

## The Community is a Place of Hardship

**Eph 1:13,14** — We aren't sealed by the Holy Spirit, we are sealed *with* the Holy Spirit. He comes to live in us. He runs a great risk. We can say this properly. He's entrusted Himself to us. He runs the risk of being grieved by everybody He's entrusted Himself to. He runs that risk because He won't leave us or forsake us. He runs that risk by us withdrawing from the very training program that's been designed to make us fit for the next age.

This is a place of hardship. The Body is designed to be hard. Just think about all the circumstances we have to endure with each other, through all our faults and failures. Everything that is going on here — we are only doing it for Yahshua's sake. We are washing dishes when no one else is washing them, and we are only doing it for Yahshua.

So if we grieved the Holy Spirit we have to be really sorry for this in order to be forgiven. Seeking our own comfort grieves the Spirit.

Is it possible to grieve the Holy Spirit? How do you know whether you have grieved the Holy Spirit? There is also a scripture that says, "Do not quench the Holy Spirit" — quench the fire, like water.

An example of something that grieves the Holy Spirit is when you hear a rumor about a brother or a sister and believe it. It's a lie. It's not even true, and it's causing you to not think the best. It's so amazing how we can hear a rumor and then fuel is added. Pretty soon we have a tremendous case. Then, just as Proverbs tells us, we find out the other side, and it was not at all like the case we were building up. **Let's think the best.**

### Tribal Leaders are Best Friends

Like yesterday, Haggai [*the head of the tribe of Reuben*] and Ben Chesed [*the head of the tribe of Shimon*] worked things out that had been unsettled for a year. Tribal leaders have to be the best friends. They cannot take up sides with the people in their own tribes. They need to maintain the unity between the tribes. Otherwise it's just like in the Old Covenant — the leaders heard the rumor and got on their horses and whipped them and started the war.

We need to be as faithful in combating those things as Satan is in starting them. Anyway, we do it because of love. We can't give party to the accuser. We are learning to rule the universe.

At the end of the millennium, Satan will be released to deceive the nations. Of course, he doesn't do it by himself. He will do it through human beings. He will find spokesmen, those who aren't really true to the covenant. They will divide the people of God. They will get millions and millions of people on their side. Those people didn't experience temptations and accusations. They don't know about this except what we told them. Reuben has a low-boiling point. People boil over. We have to be forbearing with each other. We all have weaknesses.

Every tribe has its problems. Tribal heads have to be so in love with each other. They believe each other over their people. They defend each other. The elders defend each other.

We have to pray for the unity. It is so important.

All you have to do is to read the Bible. All that happened to Israel of old is recorded for our instruction so we wouldn't fall in the same way.

Our Father knew you were going to have a lot of babies. He knew it. He designed it. He took all this in view already in advance, along with your responsibility here in the community. This is part of your eternal responsibility in the universe.

You have to have understanding (Col 1:9,10). Without understanding and wisdom we will never be able to walk worthily of Yahshua. It has to be something we acquire. Yahshua has all understanding and wisdom. We have to come into that. He is our understanding and wisdom. Right now we are here to ask for wisdom, not just individual, but corporate wisdom to endure the hardships of the day.

Acts 14:22 — They were discouraged. Well, hardships are necessary. It's part of our life. Hardships are part of

our life. It's what trains us and tests us. It tests the core of our being. We are Yahshua's twin brother. We are going to look like that, like Him. We try to eliminate hardships, but we can't eliminate them all. It's part of our life [see *Evening Minchah*, 27 November 1996, *Sus*, and *Morning Minchah*, 28 November 1996, *Sus*]. What is insight (*sekel*)? Pr 2 talks about insight. We have to have insight and know what *insight* means. Let's pray for it.