

## They Shall Run and Not Grow Weary

*Do you not know? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, Yahweh, the Creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. He gives strength to the weary, and to him who lacks might He increases power. Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly, but they who wait for Yahweh shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not grow weary; they shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:28-31)*

Certainly, we have had many of our youth stumble and fall. They grew weary. But the youth who remained and never left are regaining their strength, like eagles, and so they run and do not grow weary. They were given new strength. Nothing holds them back. They are not weary, spiritually.

**ha-êmeq** — I guess that is where that saying, “*I’m sick and tired*” comes from. Usually when a person says that, he’s not actually *physically* tired...

When people say, “I’m sick and tired of this,” it’s because they don’t have vision.

**ha-êmeq** — Yes, it is when you have something off in your spirit. With some people, it is “*the straw that breaks the camel’s back*.” Their flesh can only go so far.

We don’t keep the Sabbath because we’re weary or fatigued of doing His works. We rest when we have accomplished our works, just as our Father rested after He accomplished His works. Then He kept the Sabbath, the Seventh Day. He created man and woman, and He was satisfied. That is what Sabbath means: you’re satisfied. You’re satisfied with what you have done.

Man was our Father’s highest thought. When He made man, He couldn’t make anything better. But man had to be tested. Just like anything that is made, man had to be tested. Our Father had to test man to see what he would do under stress.

There will be some of our youth who will grow weary and fall. But we have to train our children up *in the way they should go*. Isa 40:31 is a promise, *but...* Do you see that “*but*”? “*But those who trust in Yahweh will be delivered.*” That is an absolute

promise to those who belong to Him, who have been trained up *in the way they should go*. These will keep the Sabbath with joy, being satisfied in what they've done. They've done *all they could* that week. They may be physically exhausted, but they haven't become *weary*; they're satisfied.

That is who He gives rest to. It's not too hard to see in Heb 3:16-19 and 4:1-11 that Israel didn't enter into the Sabbath. They didn't enter into His rest. They were fatigued and weary spiritually.

### **Wait until they ask...**

There was a self-acclaimed "preacher" who came to work with us while we were building the *Yellow Deli*. Everywhere he goes, he is always preaching, preaching, preaching — just as he did while with us. Can you imagine if you had him working as a waiter in the *Deli*? He'd run all the customers off and they'd never want to come back. All he ever spoke was in the flesh.

We have to really be careful and have wisdom working in our cafés, and wait until someone really *asks* you for the hope that is within you (1 Pet 3:15). We don't go around to our neighbors, preaching to them. We wait until they ask for the hope they see in us, because you're not going to do any good just preaching without them first seeing the hope in you, and the life we live, as 1 Pet 2:12 says, *as they observe your behavior*. They have to see the play first, and then hear the narration.

The *Yellow Deli* is certainly for evangelism, but it's not for irritating people by us being odious. We'll be odious to them if we start just preaching to everyone who comes in the door. Let's let them get to know us first, and see how we are, and then maybe they'll ask us, "What are you all about?" Then you can sit down with them (if someone can take your place) and talk to them about who we are, and not just be preaching to them. That is the best thing to do.

Our cafés are for them to observe our behavior, even our cleanliness. It is true that “cleanliness is next to godliness.” Any of our cafés that are not kept clean need to be closed. It would be better to close them than to demonstrate that we’re not who we say we are. So let’s just wait until people are interested before we bring the gospel to them. Let’s just love them and serve them.

**ha-êmeq** — People in the “Bible Belt” have heard enough “words.” But to see love, to see unity, with their eyes! They need to see someone who really cares about them and treats them with the same care or love, whether they’re a homeless person or a lawyer.

The world can’t see Christians working together in one place because Christians work independently and individually among the Gentiles. The world can’t *see* the unity, and the love, and the care, and the order, and the cleanliness among them, but they can see all those aspects among us as we work as a team.

**ha-êmeq** — That is really what they’re waiting for — that someone would see them, when they walk in the door, as a person and not just a customer. All of a sudden they start feeling uncomfortable, because we actually looked at them, and greeted them as a real person. And then you make sure you meet their needs, and eventually they ask, “What’s this on the menu, ‘We serve the fruit of the Spirit; why not ask?’ “ Time after time, they ask that question. And they really want to know.

Customers could end up saying, “Yeah, the *Yellow Deli* is a really nice place, but they preach to you the moment you walk in the door.” There are times when we have to be more direct with the gospel, especially when someone is just passing through. But when they have opportunity to come in and observe our behavior, then we wait until they respond to something and ask questions.

Just pray that our Father would give us wisdom about how to approach people and talk to them. It just takes one person to start blabbing, if you know what I mean. Let’s just not be that way. Let’s pray that our Father would give us grace to win people. If we had just started out blasting our neighbor, she probably wouldn’t come across the street to see us anymore. But she has been coming around, and she is learning a little bit

more each time. That is how faith comes — by hearing. It is a gradual coming as they hear, and think, and see, and read our freepapers. So it is wonderful how people can observe our behavior, and then ask the reason for the hope within us. Let's wait for that. Let's let them see something first, and then we can give them the narration.

*For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them. (Mt 13:15)*

They have to see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and then they can turn and be healed. We just do not give up on anyone. But the people who *claim to see*, they don't see, and their guilt and sin remains forever. Our Master came to make those who claim to see blind, and those who are blind to be able to see (Jn 9:39,41).

**Derek** — I'm thankful we're learning how to be led by our Father and depend on His strength. Tushiyah said, "It's so hard to teach people who come into the Community thinking they know something already. You have to wait on them to get to a place where they're ready to be led." It takes actually knowing we can't do anything apart from Him to come to that place. We can't see unless He opens our eyes. But first, we have to come to the end of our strength (Isa 40:29). It doesn't matter who you are; eventually your flesh is going to grow weary and faint.

1 Pet 4:11 — This is a command: "Serve by the strength He supplies." We won't grow weary if we pray to have the strength He supplies. But if we go on in our own strength, then we will grow weary, and be fatigued.

**ha-êmeq** — Weariness doesn't go away with a good night's sleep. If you meet someone who is weary before bed, when he wakes up, he's still weary. But someone who is physically tired, when he wakes up, he feels better. Weariness doesn't go away when you sleep. But our Father gives His beloved ones restful sleep (Ps 127:1-2).