

Of

We sang “The Song of Yah,” which begins with the words, “Without faith it is impossible...”

One time, a man in Steinenberg went up on a little hill overlooking the town. It was a place he often went to pray and cry out. But this time our Father gave him that song, back in 1979. And we all started singing it. When we went on *The Year of Wandering*, we’d sing it all the time. Of course, that person was Nun, and he taught that song to others.

We prayed this morning that our Father would speak to us. That is what faith is: hearing the voice of our Father through His Word being spoken. That’s faith. Faith is hearing Him speak to us in our heart, so that we can take action and do what He says.

Without faith it is impossible to please Him (Heb 11:6).

We don’t seek anything else except *Him*. If we seek Him, we have all the rest (Mt 6:33). That is what we are supposed to seek first. We don’t desire anything else but Him; He is all of those things. And if we have Him in our heart, we have love, and all the rest.

The Word *Of*

Of is an amazing word, as in 1 Cor 12:13 and Eph 5:23. Our Master is the Savior *OF* the Body. Therefore we have to be baptized *INTO* the Body in order for Him to be *our* Savior. He is “the Savior *of* the Body,” not *of* individuals separated from the Body. There is no way to get *into* the Body except by *immersion* into the Body, and that is what saves us, through faith. Faith compels us to be immersed into the Body, whereby we receive His Spirit.

Our Master is the Savior *of* the Body; He’s *of* the Body and we’re *of* the Body. We’re *of* our Master.

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. (1 Jn 2:19)

We have seen hundreds that have *gone out from us*. Possibly, in the last 35 years, it may have been thousands who went out from us. Why did they do that? Because they were not *of* us.

If the foot should say, "Because I'm not a hand, I'm not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? If the ear should say, "Because I'm not an eye, I'm not of the body," is it therefore not of the body?" (1 Cor 12:15-16)

1 Cor 12:12 talks about the *body*; and then 1 Cor 12:13 states that we all have become part *of* the Body when we were baptized *into* the Body, which identified us *with* the Body. The word *of* in 1 Jn 2:19, as we just read, indicates *belonging to*.

Those who belong to Messiah are Abraham's seed... (Gal 3:29)

You can't *belong to* Messiah except in the Body, because He is the Savior *of the Body* (Eph 5:23), the body that we are *of*. We have taken total, absolute identity with and are a part *of* the Body — a functioning body.

Who is the King *of* England? I don't know whether there are kings in England nowadays, but if someone is the King *of* England, then he is not the king *of* any other country — only England.

Messiah is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the Body. (Eph 5:23)

That exposes Christianity, because it is not a body. Therefore, when you're baptized in Christianity, it's just a ritual you go through. You get wet, but you're not immersed into anything. *Baptized* means to be immersed into something. If a person truly is baptized, he is *immersed into* a body — the Body of Messiah. Each member *of* the body of Messiah has a functioning part, just like a hand, an arm, an eye, a nose, an ear, and every other functioning part in a physical body. All the functioning members are in coordination under the head, which gives the directions for what we do in every part of the body.

My human head, right now, is giving my body direction to open this book, and so I did it. But it took synergy to do it; it took function — *bodily* function — to even do the

simple task of opening this book. I had to think, and my whole arm had to work — all the tendons and muscles — and it reaches out, and my fingers open to pick it up, then close, and then my other hand comes along and works together with the first hand to open it, and then my eye functioned, and I started reading. It is *synergy*. We have to understand that and see how it applies to the Body of Messiah.

Of is a function word.¹ When a person is *of us*, it means that person is used for some purpose, as are all those who *belong to* and are *a part of* the Body. Each makes a normal, specific contribution, as a bodily part, to the living organism.

Who are you *OF*?

So, then, I just want to know whether you are truly *of* the Body. Are you *of* Messiah? “They went out from us, because they were not *of* us... (1 Jn 2:19). Who is *of* us? You can’t live outside the Body and be *of* the Body, without grieving yourself to death; and also, the Holy Spirit would be grieved. You would be grieved unto death because you just can’t live outside the Body if you are *of* the Body. So many have gone out from us because they were not *of* us.

Being *of* something has to do with *synergy*. Today you’re going to function in a certain way that builds up the Body. But, if you’re just functioning in the natural in the Community, that doesn’t mean you are *of* the Body. You could say you’re functioning, doing something, but only because you’re naturally good at it. Contrary to appearances, that doesn’t do anything to build up the Body. In time, functioning just naturally will tear down the Body. We won’t be able to endure to the end unless we are *of* Messiah. Even if we manage to endure somehow, we will still be cast out in the end. It won’t be spiritual endurance, but just “gutting it out.”

ha-êmeq — 1 Jn 2:19 shows me the greater depth in 1 Jn 5:19, “We know we are *of* God; and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.” We

¹ *Of* is a preposition, a word that relates its object to the other parts of the sentence. Or, to put it another way, to say someone is “of Messiah” specifies the relationship of that person to the world and to those others also *of* Messiah.

know we are *of* Messiah because we are not *of* the evil one. It's not as if we're perfect, but we're not *of* the evil one. Somehow, we don't speak his language; we don't fit in the evil one's kingdom, and we don't desire the things he puts out there to keep people busy. We're not *of* that. Somehow, we always knew that we didn't fit in the world. And, if you were born here, you just have to believe your parents that you don't fit "out there." You don't have to go out and experience it yourself to know that you're not *of* the world. We're *of* the Body of Messiah; we're *of* God. I'm so thankful there is a place people can come into who don't fit in the world.

Contribution *of* the Members

Of is a function word. A person who is *of* us is used for the same purpose as who he belongs to, and is a normal, specific contribution to the whole unit (as how a human bodily part functions in a body). He is part of the economy of a living organism; someone of related actions contributing to the larger action.

You can see this expressed in Col 2:19. The *growth of the body* cannot come *from* God if it's not *of* God. It is not *of* Him if it is not synergistically working, if it is without coordination under the head. Someone asked us recently, "Do you mean one of you can't just decide to go downtown? Why not? Why get permission just to walk downtown? You mean, you have to get permission for everything?"

So I said, "Well, I don't know if anybody would be at the Deli if we functioned that way. Nobody would be coming to work, or serving you, if they were just doing whatever they wanted to. But actually, they *are* doing what they want to. We all *want* to be here, doing this."

Everyone working together in the Deli shows the reality of bodily action, as in Eph 4:16. It's pretty clear there. Each part has its function within the Body, and it causes the growth of the Body, and it is a growth which is from God (Col 2:19; Eph 4:16). There are works prepared for each and every one of us to do in the Body, functioning synergistically in the framework of the Body of Messiah. It's a mystery to a lot of people, but not to us. We know it causes the growth of the Body of Messiah. My eye is *of* my ear;

my ear is *of* my head; the fingers are *of* my hand, my hand is *of* my arm; my arm is *of* my body. Each member of my body has a specific function in the body, as it works synergistically with all the rest of my bodily parts, operating from the direction of my head, which operates from the direction of my soul, and my soul takes its direction from my spirit, which operates from the Holy Spirit.

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. (Rom 8:14)

Otherwise, you're not *of Him*; you're not sons *of God*. Only those who are *led by the Spirit* are the sons *of God*. This is what we have got to help willing Christians understand. They say, "What makes you do this? How come you're this way?" It's mystery to them, so they need to see it and hear about it. After they *see*, they need the *narration*. We want to give them the narration of what they're seeing, and answer their questions. Someone who is really being drawn to us was asking the other day, "How come you have to ask permission to walk downtown?"

Christians don't have to get permission to walk downtown, do they? What are they going to do, call up the preacher or something? The preacher doesn't even know where the people in their so-called "church body" live or what they do the rest of the week. He may not even know how to get in touch with them, as maybe they don't have a car, or a phone, because they can't afford one. Certainly they're not going to call their "brother" up on the phone, and say, "*Hey, just so you know where I am, I'm going to walk downtown.*"

Shemiyah — "The leg bone is *not* connected to the hip bone..." That's the old song they used to sing in church.

Being *of* someone or something is deeper than saying, "I'm *of* the Oak Street House." It's deeper than just where you sleep at night. Being *of* is about what is working in you and where that is coming from. We are *of* Messiah. The reason we don't just leave the Deli and walk downtown whenever we feel like it is the same thing that was in our Master Yahshua. We opened the Deli in order to *seek and save the lost*. It's not that we *can't* be somewhere else; we *want* to be *of* the Deli. What is going on there is everything to us; that is what we *are*, what we *belong* to. It is our function,

our purpose, just as was in our Master Yahshua's heart. Doing the will of His Father was His only purpose and function. He didn't have anywhere else to go or anything else to do. Doing the will of His Father was His food. Only that satisfied Him.

Gader Peretz — The Hebrew word *shel* expresses the concept **of**. It is often used regarding a husband and a wife. It means “*belonging to*” in that sense. So then, in 24 days, it will be able to be said of Ayelet that she is “Ayelet *shel* Gader” — Ayelet **of** Gader. In the same way, we are **of** Messiah's Body. We need to be connected to that degree and be one in every respect. I'm so thankful that we're gaining revelation of the relationship between Messiah and His bride.

Nun — It's really good how Gader expressed that, because when you speak of being **of** the Body, you're actually talking about an intimate relationship, being totally involved in it. Whatever you do has its function within the context of that relationship. It is not separate or independent of it, but totally one with it, amalgamated into it. Those who are immersed into the Body **of** Messiah are one, melted together, having no separate identity. The former identity has to be lost in order to gain that very special relationship.

Elahav of Yoceph — What it's going to take to be the Body and for our works to endure is found in that synergy, which comes from the connection we have with one another. The head, and all those muscles, have to work together for one motion to happen. Many signals must be going back and forth continually. That is why we get closer to each other. It is there that synergy starts to happen, and you see how you fit into the working of the Body. You see how you are called to function, and then you start to know who you are. You realize who you are **of**.

The anointing is in that synergistic communication, our Father's mind coming down from heaven to earth, which we're in tune with through the Holy Spirit. We are one body. That's why the others *went out from us*, because they weren't dwelling in that special realm of communication, found in walking in the anointing.

Members **of** the Body

Look at 1 Cor 12:12 and you'll soon understand how the Body is one:

The body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body. (1 Cor 12:12)

This is talking about the human body. A human body is one, with many members, and all are in one body. The body is one — not two, but one — and has many members.

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free – and have all been made to drink of one Spirit (1 Cor 12:12-13).

So also is Messiah's Body: *one*, not *two*. That's what it says. By one Spirit we were all immersed into that one Body, regardless of who we were. Therefore the Body is of many members, functioning synergistically together, without *any* independent action or lawless deeds. Those who practice lawlessness will be "cast out" in the last days (Mt 13:40-41).

So if you see one of us going downtown, you can know he is doing it for a purpose, because someone asked him, "Can you go downtown and put this money in the bank for us?"

Hannah — I'm so thankful to hear what it means to be *of* our Master, because a guest strongly said, "I think the only reason everybody goes and works at the Deli is that if you don't, you won't be able to eat and you won't have a place to sleep."

It made me mad that he would feel that way about each of us, as if that is the way we all think. NO! I'm part of a working, functioning organism. I want to be *of* our Master Yahshua, and I'm giving myself to Him because I have a purpose, and I'm working with others who have that same goal. Really, I've taken that stand; it is something I *want* to do, and I'm giving myself to that with others who *want* to do that. I want to be someone who knows who I am, and that I belong to our Master. That's what I'm giving myself, every day, to do. I don't want the evil one to take that away by coming in with his accusations.

Hakam — People understand the physical. When you're talking about the Body of Messiah, it's a spiritual thing, and natural people don't see the same thing. It takes a revelation in the heart, and more than that, it takes surrender, which takes love. Without love, there is no connection.

Our heart is to completely and totally live for one another, and that must be our only desire or else that synergistic connection cannot be made. If we have our own little self-life we want to hold on to, it breaks the connection. We stop being *of* the Body. Fortunately, there is a provision to

get re-connected if we did choose our little selfish ways. I'm so thankful we have a valid *way*, and that is to be *of* Messiah, which means to love one another as He loved. We can decide to love Him, and decide in our heart that we will live for each other today.

We have to *discern*, that is, recognize and understand, the Body. *Discerning* is not just a mental conception. Because we are discerning the Body of Messiah, we break bread from week to week.

He who drinks in an unworthy manner, eats and drinks judgment to himself, for not discerning the Body of Messiah. For this reason, many of you are weak and sick among you, and many sleep; for if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. (1 Cor 11:28-31)

ha-êmeq — I've never met such good Christians as I have lately. They say, "I want to join the Twelve Tribes. I want to become a member." But no, baptism is not about becoming a "member" of a club; baptism means you're going to go into the water, and die. We're going to hold you under for five minutes, and then it is all over. You tell them that, but then they say, "Yes, yes, I want to die with Messiah, and I really want to function. I've looked at certain of your jobs that I really would like to do in such and such a place..."

It is as if they're applying for a job. They have the words, "die with Messiah," and they keep putting it into the story, but it doesn't cause the same response in them as it did in us. It's like a baby, sitting in the womb, saying, "*I'm planning on getting out there and growing; I've planned how I'm going to push my arms out...*" But it's not that way. The growth will come from our Father. All you have to do is be born, and then the Father is going to do that for you.

It's so hard to explain to Christians, because they have the words, and it seems so very, very interesting to them to read what we write; but it doesn't *make* the Body. Our Father makes the Body, by our dying with total surrender to Him. Even if someone is 79 years old, they can just forget everything they ever did in those 79 years, and all they learned, in order to become like a baby, giving up their life. Then the most amazing thing happens. You amazingly love to work at the Deli 18 hours a day; you amazingly love to do whatever job you're given.

The reason Christianity isn't the Body is that they are not working in unity. The arm is trying to be the leg, and the leg is trying to be the eyes, and none of them is submitting to the head. So, they can't really *be* the

Body; they're all just seeking their own glory, trying to be something greater than what they really are, because they can't overcome the selfishness in them.

We're the Body because we're surrendered to the other parts of the Body. If I am a leg, and I surrender to it, I give my whole heart to being the leg, to make the body work in unity. I submit to the head, which has total control over what I do. I'm thankful we can work in unity, so as to be an example to those lost people in Christianity.

Aiyelet shel Gader — For a woman in Messiah, there is a clear order. Woman is *of* Messiah because she is *of* a man who is *of* Messiah. She is under man's authority. And that's why a woman covers her head. *This is the witness to the world around us.* Women in the world think this concept is not politically correct, that a woman's place is under the authority of man. But I'm thankful we're learning the value of that order, and that we don't have to be led astray by the spirits of the world which want woman to separate herself and be her own head.

When we're in submission, we're one; we're one with one another. There is then no more *female* or *male*. There is no more *woe-man*, but just *Man*. You take the "w-o-e" part off of man and that's what it means.

Sarah — I'm thankful what ha-êmeq shared about how we didn't fit into the evil one's kingdom, that we don't belong there, and how our Father made a place for us to belong. It is like that song says, "Love is our home, a place to receive healing." Really, being told what to do, and being submitted brings you peace. Nobody has peace in the world; there is no peace, no rest in them.

They say "*peace, peace,*" but there is no peace.

Sarah — No one has peace in their heart. There is no rest anywhere. That's why these Christians that come into the *Yellow Deli* don't want to get too deep. It's probably uncomfortable, as our life touches those places of fear and insecurity in them. But there is a spirit of peace, hope, love, kindness we can pass on: the fruit of the Spirit.

Just remember, it is the *fruit* of the Spirit, not the *fruits*. Because just not having *one* of the qualities — like not having self-control — disqualifies everything.

Sarah — I like telling people we are volunteers. We are thankful, doing this voluntarily. People ask, "Don't you ever get to go home?" but this is

home for me. I love being here. I'm just thankful we're set free to love, and people can see that. I'm thankful that's our life. We're not weighed down by anything.

Yes, that's right, we're set free to love.

Ariel — On the Sabbath, a lot of us were here. I didn't really want to go anywhere, and I was completely at rest. I didn't want to be doing anything else; I didn't have any *rasha* working in me; I wasn't wishing for First Day to come quicker. Why? Because the whole body was at rest: we were all at rest. You see guests come who don't have that rest, who can't stay in one place. That rest has got to carry over into First Day, and into Monday and Tuesday and Wednesday... every day we've got to function in that rest. That's how the Body is; we're *of* the Body; we're at home. I'm just as content up there on the roof, in the hot sun, trying to fix the air conditioner as I am sitting there on the couch, on the Sabbath, with my friends, because we're home, we're *of* the Body.

Joshua — It reminded of a skit ha-êmeq did with us in Fort Myers, about some people making a meal. Each person was asked to make a portion of the meal, but along the way each one thought they would be better at making the pie. And so when people came to eat dinner, there were 30 pies of random types.

The moral is what we're hearing. Each one of us has a part to play. If we're not content to do our part, then we might as well not even be part of the Body. There's no glory in seeing a body with one leg too big, and the other totally weak. The body has to be proportionate, and so we have to be content to do our part. The body must be balanced. It might not be perfectly balanced right now, but He's putting each one of us where He wants us. If we're not content to be there, yes, we might be part of the Body, but we'll create dysfunction.

We can be vainly puffed up by our fleshly mind if we're not holding fast to the head (Col 2:18). And then, of course, we are to speak the truth in love to one another, so that we can all grow up in every aspect of our personality into the head, who is Messiah, according to the effective working as every part does its share (Eph 4:16). And of course, in the Body, we do nothing from selfish ambition, but through being like-minded, having the same love, being in one accord (Phil 2:3-5). We have to have the same mind as our Master. If we're in fellowship with Him, and He's our teacher, then we will be like Him.