said is written right there, just for you, to encourage us, still. He said, “Someday many waters are going to flow from here in Jerusalem. YHWH will become King of the whole world,” Zachariah said. “And when that day comes, YHWH will be the one and only and His name will be the only name.”*

*What wonderful words! And the people responded. Do you know what these guys were? Prophets. Prophets. And the temple was built.*

*But there was one problem. All around there were houses, but nobody liked it in Jerusalem. It wasn’t nice. It wasn’t fixed up. They had nice places already built up in the villages. So they said, “Let’s just meet down here at the temple and still live up there, OK?”*

*So the jackals and the rats were still all over the houses in Jerusalem. The walls were broken down, enemies were coming in and out of the city. The temple was there, though, and sometimes they would come up into the temple — the dogs would run through it.*

*Well, the message went back to a special man whom our Father had chosen. He heard about how Jerusalem was. He heard that the temple was built, but he heard that the wall had been knocked down and nobody lived there. Do you know who this man was? Nehemiah.*

*Nehemiah heard about it. He said, “This can’t be. I know why it’s this way, because we sinned. That’s why. We sinned. My people sinned.” And he cried out, he cried, he mourned. “We’ve got to do something. YHWH, you said if we were faithless and we failed you were going to discipline us and discipline us. But you said if we turned and repented, that you would bless us.”*

*Now see what happened to Jerusalem. He was filled with the zeal of YHWH. “Let’s clean up this place. Let’s get some work done.” And the people heard the voice of Nehemiah. They heard his voice. And it says that they worked. When Nehemiah said, “Build,” they built. And when the enemy came, they fought him off. They kept their sword on one side and hammer on the other. They kept on working; they didn’t get distracted. They kept*

*working. They were hounded by the enemy all the time but they kept working. They didn't get distracted. They worked hard. Nehemiah got that whole wall built.*

*Some of them said, "Why do we have to have a big push, why don't we just do it slower and work day by day and not have to wear everybody out so much?"*

*But when our Father says to build, we build. 52 days. The wall was finished in 52 days — amazing. All the people around realized that the work had been accomplished by the power of YHWH. Everyone said, "They couldn't have just done that. YHWH is back in Israel. YHWH is there again." They said that because they saw that the people could do it.*

*But there was just one problem left. "OK, who's going to move in here? Now we got it walled in, who's going to move in here and start working and fix it up? OK men..." No one volunteered. "Who wants to volunteer?" So they drew names — one out of ten moves in. They gave themselves, they gave up their nice little rooms and went to Jerusalem and Jerusalem was beautiful. The land was restored. This is the story of restoration, how the word of YHWH came. And those Samaritans, they saw that YHWH, the eternal God, was King because they saw the restoration.*

*We have got to learn about Zachariah and Haggai — what they prophesied, because they were talking about us. That is the restoration that is happening now. They projected into the future. After the church fell, it would be restored, the latter glory would be greater than the former glory, the last part of the edah would be greater than the first part of the edah. That is what they are talking about. It is prophetic.*

*Tabitha — I'm thankful that Zachariah prophesied that Yahshua was going to rule over the earth. It's going to happen through our faith.*

*Havah — I'm thankful that there are people in the Body who always keep sight of our Father's eternal purpose and are always there to keep people on the right course — not just taking care of their own personal domain. If you lose sight of the purpose, there are people always there to hear from about what our Father's purpose is.*

*Rose — I'm thankful that our Father is faithful to discipline us when He sees that we've gone off and we don't obey His commands. But His discipline doesn't last forever — He called them back, He didn't leave them out there forever, but He couldn't wait to continue on with His purpose.*

*The temple was destroyed, the jackals were running through. He is calling the ancestors back who have been scattered throughout the world — the descendants of the people in the first church. We are those who the overcomers prayed for, and we have been brought back. The descendants of Israel in the first church. They saw that they were waning and waning and waning. Only a few had not soiled their garments. Only a few were overcoming, and more and more and more were coming in over the wall. And the sincere ones were being persecuted more and more and pretty soon they all died and the whole church became carnal, natural. And the church died. Everything was natural, not spiritual. So therefore they are called out of Babylon today — called back to build the temple.*

***A word of instruction about the events before breaking of bread:***

***We take the victory cup and have a story for the children outside the breaking of bread room, after the sacrifice and celebration. Then we pray for our children, not just one of us, but several of us pray — that our Father would keep our children, keep them safe, give them a good night's sleep, that they could be obedient to their parents and drink the victory cup next week, etc. Then we have a short break while the parents take the children to bed and then we, all together, enter the breaking of bread.***

***The peace meal, after all the other sacrifices, is the culmination of our week — of all of our sacrifices. The priests did the meal offering for the people only as a token, only symbolically because they did not cross over the line. The drink offering is our poured out life. All who loved His appearing did that. The peace comes after that. You can repent about not pouring out your life all the time, but if you never get around to doing it, the peace does not come. It is the same with the giving up of your possessions.***

***Yahshua is our peace. Eating His body and drinking His blood is how we can do this (meal) with a good conscience.***

***Hakam — This life is being in a battle all the time. And when we are getting overcome, we can go pour our***

*life out for others. There is no way we can be self-concerned and pour our life out for others at the same time. If you don't pour your life out, you can't come into peace. He was our example of pouring His life out. We have to be just as dedicated to our Father as He was to His Father. As He was when He was in the world, so we are.*

*ha-emeq — When Yoneq spoke about covenants this week, I was thinking about how people used to cut their wrists and let their blood flow to make a covenant with someone. Actually they were receiving everything that that other person had — right there, they were getting it. Because the life is in the blood. And we actually made a covenant with Yahshua. We have actually mixed blood with Him — the pure blood of the Son of God. And we have everything in us that He has. He took that chance to die for us. And if we abide in Him we can have life. It's such a wonderful thing.*

*He does not make a mistake about who He mixes His blood with.*

*ha-emeq — I know this is a difficult time for some of us. But I think of other times when I thought, "Oh, why does this happen? Why is this happening?" But now I'm glad it happened — I see it's good that it happened. Because of the things that have gone on before us, we can take hope. Our Father can clear up the confusion. He doesn't give us more than we are able to stand.*

*The Spirit is in control. Where He blows, we go. We don't ask, "Why this?" or "Why that?" but we are here to be tested to see what is in us, and the Holy Spirit is in control. Who are we anyway? He is the one who is in control.*

*Grace — It's so in us to think of how else it can be, but we want to be washed of all of our strife and just trust. What's important is for us to strive to go ahead with faith, and to trust in our Master.*

*Amaz — I'm thankful I can come back to be with my abba and turn my heart toward him. I know it's not possible without our Master.*

*We are so thankful for Nathan Amaz. He is a good youth, growing up straight. He has a good spirit. He is not supposed to be perfect — he is growing into it. He is 16 years old.*

*Our Master's kingdom is His reign in our hearts as we relate to one another in relationships.*

*Leviyah — I saw how our Father said build and they built. And I see how right now, our Father said it's time to build Manasseh, and look at all the people who have come to help build!*