

The Upward Call

We have talked about a lot of things the past few months. Eph 4:1 — Our calling is what we have been saved to do, what we are saved for: Eph 4:2-3 — We are called to walk in *alhumility*, *gentleness*, with *patience*, showing *forbearance* to one another in love (thus) being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Phil 3:1-14 — What is the goal, the upward call? (verse 10 & 11). *That I may know Him*, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. How do we do this? Verses 13 & 14 — “Forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I *press on* toward the goal for the prize of the *upward* call of God in Messiah Yahshua (Eph 4:2).

The larger communities are a social life. Community is how we develop socially. This is the only way we can properly be restored socially through living a social life in community.

Thoughts that come to our mind sometimes degrade us. They make us the lowest grade. We are not grade A, but some of us have even gone to grade F. We were all created grade A. Grade A is the best — you can't get better than grade A. But — we have fallen, some have fallen more than others. Rom 3:23 — We have fallen short of the worth and glory of God. We have fallen because of sin. No longer do we have the worth and glory of God like we did before the fall. We were grade A, full of the worth and glory of God. Now, because of sin we fall short of it.

Yet, a man without Messiah can choose right or wrong. He doesn't have to go to grade F. Grade F is the second death. Once you get to F you can't be promoted, you have failed. There can't be any promotion to the nations. Some of us have degradation worse than others. Degradation means — the act of lowering, or state of being lowered, in rank, in morals, etc., disgrace. Degrade means to reduce in grade or rank, deprive of honors; office; dignity; to lower physically or morally; to assign a lower classification (Rom 3:24).

We have been bought back, redeemed, now we are being restored back to grade A. *Restore* means bring back to good or best condition. Come back to original condition. It's like the Maples, most everyone counted it out, it was to them worthless. We bought it for a mere \$1,800 plus tax. We then began restoring it, bringing it back to its original condition. It's like our Father sees us, everyone else counted us out, considered us worthless, of no count but He saw we could be restored and brought back to our original condition, back to grade A. Restoration must come before Yahshua can return (Acts 3:21; Mk 9:11; Mt 17:11). This is what the apostles, prophets and Yahshua talked about was the restoration of all things before His return.

True believers of the first century have been in heaven with Yahshua for 1,900 years, only a few of them were overcomers (Rev 3:4). There were only a few in Sardis who were overcoming and being restored. They were drinking the victory cup in sincerity, and judging themselves properly.

If you don't forbear with one another you will be so discouraged the Holy Spirit won't be able to do anything with you or for you. Don't you have compassion when you see your brothers fall? Forbearing with one another is how we will be restored. Really bad sins we choose to do cut off the process of restoration and degrades the image of God in us. No one else can see the image of God in us anymore. Then we are just going around in the flesh.

Intimidation degrades us. Rev 21:8 — Coward is the first thing mentioned to cause us worthy of the second death. We were created to have authority over every created thing, not cowardly, timid, cowering like a dog with his tail between his legs.

The image of God was mutilated in the first church so Christianity has no glory. What has no glory must be put aside. The gospel, the glory of the gospel reveals Messiah, His worth. We have to make Him glorious, expressing His worth, His glory (2 Cor 4:4). Christianity doesn't convey a savior with worth. The Edah must be a place where the glory and worth of our Messiah is expressed. People want to know about the hope that is in you.

There are so many ways in the Edah where we can be restored socially, become fully developed. There are so many ways to forbear, be kind, merciful, loving, patient, understanding. We forbear with how others are not like

Messiah. We forbear with the aspects of their personality that are not restored yet. We want to help them along. We want them to help us along.

He redeemed us, and now He is going to restore us. We must forbear with weaknesses. There is a bumper sticker that says, "Please be patient with me, God isn't through with me yet." There is some truth to that but we don't want to say, "be patient with me," we want to be patient with others. If we have the Spirit we will have the fruit of the Spirit

Remember, we are all fallen short of the glory of God. No one can be reconciled apart from Yahshua. He doesn't expect us to be restored in fifty days. He knows it will take fifty years to change us. He could zap us into restoration but He wants us to choose to suffer so we can have a say about our restoration.

We were awakened when we received the Holy Spirit. Our spirit was dead to God, separated. Death means separation, not annihilation. You still exist but you are in another form. If you are in communion it will be joy to die. Our spirit/soul will go right to be with Yahshua. We have to be on the right path.

Now we have been redeemed and restored back to His image. Awakened and in a social life together. Salvation can't happen outside the Church. We're getting to know Him. We're being redeemed for the purpose of restoration. This is the only reason we are living, it is basic, elementary. Even the first church knew this because you are baptized into the Body by the Spirit (1 Cor 12:13).

We are fallen but redeemed and restored by the Holy Spirit (Rom 5:5). God's love was poured out into your heart, you may not feel it but you *know* it is there because you are forbearing with one another.

We all have personality defects, but in *Yahshua's* faith you can go to Him and tell Him all about what your defects are so you can change. He's changing us slowly because He loves us. We think we're not changing but if He were to do it all at once it would kill us.

Rom 8:1 — There is no longer any condemnation because we are walking by the Spirit. Our defects are brought about by the fall. They are not our fault but nonetheless still here we are, faulty. It's Yahshua's responsibility to restore us, but our responsibility to submit to Him. We have a say whether or not we will submit our will to Him. It depends on how much you want to change. It depends on how you see yourself, if you're needy or not. We can tell Him, "Here I am, I am a sinner. Now it's your responsibility to restore me, if I give you my will."

Our will is for us to surrender to His will. We have to start seeing how selfish and greedy we are. We have all been born with a predisposition to sin. We fell from the image of God, some of us more than others. How damaged was Yahshua? Yahshua stayed in grade A. Col 1:15-17 — You can't imagine what you will be like in five years if you listen. If we can grasp this we can grasp a little of the gospel.

We are becoming like Yahshua in every way. The image of the invisible God, the Father. What is His image? Perfect. We will be the exact likeness of Yahshua. He sees us *perfected* in the eighth day. He is working now to change us. He's the exact likeness of God and we are called to be His brothers. Heb 1:3 — The radiance of His glory, this is how we will be someday, the exact imprint of God's very being.

Yahshua means YHWH will save or heal. Phil 4:23 — He will save us and heal us. Cure means the actual reversing of an illness, healing possibly with medical treatment, reverse, restore. It is not just reversing the illness, but draws attention to the divine being who performed the healing to prompt men to give glory to God. If our condition is being reversed then we are going back to grade A.

Phil 3:7-9 — Righteousness comes forth from God on the basis of faith. Faith is hearing what you heard tonight and you have hope, hope that God loves you and you won't be forgotten. Paul didn't do anything to earn spiritual position. We must tell others not to be afraid to lose everything. You have to lose everything to know Messiah, and we have to make knowing Messiah our greatest goal. Phil 3:10 — The desire to know Him requires sacrifice, unselfish living. If you are a spiritual person this is the greatest pursuit (Phil 3:15,12-14). Our whole life is to achieve the knowing of Messiah. It won't all happen at once but it *will* come in time.

We don't know Him yet, we are just getting acquainted. We are getting to know Him. We are achieving the goal our Father has set before us: to know Messiah. This is the upward call, to know Him, this is the goal, those who know Him will be worthy of the next age. We must come to know Him if we are going to be resurrected with Him. Those who know Him will be with Him. Phil 3:17-19 — Don't live as an enemy of Messiah. There won't be any cheap alternatives. Make *knowing* Messiah the goal in your life. Anything that takes away

from that you need to rebuke, destroy and reject. Don't let anything take you away from your goal. It involves sacrifice, denying yourself, unselfish living.

This is the gospel of the Kingdom and now we participate in it in the Body.

You have not because you ask not. You have to humble yourself to ask, if not you'll just get opposed.

He can't do anything with the rebellious and proud.