

## Yahshua's Army

Dear Yasha,

I always want to write back to you. I love to communicate with you. It is difficult, because I cannot always do what I would like to do. I liked your letter so much. I could see that you were in a good place. I did not feel worried about you. So I did not respond right away. But then I learned about the awful fall of your brother. I know this must have been very hard for you. I am so sorry. I wish this would not have happened. I ask myself, "Why?" But such questions do no good.

We will see many people fall away. It is such a battle we are in. Just this morning in the minchah Yoneq was speaking about the battle we are in. Sometimes we forget that there is a big enemy and we are about ready to be shot down by the enemy if we get out of the place where our Abba's grace can reach us. Yoneq talked about how by faith we obey His commandments. When he said this something clicked in my understanding..... Because actually I had been very troubled by many things that I had been seeing, wondering how we would ever make it. I could see all of our basic lacks as a people, and realizing that after 20 years we still are hardly at zero. There were so many glaring realities which screamed at me that we could certainly never surpass the first Edah. I had even told Yoneq the day before that Hitler's army was so amazingly loyal and faithful to him that they became the most powerful force (even though they were from a relatively small country). They were thousands and thousands of well-disciplined men who marched in perfect order, ready to obey every command of their chief. They did this for a bad man like Hitler, whose purpose on earth was not good. Our Master's purpose was good. Yet, we can hardly get up on time, hardly give our attention, hardly endure the smallest discomfort without complaining, could hardly consider the possibility of going a mile down the road without a car. We are spoiled, lazy, and disrespectful people — because we were trained in a society which despises authority, and which always looks for the easiest way to do any job. It is a society that hates sweat. Thus, we have become a people without character... and I was admiring Hitler's army, thinking that if our Master had an army like that maybe He could do something on the earth... I remembered Hasah ba Hagav's song, "I have come to join an army." I was wishing that our army was at least as good as Hitler's army.

I actually know little about an army. But I remembered Yoneq once said that when he was in the army they would play a trumpet each morning, and each soldier had to have his feet on the floor by the time the trumpet quit playing. If our Master expected that of His disciples He would certainly be disappointed, wouldn't He? In the army the men jump up and make their beds without one wrinkle in the blanket, and then stand at attention until the sergeant came through to check out if everything was neat and that the men were properly dressed. Each soldier looked to the sergeant's eyes to get a nod of approval as he passed. Our Master's disciples slowly drag themselves out of bed, at the last minute to make it to the minchah on time, leaving their room a mess. What a shame. Then a soldier gives himself all day long to the training, without giving his own personal needs a second thought. His needs will be cared for because he is in Hitler's army, so of course he will have proper food and clothing. He responds promptly to all the sergeant's orders without reluctance, judging whether it is what he wants to do or not. He honors his sergeant.... In our society, an "army sergeant" is one of the worst names someone can call you! Why? Because we hate authority!

So, anyway, this morning when Yoneq said, "With faith we obey all His commands," it reminded me of the story in Lk 7:9 when our Master talked about the great faith of the army sergeant who knew that just as his men obeyed him, Yahshua also had authority. He had GREAT FAITH, GREATER THAN ALL ISRAEL. But what was this faith? It is the faith that makes you obey... like his soldiers obey him... he was talking about an army...

Yoneq said then, "You must be *faith*-ful in small things — like getting up on time, like doing your chores, like doing your exercises. You must have faith that your army is going to conquer the whole world and that your King (your sergeant) is worthy of your total devotion.

*WE NEED FAITH!!!!!!*

I wanted to share this with you because I want you to be a FAITHful soldier. Even if it is hard, and everyone else forsakes our Master, you must follow. He is worthy of our lives, and He is going to have a people who are worthy of Him.

I love you very much, Yasha. I hope you will write to me and tell me how your family is taking what happened to your brother. I miss you...

Shalom!

ha-emeq