

To Speak and to Hear Builds Up the Body

It's wonderful that we can have this time every week to sit down, drink our maté, have fellowship, social time, to bring back to our remembrance all that He has spoken to us, just as He told His disciples that He would bring back to their remembrance all that He had spoken to them. And that's why we have the New Testament and the gospels, because the Holy Spirit brought back to their remembrance. And this is what we do this morning — we bring back all that we have heard, and we speak what we've heard.

It's a regurgitation of the whole week, making sure it went into every cell of the Body, so the whole Body can grow, not just one part of it. I don't want my arm to grow out of proportion with the rest of my body. I'm certain a little child doesn't want just one arm to grow, and not his other arm, or his leg not to grow. So we have to grow in proportion, and every part of the Body has to grow in proportion as we grow up into the Head. And that means every part of the Body has to be fed and be nourished the same. You have to have a good Head, and the pituitary gland and the thymus and other bodily systems function properly, and all that gives growth to the Body.

In Heb 3:6 we understand the word *confidence* is being *outspoken* because we have confidence before our Father, and He allows us to speak what He wants to tell us, and that's how we grow up. It says that Messiah was faithful and is faithful as a Son over His own house, the Father's house. He's the Master of our Father's house. We are now members of this house. He told this to the first-century Church:

"...but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end." (Heb 3:6)

It says "if" — there's a little "if" there, like in Col 1:23 there's an "if" — a big "if." *If* we hold fast and firm to the END. But they didn't do it to the end. That's how we know that Catholicism or Christianity is not the house, right? They lost their outspokenness. When you go inside of one of those churches, there is no outspokenness, that's for sure.

They are totally in denial of 1 Cor 14:24-26, that if anyone has something to say let him speak. So it says that we are now members of this house *if* we hold fast and firm, to the end, our confidence and our outspokenness.

It says in the Amplified version that we have to have a sense of triumph in our hope in Messiah — not defeat. We don't have a victim spirit, but a sense of triumph, of victory. Then in the verse 7 it says, "Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, today if you hear His voice — if you *will* hear His voice — do not harden your heart" as it happened before. He's talking to the first-century Edah — the kingdom that He'd taken away from old Israel, and given to another nation, a new nation. But now He's saying, "As it happened in the rebellion — in old Israel and in the first Edah — when I had to take the kingdom away from them, giving it to you. Now you have to hold your confidence — your outspokenness — firm to the end."

We have to hear our Father's voice, and we can only hear our Father's voice through one another. The rebellion happened after they were delivered from Egypt. They were locked up in rebellion. You could really see a victim spirit when they came out of Egypt. They said, "What are we here for? How come we're doing this? I want to go back to Egypt. I can't get back across the Red Sea." They didn't have any way of getting back. So in their "provocation," it says, their "embitterment..." There's the word *embitterment* — bitter with a victim spirit. This all happened, "in the day of testing in the wilderness."

So this is the day of testing also. This is community. Community is not just a nice little life. It's a place where we're tested in order to enter the Kingdom. We are tested. Don't think it strange if these things happen to you. It's testing us. It's showing us where we are. And so therefore we can change and repent and go on. No need thinking about things of the past, if they're forgiven.

Now the kingdom is taken away from the First Church because they didn't endure in their outspokenness, in their confidence. Our Father couldn't speak any longer

because they had just one person speaking, and all the rest were silent. No one stood up. And if you stood they'd probably cast you out. Today they'd call the police.

Why We Speak and Hear

To speak and to hear builds up the Body. Not to speak and not to hear destroys the Body. You don't have to do anything to destroy the Body — just don't do anything. It will just start decaying. You don't have to do anything.

As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. (1 Pet 4:10)

Every one of you has received a gift from the Holy Spirit — not necessarily to speak and be a great orator, but at least we have a gift that we function in the Body with. But all people can speak. They may not be the greatest speakers in the world. Everyone can't be equal there. But that is true in a lot of things, because we all have our own expertise.

“As each of us has received a gift,” with its particular spiritual talent. Talent means the grace and faith to propel the gift. It's an endowment. It says, “Employ it for one another as befits good trustees of our Father's many-sided grace.” We are to be faithful stewards. So that demystifies the parable of the talents our Master talked about in Luke 19 and Matthew 25. The talents are grace and faith to employ our gifts. We have gifts, but we have to have grace from our Father to employ them. We have gifts, and we can function naturally. People who can speak can speak naturally. They can learn naturally and even speak naturally here. But if it's not coming from grace from our Father it doesn't build, and eventually it destroys. It has to come from grace to employ the gifts in order to build the Body.

Mt 25:14-15 — As each person has received grace — talents in proportion to his gift. It's in proportion to his gifts, so the Body can be built. If you've received five talents, you have to use all five or you won't enter the kingdom. If you've received two, you have to use both. If you received one you have to use the one. Perhaps most people are

endowed with one or two. But I'd rather have one and use it to build up the Body than have five and not. Those with more talents have the greater responsibility.

Then in 1 Pet 4:11 it says, "Let whoever speaks let him do it as one who utters the very oracles of God; whoever renders service let him do it as with the strength He supplies. So in all things our Father may be glorified through our Master Yahshua. To Him be the glory and dominion forever and ever, to the endless ages." So it's just according to how we speak and how we hear. And that's how the Body is propelled. That's how we receive faith. Faith comes by hearing. And we heard a lot this week. So therefore, it's up to us to bring it back. Whether or not you've taken notes, and you've gone over the notes, or whatever the Holy Spirit has led you to do, you can bring it back so we can chew it, making sure it goes to every cell in the Body, because we are one Body with many members.

That's part of discerning the Body, how we appreciate one another's service. We really do appreciate. *Appreciate* means to recognize the value or significance of; to rise in value or price. That's glory. Our Father honors the one who serves our Master where He is. If we don't believe He's here, we're not discerning the Body (Jn 12:26). If we follow Him we have to follow Him where He is. If you go to Calvary Chapel you may not find Him. I don't think you will, because He's not there. I don't know how in the world He could be there, because it's not a *place* where He has caused His name to dwell; it's just a meeting place. They scatter out to the four winds after they get out of church. But we're gathered, and we live together, it's our dwelling place. That's where we develop socially. What does *social* mean? What's the definition of *social*?

Social means "living together in community" according to Century Dictionary. That's what *social* means. If you live together in community you'd better be social, or you grow socially. We grow into our Master's likeness. We want to be like Him. Who would you rather be like than anyone else? Our Master. So we grow up into the Head — our Master. How do we do it? We speak to one another because we love one another.

*But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head
— Messiah. (Eph 4:15)*

We speak to one another because we love. It says, “Speak to one another in love,” but that “in love” means “because we love one another.” We’ll grow up in every aspect into the Head. So every day we have the opportunity to do that. If we don’t take advantage of the opportunity, it’s rebellion, isn’t it? It’s a form of rebellion. It’s there for us, and we say, “No, thanks. I’m all set.”

I just wanted to share that before we start bringing back what our Father has spoken to us this week, from last Shabbat until now.