

Response to “Connected to the Power of His Glorious Might”

Response to the Morning Minchah of 27 November 1996, Sus; see also Evening Minchah, 27 November 1996 Sus.

Ha-emeq: When we moved to the Peppercorn Creek Farm it was really a messy place. So somebody said, "Let's clean up that place and it will be a really wonderful witness of our Master's character to our neighbors and to everybody who comes by here." And of course, that is true, but it is also a fact that any organization with money could come in here and do the same. They just hire some company, get some big bulldozers and equipment, and clean that place up in next to nothing. They would make it so beautiful.

But the real testimony of our Master is that people can live together in rough circumstances, loving each other, being kind to one another, being forbearing and patient with each other with joy. That's the real testimony.

Obadiah: I've heard that since years (Heb 3:13; 10:24; 12:15). But now I understand a little bit more the reality of it. I used to wonder what encouragement is and how to encourage.

Do you understand what happened to the people in Acts 14:22? They had become believers, they went through hardships, they didn't understand what was going on. Then Paul and Barnabas came and set them right on course, telling them that they are going the right way. They encouraged them. It says, "They strengthened the souls of the disciples." There is only one thing that can strengthen the heart, and that is grace (Heb 13:9), and our heart needs to be strengthened because it fails us.

So when Paul and Barnabas came to the disciples in Acts 14:22 they couldn't take away their hardships, but they could connect them to grace, strengthen them with all power according to His glorious might so that they could be steadfast and patient with joy as Col 1:11 says.

I remember one time when Yoneq was coming to Island Pond to give a teaching. The teaching was on Châm. It was one of those teachings that pretty much go all day long. But then in the beginning, he started out, saying that a brother came to him this morning who told him that he's always suffering and why do we always suffer and why do we have to suffer. So Yoneq proceeded to say that this brother did not have any understanding. Then he talked for about half an hour just about suffering, explaining to us the purpose that's behind the things we suffer, filling us all with vision and encouragement. He told us that in the times when we suffer that is really the time when we are being conformed to the image of our Master.

I believe that day in Island Pond we experienced the same as the disciples in Acts 14:22 experienced because, after Yoneq was through speaking, it was almost like you wanted to suffer. The problems suddenly, even though they were the same as always, seemed so small and the grace and the vision were so big.

So now we understand what happened in Acts 14:22 and now we know what encouragement is, how it works, what it does, and even how to give it — it's just simply connecting a brother or a sister to the power of His glorious might. Now we can practice what we know and encourage one another.

David Ishmael: I am very thankful for all the wonderful things our Father is teaching us. He is teaching us His ways, the way He is like.

Col 1:11,12 — Did you ever want to be or to do something that really required a lot of competence but you did not even dare to approach it, knowing your aptitudes and having the right estimation of yourself? Or you even dared maybe to try but failed the test because you did not meet the requirements. You simply were not qualified for the job. You were not smart enough.

But our Abba chose us. He is the One who *qualified* us to rule the universe. He selected us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. That's why we give Him thanks, and we exercise every kind of endurance and patience joyously. We let Him do the work He wants to do in our lives. We don't resist Him. He qualified us because He loves us, and He knows we can do it with His grace.