

The Flexibility of the Faithful

Suitable for Varied Use

Back in 1976 we talked about the “Flexibility of the Faithful.” Sometimes we come into the Community not so flexible. *Flexible* means able to flex. Some people have an inability to be flexible. Being inflexible mainly has to do with pride. If we are flexible, we will be suitable for varied use. If we are not flexible, we won’t be suitable for varied use. Our Father wants to use us in many different ways and aspects, and cause us to grow up in the Head as we speak to one another in love (Eph 4:15-16).

Paul’s letters refute everything that Christianity stands for today. We talked recently about there being no solo flights into the Kingdom. The Holy Spirit formed the church¹ — those who are called out and live together and share everything together. This is being immersed and baptized into the abundant life He promised us in Body of Messiah, a spiritual life that exceeds ordinary life and takes us on into the Kingdom. There is no other way to be prepared for the Kingdom than in the perils of community life. We can either fail or succeed here, depending on how we meet the challenges. When something comes up and we are inflexible, it means we are not able to change, but we have to be changed in every aspect to be transformed into the likeness of Messiah (1 Pet 3:1-3).

There are so many things in the community that test us. We are tested in every way. There are things going on all the time in the community. The word that has to describe us is *pliant*. We have to be pliable or pliant. That’s the flexibility of the faithful. In Rev 17:14 it is only the faithful ones among the believers who are taken up to wage war with Him.

¹ *Church* is an erroneous word; all people can think of when they hear that word is a church building.

The faithful are the flexible. They can be molded, yes, and they can adapt to change and the circumstances that come up. They are not trapped by things in their personality that make them unable to change. They can come when they are called and go where they are sent. And they are not independent. If we are, we will not grow up in every aspect of our personality to be like our Master. That is what Community is for. We have to develop spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and in every aspect.

The community provides that challenge in every aspect of our personality. So many people are retarded emotionally or in other ways. Community living is the only way we can come out of that. We have to be faithful and flexible and forbear with one another. How in the world can you forbear with one another without being together and sharing all things in common? Acts 2:44 — Those who *don't* believe will *not* live together in community with others. It takes the communities of the Twelve Tribes of Israel, which are spiritual tribes in physical locations, so that people can observe their behavior in every aspect as they grow up into Messiah, who is their Head.

We forbear out of love for one another. Eph 4:2-3 — That is how we maintain our unity in the bond of peace. We have to have the ability to adapt to constant change as a Body principle. Flexibility is speaking of being able to move and bend at the joints. If you don't have it, you can break your leg. We are all members and we all have joints in our relationships with one another. There is certainly a bending movement around the joints and the limbs. If it is inflexible or rigid, there is no way we can develop as the Body anymore than a person could.

We have to see each other as extensions of Messiah. Sometimes we might carry our good times a little too far and not really control our emotions. We have to control them, having our will so developed that we keep our emotions in check. Our emotions have to be under the power of our will. Some people are way down here in the control of and development of their emotions. We all have to grow up in every aspect. That is what the Body of Messiah is for. It can't happen in any other place on earth. It won't happen in

college, at seminary, or anywhere else by reading self-help books. It can only happen in the midst of the bodily movement where we learn to be flexible.

Our Master said, “You can’t get into this life without hating your life in this world. Whoever serves Me where I am, my Father will honor him” (Jn 12:25-26). We can’t serve Him except where He is. “I will not leave you as orphans, but I will come to you” (Jn 14:18). Therefore, we are honored by serving Him where He is. I just wanted to touch on that, for I know we have talked about this quite a bit. Someone has run off with the keys you need, going forty or fifty miles away to work. Was it a mistake? Yes, it was inadvertence. Do we have to come out of that? Yes, we do. But how inflexible are you? Are you going to curse your brother for his inadvertence? No, but neither is our Father going to let anyone inadvertent into the next age.

Our Master wasn’t inadvertent, and we are going to be like Him. We are not talking about eternal life, but entering the Kingdom. How many of us are inadvertent in some ways? *[We all raised our hands.]* Or know someone who is inadvertent? We should judge ourselves. In our spiritual or mental development, on a scale of one to ten, what number are you? How about your physical or emotional or social development, where are you in those?

We are not unyielding to one another. I am thankful we can be changed, that we can yield to one another’s ideas or influences. We are in the Body of Messiah so we listen to one another. Don’t think you know it all. No one does. The Holy Spirit speaks to all of us. We learn from the least. We learn from the greatest. It doesn’t matter, for the Holy Spirit speaks to all of us. We have got to see each other as extensions of Messiah.

We can’t be non-adaptive to new people, either. We have to do everything possible for a newborn baby. If we are the mother and a new brother is the baby, we had better make sure he gets his first milk. We have to love that child.

Supple is a good word, meaning responsive, adaptable to new situations and circumstances. The lack of this is commonly not dealt with in the world, but only in

community can we learn to be like a little child. It is here where we can learn to be like a well-trained child.

Abundant Life

Our Master did promise us abundant life. Abundant life does not mean a luxurious life, a utopia without problems, but a life “super-exceeding all other dimensions of life and greater and more excellent than all the world.” That is greater than anything the evil one who rules the world can offer. It comes out of his realm and into another dimension altogether. Now we can grow to be like Messiah. We are baptized into the Community, which is the Body of Messiah (1 Cor 12:12-13).

Everyone knows the Body of Messiah is a tangible, corporeal, touchable reality that the world can see. The world, our Master said, will know that we are His disciples if you love one another (Jn 13:34-35). We have to pray for one another, care for one another, and be flexible, and the whole world will know that God sent the Son. They will see the unity that flexibility creates. “I came,” He said, “to give abundant life; and the evil one came to steal, kill, and destroy.”

We can become perverts, which is not just a term for homosexuals, but it is anyone one who goes off the way he should go. Our Father wants us to grow up straight. You can't do that in the world, although there are a lot of people who do their best, but they have come short of the glory of God. That doesn't mean they are going to be cast into the lake of fire, for they do good deeds, which is commendable. But they are not those who are in that other dimension, being conformed into the image of our God.

The abundant life exceeds all other dimensions of life. We are seeing that. We are only beginning. It is the restoration of all things. The church has fallen – we can read about that in Revelations 18. “Fallen, fallen,” is the confusion that has become Christianity. It is the Babylonish existence of divisions, falsehood, wars, and everything else that has gone on through the ages.

Dt 8 was written for us and the New Testament was written for us, for those upon whom the ends of the ages have fallen (1 Cor 10:11).

No Solo Flights into the Kingdom

Just remember there are no solo flights into the Kingdom. Look at Lk 13:25-26. People will say, “Didn’t we do this and that?” and He will answer, “But I don’t know who you are and where you are from. I don’t know your address. You think you know Me, but I don’t know you. You believed in the wrong one, that man Jesus, but I am not him, for it didn’t bring you into the Body of Messiah.” He has got to know where we are from. He has got to be there, too. If He is not here, we are most to be pitied (1 Cor 15:19). If there is no resurrection, we might as well eat, drink, and be merry (1 Cor 15:32).

We talked the other day about what true repentance meant in Acts 2:38. He went on in many, many other words about what was required of them (verse 40). Those who were obedient from the heart to the good news received the Holy Spirit. Their repentance meant a revolutionary change in their lives, a deliverance from the clutches and claws of the rule of the evil one in their lives.

We have to come out of this wicked and perverse generation, just as they did. There has to be a fundamental change, an overthrow of the wicked ruler of this age in our lives. If we don’t do that, we will never be like our Master, and we will be inflexible. If we don’t have a revolutionary change, we will be in for a big surprise someday, thinking we are saved and going to heaven.

We have to hate our own life in the world, and come into that different realm, that different dimension. Then He won’t be ashamed to call us His brothers (Heb 2:11). If you love the world or the things of the world, then the love of the Father is not in you (1 Jn 2:15). Who won the Super Bowl this year? The Rose Bowl? I don’t know. I don’t care. Even that war [in Iraq] hardly means anything to me over there. We pray for our leaders, that they will make the right choices.

In the Civil War there was a great revival, and each side prayed to “God” and killed their brothers from the other side. And the Germans prayed to “God” and the Allies prayed to “God” and they killed each other, but what god was it? Where was God in all of that? I want the God of peace.

Of course, if you are in the world, you would defend the nation, but we can have nothing to do with these things of the world. We can’t even think that way. All we can do is pray, “Your will be done.” We can’t even think, “I want this tyrant to be blown up.” If we get involved in that, we are no better than they are.

Othniel – I am thankful, so grateful we can be together hearing what we are hearing from the source of life, which you can see all around you in His creation, the beauty of this farm. Flexibility is being within the growth of our Master. It is not senile. If you are senile, you are immovable, stuck in a rut. People with Alzheimer’s Disease get stuck in a rut. If you are stuck in a rut, you think you are not going to change and your brother is not going to change.

The enemy, the destroyer, puts people in the rut of the death-producing thing called sin, because they will not be flexible. Senility is something where you have a mind and it cannot be changed. We have been immersed into this abundant life and we need to be changed.

If we are not ready to hear from one another, what are we going to do? We will not change. I am only fifty, but I have lots of things where I could stay stuck. The most wonderful thing is that we have a little taste of the abundant life. Where that exists there is a wonderful growth into the Head. I hate that senility, being inflexible. If I am not going to be that way, I have to move with you. I have to hear from you.

Othniel then gave a vivid example of senility, by linking arms with Elliot, our young disciple. When he bent, Elliot bent with him, but when Elliot bent the other way, Othniel did not budge, being much larger.

That is senility! The love that binds us is from the most powerful magnetic source. Our God is love and He is going to bind us together.

Ha-êmeq – Our Master said to Nicodemus one time, “The Holy Spirit is like the wind, and so are the Sons of God.” The wind is so unpredictable, and you don’t know which way the Holy Spirit is going to go. If He can only deal with a bunch of stiff and rigid objects, then all they can do is break in the wind.

It doesn't matter how much the winds blows on a *Tamar* [palm tree]. We can be going a hundred miles an hour one way and then it just turns. I love to be with people like that. It is so horrible to be with stiff and rigid people who are not giving, who hold onto their opinion because it is their opinion.

Rigidity sets in upon them, but they let it set in upon them. They let it start setting in physically, but spiritually you do the same. I am thankful for the character of our Father and what the Holy Spirit is like, and that is the flexibility we have been talking about.

Hilkiyah – What I am hearing today reminds me of Eph 2:10-13. We were so far off, physically and spiritually, and He brought us together in the Commonwealth of Israel. YHWH prepared works for us to walk in which will prepare us to be like Yahshua Himself. He was totally humble and totally flexible. If we are not flexible and not really seeking our Father to walk in the works He prepared for us, we may not be walking in the works He prepared for us. We might be in a rut, walking in the works we prepared for ourselves — the things we fancy or prefer.

In order to walk in the works our Father prepared for us, we really need our brothers and sisters. We really need the least to the greatest. I want to get set in His way, the flexible way. There are ways in me, if I don't rule over those things, that I will get set in my ways. I don't want to be in the old man. I want to be flexible, and become like a little child. In that way we are going to grow up into the head. We are not going to let anything retard us. What is love calling me to do? I am thankful to see brothers this week drop everything to meet the pressing needs.

I am sure they all had things going on, but they died to themselves [and that is where the wind was blowing – Yoneq]. It is wonderful we can die to these things and devote ourselves to meet the pressing needs.

I am really thankful to hear these things in my heart. As disciples we always need to seek to hear from our Father, for every day He has things lined up for us. If we are set, or proud, we are going to miss it. We are going to miss the work that was supposed to go on in us. He is showing us the pride and the things that hinder us.

Julie – I was thinking about clay, how it starts out hard, and then as you start to work with it, it gets soft and flexible. And then when you are done that day, you might not be done with it, so you put it in a nice, soft, warm environment with moisture. It is encouraging to see He is not done with us yet. We are all unfinished works. He continues to pick us up and shape us, work with us. If we get stiff, we will just crack.

You can't put the clay in the kiln until it is ready. If there are bubbles in it, it will crack or explode. I am thankful to know that I am an unfinished piece of work. We have to stay supple and flexible so that He can work with us.

I guess we are like that cup, and the day comes when, wow, we are shaped. Then He puts us in the oven and turns the heat on way up and we think, "What is happening here? I thought I was all right already." Then He takes us out and puts us on a shelf and when I finally get out, He smears me with all this goop, and then into the oven I go again. When He is done, we are put on His table, a vessel of highest honor. But if that cup in the potter's hand is not right and he busts it down again, and starts over. Then finally it is ready for the oven. That is how we are. We want to be vessels of honor. We want to be wonderful vessels, fit for the King's Table, not for a spittoon.

Growing to the Measure of the Stature of Messiah

I wanted to add to what Hilkiyah said about Eph 2:10. He doesn't just leave it there, and we go off thinking we can be a good banker, etc. Those are not the works prepared for us to do. He has given us the grace and the gifts that we are to employ those works. This is the way we are to be prepared to be like our Master Yahshua. We are to be prepared to meet our Master, dressed and ready, by being steadfast and flexible in the works prepared for us. He doesn't just leave it there even in the Body. In Eph 4:11 He says:

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers.

They are to put people into the proper place, finding out what their gifts are over time. We don't want to give people jobs they don't have the grace to do. Our Father's grace may not be added to them if they are not doing their proper works. In Eph 4 you can see that each part of the Body works together, building itself up. Read Eph 4:11-16. That "perfect man" is all of us together.

The Most Degraded Religion

Christianity is the most degraded religion in the world. It is that way because it is so far from how it started out, much more different than Islam and all the rest of the religions are from how they began. The Muslims have the same agenda as they did when they started and they are still carrying it out. But Christianity went from loving to killing and burning the heretics at the stake. That is what you call established religion, the state supporting the church, and killing those who disagree. It is the most stupid thing in the world, for it is always the people with the right doctrine killing the people with the wrong doctrine.

Our Master Yahshua said in Mk 9:11 that He is going to restore all things. First of all, He is going to restore the hearts of the Fathers to the children (Mal 4:6; Lk 1:17), and then restore communities of people as they were at first, and finally, our Master is going to have a people perfectly prepared for Him. Are you perfectly prepared? No, and neither am I, but our Father is pleased when we go that far every day, even just a little bit, each day. Take this young brother three years ago and look at him today. There is a marked difference, a change. He hasn't been put into the oven yet, but He will be. The cup is getting formed, but He is not ready for the King's Table.

That "perfect man" is the corporate man:

To the measure of the stature of the fullness of Messiah; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Messiah – from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. (Eph 4:13b-16)

It can't happen without community. You say that to a Christian and he says, "You are a heretic. It doesn't take anything but Jesus, and all that matters is that you are going to heaven when you die."

I was a Christian for thirty-three years and I could never believe I was going to heaven when I died. My friends did, but I didn't know why I was created. What about the works of service? Is that going to be done by the terrible job one has? Of course not. We love the people of Christianity, and we just want them to come out before it is too late. Our Father wanted to convince me about the purpose I was created for.

Jeremiah – The nature of the church that becomes the Bride of Messiah is that they know they need to make themselves ready (1 Jn 3:3; Rev 19:7-8). We know we have to make ourselves ready, and everyone who has this hope fixed on Him, purifies Himself. There is humility in that, for we all know we have lacks in different areas. I am thankful that I can look around the room and see people who want to change and want to become more like Him. We are to do what Eph 4:15 says — become more like Him. We are to help each other grow up. We know we have lacks. We don't search the Bible to find things that would give us the excuse to live our own life. Who is to say that the feeling that tells them to go live here or there, if it doesn't produce the fruits of the Spirit, is the Holy Spirit?

If independent believers were what He wanted, He would have set the example when He walked the earth, but He said, "No, you follow me."

The whole delusion of saying, "You don't have to do that; you don't have to do what Yahshua said, bring about His kingdom," is that it is so selfish. Our Father wants to make a home for the lonely (Psa 68:5-6). The point is not to go to heaven anyway, but for the Kingdom to come to the earth. I am thankful to be saved from the delusion of just going to heaven. It is so selfish. All those who are willing will join those already doing His will. It is not that we just want to live in the community. We want to see His Kingdom come about.

Amen!

David said as a prophet, "Behold, look how good it is for brothers to dwell together in unity" (Ps 133), and that doesn't mean independently, believers or families living off by themselves. And then the last verse says that only there is eternal life given. There is no way around those two verses (Ps 133:1,3). Baptism into the Body of Messiah is where eternal life is. Christianity is the greatest Gnostic religion on the face of the earth.