

Whoever Complains is not Discerning the Body

Gad — Our Master didn't have His eyes on what He had to go through, but on the joy set before Him, which was us. It says in James 1, "Consider it all joy when you encounter trials."

Elahav — 2 Pet 1:3 — His divine power has given us all things pertaining to life and godliness through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue. In Col 1:9 it talks about knowledge — that we may be filled with the knowledge of His will. It's the same knowledge. "Add to your valor, knowledge; to knowledge, self-control..." Once you have that knowledge, you have self-control. Once we've learned to judge ourselves, we'll persevere under trial.

Chets Barur — That knowledge you talked about, supersedes the knowledge of the world. The other night, Yônêq was talking about the temptation to complain against the circumstances of community, or the inconveniences that bring things out in our lives, which are the very things that will save us and make us worthy of the Kingdom, if we overcome. In 1 John it says, "If anyone loves the world and the things of the world, the love of the Father is not in him." If someone can love the world, he doesn't have that knowledge that sees through the emptiness of the things of the world.

Mevaser — It is through many trials that we must enter the Kingdom. We have to go *through*. I was thinking of a particular friend of mine who is an overcomer. In the natural mind you might think that someone who has it all together and doesn't make many mistakes has the credibility to speak, but really it is the one who goes through trials who has credibility.

At one point, my friend received a spirit of hopelessness, but our Father said, "I need you." He overcame and responded to the need. Our Master loves those who overcome. Rev 3:19 — "Those whom I love I reprove and discipline... I'll come in and sup with him. I'll have a relationship with him... I will grant for him to sit down on my throne as I overcame and sat down on my Father's throne." Our Master is probably grieved to see some of the things we do or don't do, but what joy when He sees one of us overcome.

Nahaliel once said, "Those that come after us are not going to make the same mistakes we made because we are not going to let them. We will help them." We're the breakers, the kindling. The proverbial lessons will be in our lives.

Our Father has mercy upon us in so many ways in which we haven't come to the knowledge of the truth, but if we go on sinning in that way, there no longer remains a sacrifice for our sins, and our sins pile up, just as it says about Christianity, that their sins are piled up as high as heaven. There's no sacrifice for *their* sins. But it began by people continuing to sin in the same way once they had come to the knowledge of the truth. That is how the first-century edah fell, the lampstand was removed, and the Holy Spirit wasn't passed on to anyone else. They died. There were a few overcomers, but I don't know how long they overcame after Revelation 2 and 3 were written. They kept on adding to their number, but it was just soul power. No one discerned the Body, and their sin piled up as high as heaven.

But sin piling up as high as heaven starts with individuals. I don't love you, and I don't confess it. I don't even see it. I am callous to it. I am not praying for you, or thinking of you, or thinking of how to encourage you.

It says we are to consider how we can stimulate one another to love and good deeds. That's right before it says, "If you go on sinning in that way..." (Heb 10:24-26). If we go on in that way of not considering, then there is no longer a sacrifice for sin. That's amazing, isn't it? There no longer remains a sacrifice for sin, and God will punish His people.

So here we are again, if this is the restoration of all things, if our Father has found a home again on earth, where by His Holy Spirit we can truly demonstrate His life/light, keeping the Shabbat, which is the sign that we are God's people as a nation.

Discerning the Body

I don't know how much we really discern the Body. I don't know whether we really know what it means to discern the Body, or we would never complain, as Chets Barur said. We would never complain if we were discerning the Body. Whoever complains is not discerning the Body. Complaint shows that we do not know what the

Body is. Let's look at 1 Cor 11:29. It describes something that we don't want to ever experience. It's pretty devastating, but it doesn't scare those who are not discerning the Body. They're going to keep on breaking bread, and before long we're all cut off.

1 Cor 16:22 — How do you know that you love our Master? Because you're obeying His commandments. What are His commandments? If we're not overcoming His enemies, not putting His enemies under His feet, it means we don't love Him. We don't really love Him if we're not overcoming His enemies, or if we're complaining. There can be a godly complaint, but someone with a godly complaint is not complaining against the Body. He is going to go to the offender, and find out why he was slack, why he didn't do what he was supposed to do as a disciple. Then he's going to learn to be a true disciple.

The one with a godly complaint gets angry, but he doesn't sin. He gets angry enough to go to his brother, but he doesn't go in an angry way. Anger is simply a secondary emotion that causes you to act. Our Father gets angry at some of the things His people do. His emotions get stirred up a little bit, it says, about Israel.

1 Cor 11:29 — “Let a man *examine* himself [judge himself right], and let him eat the bread and drink of the cup, for he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Master's body.”

So who is going to enter the Kingdom? Those who are worthy. As it says in Col 1:10, we have to walk worthy of Him, and then all of this will be added to us, if we're walking with Him as companions. Our Master said that we are either with Him or against Him (Mt 12:30). There is no middle ground. The indifferent are against Him. We're either gathering, or we're scattering. If you're not gathering, you're scattering. If we're not building, then we're destroying.

Discerning the Community You Live In

Let's understand what it says in Col 1:18 — the community in every place is the Body of Messiah. He's the head of His Body, which is the community, the twelve tribes.

So discerning the Body means that you would *never* underestimate the significance of the community you live in. You discern the Body according to the community where you live. When you register a complaint, it goes right to our Master in heaven. He takes it personally. It has to be a corrective, positive complaint that you take to your brother to help him. It's love, not hate. It's got to be in positive terms, because if it's not spoken in love, then we are not discerning the Body. Paul was persecuting the community (the church), and our Master said to him, "Paul, why are you persecuting Me?"

Complaints Against the Community

"That's just how community is."

"Maybe God doesn't live here."

"I don't know what's going on here."

Any of those complaints without godly action are a failure to discern the Body of Messiah. "Father, give me grace to help build the Body in this way that it's not quite right!" We can see there is some negligence, and so we want to help those who are negligent, because maybe they're not overcoming, maybe they're in sin, maybe they're not being led by the Spirit.

Discerning the Body is being led by the Spirit. We're never led by the Spirit to register an ungodly complaint. Are we led by the Spirit to do that? To have something in your heart against your brother or sister?

Our Master is the head of His own Body, which is the church, and no one of us should underestimate the significance of the community of believers (Acts 2:44), for it is, in fact, Messiah's Body. So what does He do? If He's the head of the Body, and the Body is the church, the community, then He provides everything that is needed. Your head directs everything in your body. When something happens to your body, it rushes things to it to heal, and the members don't complain. The members console one another (1 Cor 12:26).

We have to really see the significance, and not ever underestimate the significance of the community of believers, if the community is the Body of Messiah. It's no less significant than His actual, real body that was here on earth. If you've got a complaint against a community, you've got a complaint against Him. What you're actually saying is, "You're not fit to be the head over us. How come You're not providing leadership and oversight over the Body?" There is a way we can address a lack of order or care, if we are *careful* how we register our complaints.

We have to be led by the Spirit, and the sons of God are led by the Spirit. What does it mean to be led by the Spirit? It means to discern the Body, and the grace and the gifts within it that provide the leadership, in obedience to the Word. Otherwise, the community will reach its demise. It will go down and become a torture chamber.

You Love our Master by Overcoming

1 Cor 16:22 — "Whoever does not love the Master, let him be accursed." It's talking about whoever is not overcoming. You don't love Him enough to overcome for Him. You're not overcoming your sins. You're not laying your life down for your brothers. You're not praying for your brother, "Father, how can I help him?" You're not going to talk to him. This is what we all ought to do. We don't just have one counselor. We're all our brothers' keepers. That's what loving our Master means. If we're loving the head, we're doing what the head tells us. That's what it means to be led by the Spirit. If we're not led by the Spirit, we're not sons of God. The head says, "Go to that brother," so the hand goes and comforts that part that is sore or bruised. If we're not being led by the Spirit, we don't love Him, and we're not overcoming.

The people who don't overcome won't have any entrance to the Kingdom, because only those who love Him will enter the Kingdom to rule with Him. In Rev 3:21, it's those who overcome who will sit on His throne, as He overcame and sat on His Father's throne. He loved His Father. We're supposed to love Him. It's not impossible. He didn't

give us an impossible command. Otherwise, He would be a tyrant. But He provides everything for us.

That's what it means to obey Him — to overcome all of His enemies (Heb 10:13). When is our Master coming back? When we put all His enemies under His feet! When we put all of His enemies under the feet of the Body. Of course, we're His feet. Acts 14:22 — we have to go through a lot in order for that to happen. How many in the past have been cut off by not loving Him enough to overcome what we must all overcome for the sake of His glory and Kingdom? They didn't go through it. The word *through* means you start on one side and you end up on the other side. We have to go through obstacles of all kinds. But only by our fellowship with Him can we endure and go through it.

Our Master is teaching us to overcome. He's the head of the Body, and He speaks to us through one another. How are we going to hear? Faith comes by hearing, and then we go from glory to glory (2 Cor 3:18) until we look in the mirror and what do we see? Do we see Messiah, or do we see ourselves? The day will come when we look in the mirror, and we will see Messiah! We're on the way.

To complain is to underestimate the Body. We don't realize it's the Body. We just say, "How come it's this way? The elders are dysfunctional." But are we praying for them? No! Maybe that's the reason they're faulty, because you're not praying for them. Maybe you should wear out the cloth on your knees. That's what it will take to pray for one another, to pray for our leaders.

We're finding out who our leaders are. Leaders see the needs and lead. Leaders are leaders because they are leaders. They are not striving to be something they're not. They are just leaders. You know who is a leader. Leaders are the ones who love the most, so our Father chooses them. He reveals Himself to leaders more than to others. That's why they're leaders (Jn 14:21). We're on a wonderful path to the Kingdom.

Hakam — I saw something from what you said about registering complaint. In Rev 12 it says that the evil one stands before the throne night

and day and accuses the saints. When we are not discerning the Body and are complaining, that complaint going up is the accusation that the evil one uses. It's like saying that the Body is not the Body, or that our Master is not the head, or that there isn't adequate grace, when in reality there would be if our hearts were turned and we loved Him with an undying love. If we were to love with an undying love, our heart would be to strengthen whatever is weak, to pray for whatever is lacking. When we don't do that, then the complaint goes up. I can just see the evil one before our Father, being able to say, "See, there's complaint and accusation against You from Your people."

The day is going to come when there won't be any room for any accusation because His Body won't be registering any complaints. We will be overcoming and putting all His enemies under His feet, not giving into the enemies when we are tested in the furnace of community life. Until there is no complaint coming up, the evil one can't be cast down.

Dayag — The members in a body are all attached to make one body, with relationships with those that are close. The fingers can see what the hand is going through because they are close to each other, but the hands and the feet are far apart, and they could wonder, "What are the feet doing?" When we are further away from each other, it is easier to start judging one another. When you don't work right next to your brother, it's easier to have accusations. We have to not let the accuser come in, but think the best and communicate, trusting that our Master is the Head. He will deal with the feet or whatever part needs help. We are going to be one when we do that. The Body has to run, and accusation trips up the whole Body.

Jeremiah — I am thankful to gain understanding about discerning the Body. Man has become almost a creature of instinct, just working to get food, racing towards death. And here we are, just hanging on to our Master's words, and we're together. We've left everything behind, and we're all really trying to our Father's will. I want to see it as significant. It is significant.

Today a wave of dark complaint came into my mind, "Can you believe what so and so said!" I almost bought into it, but somehow our Father spoke to me, and I said, "I HATE that darkness." We don't have to argue with the thought, but we can say, "I hate that dark thing," and throw it out. We can be overcomers in these little things, and discern the Body.

ha-êmeq — I heard that once you come to the knowledge of the truth, you'd better not go on sinning. The truth is something that people don't really understand very well. The truth is a much bigger subject than I

thought it was. There are some things that I have come to the knowledge of the truth in.

When you [Jeremiah] said that, it was almost as if you came to the knowledge of the truth — when you realized what was going on and you grabbed hold of it and saw it. That dark spirit has come to you and overcome you so many times; it is one of your iniquities. You wrestled with it. I could have told you what was going on and you would believe me, but it wasn't as though you had come to the knowledge of the truth.

You were showing how much you loved our Master by what you did. Now you can stand on the side of the truth, and it can be on your own. The truth sets you free. But if you go on and take in those dark thoughts, there is no hope, and you can't bring yourself back, after that.

Whoever the Son sets free is free indeed. Isn't it wonderful that Jeremiah could confess that? It is so good that you could do that. It helps us so much. That's why we need to confess our sins to one another, as it says. "I am not the dirty, low-down person that Satan wants me to think I am. There is hope for me. I can overcome." We all have a common enemy.

Havah shel Hakam — To have a bad attitude against authority, of mistrust or disrespect, is a failure to discern the Body. Bringing a complaint or a concern with a bad attitude, with division in your heart — that's not discerning the Body. Discerning whatever is coming to you means you can discern the Body.

1 Pet 3:1 — It's remarkable that in the same way, a wife with a quiet and gentle spirit can subdue her husband, disarm him. It's spiritual, but it's even true in the natural realm. You can see it in certain animals, how they surrender by lying down and putting their legs up. We can do it, too. We can do it instead of butting heads.

We know we've passed out of death and into life because we love the brothers, and because we treat each other as extensions of our Master Yahshua. We treat each as a member of the Body of Yahshua. If we don't treat each other as members of Messiah, we are not discerning the Body. Has anyone ever treated you as if you are part of His very own Body? When we look at each other's eyes, who are we looking at? Yahshua!