

The Only Thing that Could Stop Us

The First Generation must have the Same Faith as the Stem

Raphael — I am thankful to hear what Yônêq said about praying for the brothers in faith. I was really lacking in faith, and what all of you did over there in faith, waiting for our Father to lead you, following Him. I saw that, in this room, the people you were talking to, for the most part, were the first generation. They are the next generation that needs to take on that faith in order for our people to even accomplish anything. If I don't take on that same kind of faith that caused you all to live in that way, and trust in our Father and be led, and eventually be blessed in the way you were able to be blessed — if I don't have that faith — then we will die.

The form of something will live around, but the faith will die if I don't find that faith and incorporate it into my life in what I am doing. Today we are not traveling around in buses that barely run and tents that are shredded, but we are going through different kinds of testing. If I don't have that same faith, then we will die in the transition.

I have often wondered in the past few years, really, why can't our Father use us? There is something missing in the first generation. There is something that I don't have that is missing, or something that I do have that hinders our Father from really being able to use me in some way to do it.

I know that He can't pass on the burden of the people if we don't have that faith. It really encouraged me, as I felt like we were hearing the things the Israelite parents were talking to their children about, "Don't forget the things we have gone through. Don't forget your parents left the world and they sold their houses and left behind the dreams that they had and all the things they were aspiring to be. Don't forget that."

Often in the past, I have thought, "Well, if this really doesn't work out, I would like to be the first to know so that I wouldn't live on for years in the Body if we were destined not to make it as a people." This was how I thought many years ago when I was really having a hard time, but I realized that the only way we will make it is if we throw in everything — throw my life in wholeheartedly.

Gamaliel told me his wife had said to him once, "If it all fell apart, I wouldn't go anywhere. I would look for someone else I could keep on loving because I don't have anything else. There is nowhere else I can go to, nothing else I can do."

It is going to take that investment for me as part of the first generation. I have to make that investment. I don't have anything else. Things can come up, thoughts can come up in the temptations that we go through, and have an effect in ways I don't even understand. When I heard about that faith, something went into me to desire that faith. I want that to be able to be carried on. It has to be passed on from generation to generation. Otherwise the form of the people and some community structure will exist and our Father will be far from it. I want to give my whole being and my whole self to it, denying everything else that comes.

When my parents came to Island Pond, my imma didn't know much of anything. She saw that people loved each other, and it was enough for them to leave everything and follow our Master. They stayed with Hakam at the Green House and saw people laying down their lives for one another and loving one another. And that was enough for them. They have never considered anything else in no way, shape, or form. They have never considered turning back.

It was enough for them when they saw people loving one another. They gave themselves — threw their life into that life to establish it. They did this because they had faith. Faith was communicated to them when they saw love. I just want to participate in that love so that it can continue on and go into the next generation.

This is the hardest transition. If it can go from the parents in the Stem to the first generation then it can go to the next. This is where it is always lost. This is where the ball has always dropped. People have kept running in some way, but the ball has dropped. The baton that we have talked about has fallen to the side. It has always been missed in some way.

It stirred something up in me when I heard about all that happened in our history as a people. I want to have that faith burning inside me so that our Father can trust me, rely on me. That is what it is. It is not the responsibility of being able to do this thing or run that industry, but the responsibility of having that faith and passing it on to others. They can come and see us and be saved if we have that faith. Otherwise, they can come and see a community, but no one will ever be saved. I don't want that to be how we end up.

Amen. You said it so well. This is a little boat. We are going to travel in it. We traveled looking for others. We didn't want to be alone by ourselves. We looked everywhere, all over the United States. We looked in every place we heard about. But it

was like your parents; our Father let them see the witness because they were willing to do our Father's will. They saw it and that was all it took.

We went around and saw nothing but artificial environments, artificial soil. Everything was artificial. Nothing was really genuine and true. It was just man-made rules and regulations and things of this nature. But we don't have a set of commandments on the wall.

The Artificial Soil of Christianity

I wrote as we were traveling, "The soil of the Spirit of God is only in the Body of Messiah. The soil of the Spirit, the good soil, produces grain. The seed sprouts, but without the soil of the Spirit, the seed cannot grow, no matter what you do or what artificial environment you produce by human effort. Flesh gives birth to flesh and Spirit gives birth to spirit. The Spirit produces the grain; it causes the seed to sprout and grow. It has the proper ingredients and nutrients. This is the soil of the Spirit. The harvest will be at the end of the age, when He is going to put us in His barns." (Mt 13:30)

The building is going on now. It is not in the artificial church. The church is actually the *Edah*, or *witness*. Your parents saw the witness. I saw their home, their "little house on the prairie" in the most beautiful environment. It was their dream home. Along with the house, it was the most beautiful setting in Virginia, out in the country. He was a tree surgeon making a good living. They had their family and friends. They gave up their dream home. It was the most beautiful environment — all you would ever want in life. But to them it became like garbage for the pearl they saw of people living together.

That is incredible. It brings tears to my eyes. It is an amazing thing how such wonderful parents can do that. They are loyal, faithful, and true. It is not an artificial environment, but a true environment that the Vine can grow in. "I am the Vine," our Master said, "and my Father is the soil." He is the rain, the nutrients, and the beautiful sun. He is what makes the soil produce the vine. It can't come from artificial soil, from

artificial light. I am thankful that we can love and lay down our lives. No one has to force you to do it.

Artificial soil and artificial gifts require certificates from schools, producing pastors and churches. It is totally artificial. The communities were all artificial and that is why they all fell. There were thousands of them, literally. There were ten thousand communities that started after the Jesus Movement, all over the United States and Europe, all over the earth. We went around looking for them and they were all gone. There were just a few left and they were just going on as he said, in an artificial environment.

Stepping Stones in History

ha-êmeq — It was amazing how these communities started and then fell. It has been that way, not just in this generation, but all the way down through history. We have been studying history and we can do some plays for Washington of how it was.

There was one thing different back in those olden days. I found this amazing story the Tribe of Levi can do. It happened right after Martin Luther wrote down all the things he hated about the Catholic Church. He was a priest and he went right up and nailed his Ninety-five Theses to the church door. Of course, it started a whole reversal of everything in Germany, and really, the Protestant Church took over within ten years.

Then ten years after that, people said, “It has got to be different than this. People have to live their convictions out.” One of the early Anabaptists said that infant baptism wasn’t right. “Why are they baptizing infants?” There were just a handful of them, seven of them. He went right to the Protestant Church just ten years after their reformation began and nailed these seven simple things to the door of their church. Like, “How can you say all these things and not live it?” Infant baptism was one of them. The Protestants got so upset they killed these people. They dragged them off. It was just ten years later. That little spark wasn’t even able to start up. The Anabaptists strove through a lot of things and I am sure we will find out a lot more about them.

The thing I was so thankful for about William Bradford’s people was that they were stepping stones, so that there could finally be a place where the people of God could spring up. It was so bad what they did to the

Anabaptists and others — they burned them at the stake. Anything that would rise up all the way through history would get smashed down.

It was the state, but the religious people endorsed it.

ha-êmeq — It was the perfect thing if you had church and state together, so the state could smash them down. There are always going to be people upon whom things dawn and they say, “This doesn’t seem right.” They have the Bible and they say, “This doesn’t seem right” and they kind of raise their little head and they get smashed down. When people like William Bradford and Roger Williams saw they couldn’t do it, they said, “Let’s just be stepping stones.” They made a society, a soil, where, at least if something did spring up, it could have the chance to take root. It would actually have the chance to start up.

In 1984 the state wanted to just smash us down. They wanted to so bad. First, we met the state there in Chattanooga. They were trying to take you children away. The first thing the state did was say, “Get those children,” because we were springing up. Normally, down through history, they would get the children and get the parents to give in or compromise. But they had to pull their hands back because the soil had been prepared.

The Christians incited it.

ha-êmeq — Yes, because the church and state were together, they could inflame those state people. Then, we ran away to Vermont and started growing up so far away, and a hundred policemen came, inflamed by the religious people, “GET THOSE CHILDREN! STOP THEM!” They thought they could stop what had started, but the good thing that was laid in America is still holding back evil, so far. So, we had a chance to start. That is so amazing! We have been growing freely now for all these years, and it could only be what Raphael said that could stop us.

The legacy of Roger Williams held them back, even though they wanted to come, but they couldn’t. Bob Pardon would have already inflamed the people and they would have already burned us at the stake. We would have been gone. We would have burned at the stake for sure. I know you have seen it at those Open Forums, the venom and hatred that comes over the people. They just want to kill us.

But it is so amazing that those brave men managed to lay a good foundation here, and that even influences Europe. They would have smashed us down long ago if it weren’t for the influence of the United States. It is not acceptable to do that. The United States influences them.

At this point we are being allowed to grow up. It is so amazing. It will be as Raphael said. It was so good what he said. If in the good soil that we have now, that we found was so good, the faith doesn't take root in you all, that it doesn't dawn on you that you are those same people that were on the beach in Portugal and in Tabitha's Place, and you have the same mind and that you can go forward and nothing is going to stop you, then it won't happen.

It is easy to say, "Go somewhere? What do you mean? Where would I go? This is me. I am not going anywhere." It is not like there is no place to go, of course. Miriam could get a job typing or something. There is no place to go because this is *her*. You can't run away from yourself. This is you who are, growing up in this good soil. It is just so inspiring when you look around everywhere and see that our Father has planted us and we are sprouting up in the good soil.

All the other ones fell away. All the Anabaptists are gone. The book that they gave me said all their ancestors died there, that they were burned at the stake. Their descendants are all keeping the name of Mennonites or Hutterites, but there is nothing left of them. They are totally empty. The person at the end of the book went back to visit the other Mennonite communities and exposed them. There was nothing left. It was just like you said. There was nothing passed on. Whatever was in that person that we are going to do these skits about, whatever was in William Bradford was really good, but it couldn't grow and flourish.

It was like what Roger Williams knew: "It wasn't the time."

ha-êmeq — Roger Williams was so amazing because he laid a foundation, so they couldn't grab us in 1984 and smash us down. They couldn't do it. And because they couldn't, it grew. It grew up.

Joseph Fisher — Our Master said that many prophets and righteous men longed to see what His disciples saw. When is the last time someone made it this far? The first Edah made it somewhere. They got off the ground. How far did they make it and what did they see? At what point was their decline?

I was thinking about the little plant in the ground. Our Father is tending it and watering it. It is growing, wanting to grow. The seed has fallen in the good soil. The seed can't decide not to grow. The seed can't be stubborn. It just has to happen. Our Father has poured everything into it that He can. We just have to respond.

I want to respond. Sometimes I get so excited, full of vision and think, “What do I do? What do I do?” And the answer is, “Okay, well then, take out the compost.”

Part of me thinks we are supposed to say something and spark people on and inflame them so that they will want to kill us. Well, there was a time for that, and there will be a time for that. But really, those people who burned at the stake in history probably wanted to take the compost out for their friends and build a house together. Instead, they had to face the fury of the flames. They had to be sawn in two, going about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute and persecuted, mistreated. The world was not worthy of them. But they didn’t want to do that. They wanted to be with their friends.

I used to think of how Eliyah stood alone against all opposition, the only one who was left. But when he said that, Eliyah didn’t *want* to be the only one left. “I am lonely. Where are my people, Israel?”

I want to take on the heart to bear the fruit of the Kingdom in all its forms, whatever we are called to do today, or ten years from now, or fifty years from now. I just want to be sensitive and not think more highly of myself than I ought to, saying “Well, I should be saying this or doing this” and not think lower than myself. He wants to give us the right vision of what He wants us to do.

Amen. The compost and the house — so many communities were run-down because no one would take the garbage out. There was no true authority, no initiative from the Holy Spirit. It was just an artificial environment.

Ha-emeq — That is exactly right. There was no true authority. That is the reason the brothers’ room is starting to come into order — because there is authority in there. We made Yedidyah the head of the brothers’ room and they had a gathering. All they needed was somebody to say something, “Okay, let’s get together.”

They came up with all these plans. They were so excited, and were going to do this and that. They figured out how to conquer this beast of a mess there and they were going to do it. All they needed was a little bit of authority. It is not some big “A” you wear on your shirt. You just care to bring some order into the universe, and it totally responds. There is a response that comes back to authority.

Gader Peretz — It is too small a thing to clean the single brothers’ room. Now we have to maintain it to the end.

ha-êmeq — Amen!

Yochanan ben Ra'am — I am thankful we have a place and a time where we can grow. I remember when I first came to the Community I felt like it was such a wonderful place. It was like a miracle, this unbelievable thing. I joined us, but it took me a while to realize that I wasn't "me" anymore, I was "us." When you were talking about the Community, you were talking about *me*. I had become part of it. I remember being so happy. I walked around in glee for a couple of weeks. It was such a great thought. I don't want to forget that — that you can't separate those who really are part of us from us, no matters what happens to us.

Amen. John wrote it right in 1 Jn 2:19. It is just amazing how many times John used "us" there:

They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

Isn't it amazing that he would use "us" so many times? I think it is a deliberate thing from the Holy Spirit that he would say it so much.

ha-êmeq — We were back in the image of our Father. They have that idea now. They are us now.

Livi — When you were talking about the people who started these movements, it reminded me of a few years ago when a group of young Amish people came to visit our community. They were talking to us about what they did and their services. They said, "The women sit on one side and the men sit on the other." We asked them why they did that, and they said, "We don't know. We do it because our grandparents did."

They didn't realize what they had just said, that they were just totally in rote. It really went into me that they didn't know why. It didn't seem to bother them. They kept doing what they did because that is what they did a long time ago.

It would be so sad if we tried and tried and tried and then from within we didn't get the faith and conviction to really grow, so became just like everyone else. After so long if we didn't get the faith and conviction to go on it would be so sad if we didn't really care. I thought it really goes down to the personal choices we make in our own life. Every little thing, like hearing from our brothers — our actions make a difference. I was really thankful for what I heard.

The Cultivation of the Soil

In the cultivation of the soil, when the seed goes down and sprouts, it is like the Spirit who lives in us. We have to, somehow, someway, encourage our brothers and sisters “today.” We have to pray, “Father, help me encourage my brothers and sisters today.” Whatever *encourage* means is what we need to do — plead with them. You see a brother who needs encouragement and you don’t just pat him on the back, but you *beseech* him. That is the cultivation of the soil, the daily encouragement they need. That is not our own initiative, but from the Holy Spirit. Just think what will happen if each and every one of us would just pray, “Father, I want to be like Yahshua. I want to be like Him. I want to be as much like Him as I possibly can. I want to live like Him. I want to be like Him. I want to speak like Him.”

I think if we could do that, we could be like our Master Yahshua as much as it is possible — if we just prayed that because that is what our heart wanted to do. If we are going to see Him as He is someday, we are going to have to be like Him (1 Jn 3:2-3). We are the sons of God also. Therefore, we are going to have to be like our firstborn brother. We have to be like Him as a human being, in His humanity. This is what makes us like our Father.

If we really desire to be like our Master, we will pray that. If we pray according to His will, He hears us. I think we are becoming more and more like our Master. You can see the change in people’s lives. It is really amazing. I can see the change.