

The Greatest Miracle: His Dwelling Place

We sang, “We Sing for Joy in Your Presence.”

Khemdah shel Ayal — How wonderful it is that we can sing this song with those we are in fellowship with. Ruth shel Deshe shared this morning,

Why are there certain people I am so bonded to? I think it’s because we have the same mind about things. I see how they take on our Father’s anointing, and it bonds me to them. I share my heart with them about struggles I go through. They’re bonded to me, and I’m bonded to them.

That is so true. But what if you don’t have the same mind about things? Then there is always something to make you feel a little distant from that person. Our Father wants us all to have the same mind, to be led by the same Spirit, and be humble enough to listen to the Spirit and let yourself be changed. We have to be humbled to the degree that we would change and become more like our Master. As we all become more like Him, we have that tight bond of fellowship in our midst. That is amazing, and it’s worth everything to be bonded in such intimate fellowship.

Sekel — “*We love Your dwelling place...*” Yônêq has said before that love is either a noun or a verb. Just how active we have to be to love His dwelling place, to guard over it, and to really make it pleasant and comfortable for our Master to be amongst us. It takes a lot from us.

But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you. How is it then, brothers? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification. (1 Cor 14:24-26)

It is amazing how that says, if no one is speaking in the gatherings, then God is not there. So is He here or not? Is there spontaneous movement of the Spirit? Don’t we all have something to share? Before I came to the gathering, I prayed that He would give us something to share. I knew He would give us something. I said to myself, “*Well, what should I share?*” But I don’t want to just have that; and so I prayed, “You come upon me and speak through me, if You want to speak through me, or come upon someone else if you want to speak through them.”

That is how the Body of Messiah is. It cannot be any other way than 1 Cor 14:24-26, so let's understand that and not be silent. We have to be spontaneous.

Zedek ben Ayal started the song: "We Will Go Out with Joy"

See? There is an example. Zedek started that song, just as 1 Cor 14:26 says. I'm glad he had a song. It's not up to the choir director, "*Turn in your hymnal to page 453...*" It is an outburst. You just sing! There was someone about to speak, but Zedek started a song, and so now we're going to let her speak.

Elishevah shel Gebar — I heard today that, sometimes we see things and think we need to do something about it. That pressure we feel is there to drive us to our Father. When we come before our Father, we have a little more reserve in judging ourselves, as to what comes out. Of course, we respect our Father, and we're not just going to insist on our strong opinion about what we're feeling. Then our Father can speak to us. We really never have to lose our peace if we truly understand that. Our Father is the one who is in control, and we can always turn to Him.

Mithcah shel Yochanan — I understood today that we, as women, are to be a helper to man. It is our purpose, which we need to be reminded of. It is so wonderful, because we don't have to always have it in ourselves to know how to help. Actually, our Father saw our pitiful state and so He sent us the Helper. And that encouraged me, since that is why we are able to help, because He sent us the Helper.

Chassidah shel Emet — I heard too that He sent us the Helper, because He needs *us* to be a helper for our Master. So we need to make sure that we're helping others, not just sitting around looking at and talking about the problems. We're not being helped much, if we do that. We're not complainers; we're *doers*. We make our life lovely.

Ishshah shel Gamaliel — To do what Chassidah is saying, you have to cut against that selfish thing in you to just do nothing. It doesn't cost you anything. Maybe you share your heart once or twice and don't feel like anything is changing, but it feels comfortable to just give up, thinking, "*Well, I said my little bit...*" To keep actively seeking our Father and praying, you have to overcome that thing in you to be complacent. Our Father wants courageous helpers who don't give up, so that His dwelling place can be as lovely as it can be.

Zimrah shel Sameach — His dwelling place is not that building with the pews in it. He dwells here. This is the home of God. Whether I live in Fort Myers or here in Hiddenite, I love to dwell here. In all the things He spoke to us in our meeting, He helped us, and so we give our heart to it.

Sameach has been promoting a small teaching called, “*The Primary Purpose of our Life.*”¹ I just want to read the last part:

Sometimes, we may feel forsaken. But it's because there is an enemy that wedges his way in between us and our Master. And we have to drive that spirit out, and then we'll love one another. Then, when we look in each other's eyes, we'll see Yahshua. He dwells in each one of us. That's where He is. That's His dwelling place. That's coming back to our first love. That's the restoration of all things...

And that's coming back to our first love. Love is the first thing to be restored:

What's the first thing they forsook? Love. And everything else went to pot after that. Just like the fruit of the Spirit — love is first, isn't it? The Scripture says, “Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness...” all of those marvelous, wonderful things. But when love goes, it's just like a domino effect.

The Greatest Miracle

What is the greatest miracle, the resurrection of the dead, or our life together? Living in clusters, we are growing together, growing up into the head, growing up to become like our Master, developing in all aspects of our personality — physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual — to maturity, as Paul talked about in Philippians 3.

Each one of us is doing what we were given eternal life to do, in order to be a dwelling place for our Father, His eternal home. He dwells in us and will dwell in us for all eternity, to rule the universe. We will *reign forever and ever* (Rev 22:5). Through us our Father will rule the *men of the nations*, who are saved from the second death. After they spend time in death to pay for their own sins, and they go to the judgment, then they will be called “the nations” (Rev 21:24, NKJ; 22:2).

¹ 2004.01.30-P01

Yahshua's resurrection was for the purpose of this greatest miracle. What if He just rose again from the dead and no one gave up their rotten, stinking life to follow Him? What if everyone just held on to their own life? They just want to go to heaven when they die, and that's all they care about. They aren't concerned with following Him, and doing His will, and bringing about His purpose here on earth, which takes everything that we have. It takes loving Him with all of our heart, without any selfishness. The end of selfishness is the end of Satan's reign, and the end of Satan's reign is the end of Death. That has to come about. Is God going to do it just by Himself? Or is He going to doing it through a people He can dwell in?

So the greatest miracle is what we have here, together. It's the greatest miracle to believe in the resurrection. It's as great a miracle as the resurrection itself! To believe in your heart that our Father raised our Master from the dead, without having seen Him, is a greater miracle than the resurrection itself. That's what Jn 20:29 means.

The resurrection began the process of enlisting rulers for His kingdom, themselves being raised from the dead into a new life. The primary purpose of our life is to be together, to be His dwelling place. This is how we grow up into the head. We are all growing up into the head (Eph 4:15) in every aspect of our personality in order to rule with our Master. We are to be like our Master in every way (1 Jn 3:2-3). We have to grow up in every aspect to do this.

Living Together in Clusters

There is no other place you can be made like our Master. You can't do it out on the side of a hill somewhere, by yourself. You can't do it living in a house by yourself and going to church on Sunday. Now *that* is ridiculous. There's only one way you can do it: by living together in clusters.

Iron sharpens iron (Pr 27:17), as we live together, getting along with our brothers and forgiving them. We "rub wool" and that causes sparks sometimes, so we talk about

it. That is how we grow up. We see our downfalls, our faults, and our failures; we see that we need to be forgive and be forgiven. That is what “grows” us: living in a cluster, in combined action, we grow together.

Redeemed Man

We are to be growing up to the stature of our Husband, to be one with Him. Then we'll all be like Him in reality, not male or female, but as *Redeemed Man*. We'll rule with Him forever and ever over “all things,” which is the never-ending universe. It is a miracle to receive the faith to do the works that were prepared for us to do. What if we don't do them? Then our selfishness will never be dealt with, and we'll never grow up into the head.

So which is the greatest miracle: the resurrection of Messiah, or the purpose which it achieves? Well, we can't really separate the two. I'm thankful that what He did can bring about a people who will love Him enough to follow Him and be what He wants us to be, and do what He wants us to do, which is to fulfill our Father's eternal purpose.

You can read all about it in Philippians 3, about *growing up into the head* and being fully developed so that you can come to maturity. We all have to come to maturity and not be stunted. Our growth is stunted so much by the things we give ourselves to, such as not loving, not forgiving, holding grudges, and everything that distracts us. We have to overcome everything. What if you don't want to overcome? Then you're not going to sit on His throne. What did He say in Rev 3:20-21? “*As I overcame...*”

He had to overcome all these things too, because He was fully a human being. In His humanity, He had to overcome Satan's *greatest* attempt to destroy Him, to cause Him to become selfish and not be that perfect, spotless sacrifice for us. If He hadn't overcome, He would have gone into death and never come out. So, we're thankful that we have a purpose for our life. What is the *primary purpose of our life*? It's to love one another; and if we love one another, everything else will follow.

There's no way to lay down your life for your brothers and sisters unless you live with them. I'm sorry, but the only way you can love one another is if you live together. You can't love someone you don't live with. You can have the noun, *love*, but you don't have the verb.

Shemiyah — Someday, that voice is going to go out, and it's going to be a loud voice, proclaiming, "*Behold! The dwelling place of God is among men.*" And that is what we are being built into, as Yônêq was saying, built into a compatible dwelling for our Father. It is ludicrous to consider that those people who would be God's *dwelling place* wouldn't want to live together, or wouldn't share all things in common. It's not fitting. The only place His dwelling place will exist is where every enemy that divides is routed out. There will be no division, no enemy to divide, none at all, for God is one. Then you'll be able to say, "*Behold!*" On that final day, when His dwelling place is revealed, it's going to be a great thing. So I don't want to forget what we're doing here; I want to think "right" about things, not just let things go and say, "That's just the way it is." If we do, we're not going to be that dwelling place of our Father.

His Eternal Purpose

That I may know Him, that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His person, more strongly and more clearly; and that I may in the same way come to know the power overflowing from His resurrection which it exerts over believers, and that I may share in His sufferings, as to be continually transformed in spirit into His likeness even to His death... So let those of us who are spiritually mature and full-grown have this mind and hold these convictions; and if in any respect you have a different attitude of mind, God will make that clear to you also. (Phil 3:10,15, Amplified)

(Beware: the Amplified Bible has some truth in it, but it has a lot of errors.)

So we've got to grow up in every aspect to become fully mature in Him. Where is the only place you can do that? In *His dwelling place*, His abode. And who is the abode of God in Rev 21:3? *We are the abode of God!* And where is it? *With men*. The abode is not those men, but us. The abode of God is *with men*, so who are the "men" Rev 21:3 speaks of? They are those in Jn 5:28-29 who have "done good" and are judged worthy of a

second life, and they establish the nations of the eternal age, populating the universe through natural propagation. They are the *Restored Man* (male and female²). We, *the abode of God*, are *Redeemed Man*.

No one in the whole world understands this except us. The *men* there are two genders; but we, the ruling class, won't be two genders. We'll be "*just like the angels*" in the resurrection, as our Master said (Mt 22:30). We will propagate, but not as natural man propagates. That is why we are called the *wife* in Rev 21:9, and He is our *husband*. We will multiply in some way, as Ps 102:28 says and Isa 9:7 requires. We will perpetually be propagated, in a spiritual way. This is necessary for His sons — *us* — to rule the universe.

There is no end to the universe. It will be filled up as much as it possibly can, and this is going to go on forever and ever and ever. Of course, the universe cannot ever be filled up. So the rulers will be ruling forever and ever, and the nations are going to be propagating forever and ever, filling up all the galaxies. When one planet is filled up, they'll colonize to another planet; when one galaxy is filled up, they'll colonize to another galaxy, and they'll keep on going. That's what our Father made man for in the beginning, but something happened; yet even that was according to His pre-determined purpose. He knew it would happen, because He had to have the *Redeemed Man*, and He had to have the *Restored Man*.

So we will rule over Restored Man. We're going to be good rulers; we are going to reign over them for their good. "This planet is filled up," the Restored will say. "We have no other place to live. Oh, look! Here comes one of the sons of God! Immanuel!" God will be with them in that sense, being in us, the Redeemed Man, and we are going to be just like our Master. So we will take them to another planet. When a galaxy is filled up, we'll go together, taking people to another galaxy and establishing them. Do you believe

² #444 *anthropos* — human beings, whether male or female; generically, to include all human individuals

that? Well, that is what is going to happen. That is the ultimate purpose of our Father. And that's why we don't just get stressed, irritated, and react to our teeny little problems we have here. We've got to see the whole picture and then we'll be able to get along with one another.

1 Cor 2:9-10 — What God has prepared for those who love Him is now being revealed to us by the Holy Spirit. Somehow, it didn't stick with those in the first century, so they started *merely* going to church on Sunday and sleeping in their pew for an hour each week. But we have a great purpose. He saved us for a great and marvelous purpose.

Synergy and Readjusting the Saints

We're the Holy City. Do you know what a city is? A city has a mayor, a public works department, etc. — all kinds of facilities, right? Everything works together in coordination just as in the café: we've got the *maître d'*, waitresses, dishwashers, bus boys, sandwich makers, the people who do preps, the bakers, those who do the ordering... It's all functioning together synergistically. And that's how the Body of Messiah is. That's how we function.

The Body is not about “doing your own thing.” John [*a new disciple*], you're not going to be going out welding anymore. Maybe you're going to weld here, but you'll be re-adjusted according to your gifts. You may not weld anymore! You might be something other than just a welder. We can't just have a welder come here and weld for the next 40 years. We have got to readjust everyone, as it says in Eph 4:7-16. We've got to readjust the members of Messiah, according to their grace and gifting. We have to make sure they *do the works prepared for them before the foundation of the world*.

What if the elders just say, “Well, he's a good welder, and we need good welders, so he can just keep on welding, and blah, blah, blah...” What if they are not saying, “Hey, look, did you notice how he's got gifts in other areas? Let's readjust him and see whether that brings an increase.” The elders need to recognize what their people's gifts are, as the

Holy Spirit speaks to us. If we're selfish and just want him to weld until our Master comes back, what then? Maybe we could have said, "*How can we raise up someone to take your place in welding so you can rule over this other area...*" That is what elders are supposed to do. But selfish elders will have to answer for it some day. We stunt the growth of the Body when we don't see these things.

We have to pray that we would have insight in readjusting people. Otherwise, we lose our first love, and the lampstand is taken out of the way, and the apostles never walk there anymore. The people who have insight, *the overcomers*, might have to flee to another community. There were only *a few overcomers* in Revelation 2 and 3.

To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. (Rev 3:21)

Do you think He really meant what He said there? If our Master was God, then He wouldn't have had to overcome anything! But since He was man, He had to overcome, to be our example, to be like us, so that we could be like Him (Heb 2:17-18). God cannot be tempted, but our Master Yahshua was tempted like us, so He can *sympathize* with us, not just *empathize*.

A man can *empathize* with a woman when she has a baby, but he can't *sympathize* because he's never had a baby. He doesn't know what it's like, so he can only empathize with his wife, not sympathize. Sympathy comes from going through something yourself. Then you can sympathize with someone else, because you've gone through the same thing yourself. Zedek can sympathize with someone who goes through a terrible burn, but most of us can only empathize.

So let's be all we're supposed to be. Let's do *all we can*, so that our Master can say of us, "*They did all they could.*" Let's all hold up our hands and pray for our Father's will to be done.