

Three Enemies to Overcome

We sang, “*I Love Your Salvation.*”

Reah Amsah shel D’ror — We all have the liberty to be just like our Master. There is liberty in the law. Maybe being “just like Him” for me is not exactly how another is to be “just like Him” — we might not be able to wear the exact same garment to be like Yahshua. There is no law about it; but it has to be in our hearts. It comes forth from a desire to be pleasing to Him.

I really loved what Yônêq shared last night in the Amplified Bible, from Phil 3:10, something like, “Our primary purpose is to be in love with Yahshua, to get to know Him more closely and to be intimate with Him, to know the power of His resurrection. Let all the mature ones have these convictions.”

I thought, “Oh, I want to be a *mature one.*” You know how immature brides are, always thinking about *me*, how this affects *me*, whining, “*When are you coming home?*” Everything is my, my, my feelings... But mature brides are alive, and love, and their heart is, “I want to do everything I can to support you. I don’t care how it affects me. I’ll stay up late for you. Do you need my help? What can I do?” You know? They’re different. Their eyes are in a different direction. I want to be one of those mature ones who are just in love with our Master Yahshua. Then we’ll become just like Him, wanting to please Him.

Soreph Gamaliel — Yônêq said last night, “*Love comes first.*” So then it is either the first to go, or it will be first in our life. It is either one or the other. I’m thankful we can hear the truth. The truth can seep into our soul, but it takes a long time to reach the center of our being. If we put love first, then we open the door.

Ma’aminah — I was thankful Gamaliel said, “It takes a long time.” I’ve been here a long time, and it’s not as if I know all there is to know about the Scriptures. But when I hear the truth, sometimes I think, “*Whoa, what else can I hear even better this?*” But then it takes a long time to really sink into our souls. A lot of times I wonder, “*What’s wrong here? Why is it taking so long to sink in? I heard that such a long time ago!*” Probably, I wasn’t in a place in my life where I could receive it then. The things you think are breaking you are really making you. At the time, you wonder, “*Why is this happening to me?*” but it is causing us to grope for Him. And that is how He is teaching us.

Shemiyah — Our Father is in the business of saving human beings, and it is an amazing thing that He's putting His hand on our lives, and doing something great, something marvelous and wonderful. I have so much hope for John and Kim,¹ because when you put your life into His hands, then He does something great through you.

Just look around the room and you can see how our Father is doing awesome things in each person's life, making great people. I know He has been doing things in my life, and He is saving me. I'm learning to believe in Him beyond anything else, and to believe in the Word spoken to us, because that really is our security. That's our faith and our confidence: the Word spoken in the gatherings. What is said here is precious, so I want to value it, honor it, and live by it.

Ayal — We have had the illustration many times about the salmon going upstream. That's why our life depends on us not taking any thought for ourselves. When we start taking thought for ourselves, we are selfish, and then everything goes out the window. That's why our Father is speaking to us about selfishness right now. Selfishness is the first enemy to be dealt with. There isn't any way we can deal with *death*, the last enemy, when we haven't dealt with the first enemy, *selfishness*.

As we were talking to Shemiyah and Hannah last night, preparing them for their betrothal, my wife Khemdah kept saying, "*Yônêq just said this, and ha-êmeq just said this...*" When I heard those things, I said, "That has to go back to every community, everywhere." That is what our foundation has always been, to pass on what we hear. This is so important, because when our Master comes back, what is He looking for? Faith. If we don't have faith, we're going to bicker and complain and point the finger.

We've got to *know* that it is His hand on our lives; I mean it is nice to say things here, but when we get back to our communities and someone is pointing out something in your life, and you're going through it that day, and you don't receive what someone is pointing out to you, then you are not thinking that God's hand in your life is so good anymore.

But we've got to go upstream like the salmon, fighting all the time, or else what our Father wants to accomplish on the earth won't happen. We've got to give everything all the time. There is no resting place. If we find some resting place that is not in Him, then it's false. And that can be our tendency.

¹ Our guests, who have been drawing nearer and nearer over the past year. They were immersed later this same day, after the betrothal of Shemiyah and Hannah.

This has been impressed upon me since I saw the *James* play in Washington, DC, and watched that young girl blow the candle out. The candlestick has been blown out twice already. Let's not make it happen a third time. We've got to give everything to make this work. Somehow, in the first church, it didn't happen. Something crept in, and we are learning about what those creeping things are. We've got to deal with those creeping things, because they just rob, kill, and destroy.

People are going to hate us. Why? Because we're in Him, not into ourselves and our own selfish lives anymore. But I know our Father is faithful, and I want to let Him do the work in me so I can fulfill my created purpose, and that the last breath I take will be pleasing to Him. There is nothing else worth anything.

We talked last night about *the overcomers*.² Only the overcomers will rule. They are the victorious ones who climb the mountain to get to the peak. They rejoice in victory. But there always will be others in our communities; there will always be the *quitters* and the *campers* along with the *climbers*. Right here in this room, how many quitters are there, and how many campers? How many climbers? There'll always be those three kinds of people living in our communities. But we want to encourage everyone to be climbers, not just camping out. They were on their way up, but they got weary.

And then, of course, you have the quitters, and there have been hundreds. Have you ever felt like quitting? Or have you ever just "camped out"? But we've got to overcome and continue to climb, like salmon going upstream. That's how it is in the Body of Messiah. We must go upward just like salmon swimming upstream.

If anyone else has anything to say, shout it from the rooftop. Be a climber; don't be a quitter and don't be a camper. How many here are climbers? How many are quitters? What is a good marriage? It is always about climbing, swimming upstream.

ha-êmeq — Yônêq came into the Cooks Meeting for a minute, said something, and then went out. And I thought, "*When is Yônêq ever going to slow down? He's the same as he was when I first met him! He's a climber!*"

² *The Greatest Miracle: His Dwelling Place* (2008.07.05-P01).

It's not as if we have "retirement" as disciples. As Ayal said, we will serve to the end, desiring even our last breath to be pleasing to Him. We're planning on giving all until the end. In the restoration of all things, there has to be a people who use their will to do our Father's will. Our Master had a will, otherwise He wouldn't have said, "*Not My will, but Your will be done.*" He wasn't just an automaton who woke up and His will was automatically God's will.

Every morning, I go to the bank and see the teller. She is my soap opera. I am so thankful that we are the hope for this world, as it is actually crumbling. This society doesn't have anything to stand on. She got married when she was 18. She was a magazine-front-cover-picture type of person. She got married, had a baby, but at 19, that man ran out on her. And so she gets a job in the bank, dresses real fancy, and gets another boyfriend. He gets her pregnant but doesn't want to marry her. She has another child, and then she is 22.

So now she is 24, still a picture-perfect person, with two children and a baby. And there she is, in the bank, with a happy smile saying, "He's really a good man; he just doesn't believe in marriage."

The next week she tells me the sad story: "I don't know what happened. I got home and all my stuff was gone. I don't know why, because I didn't do anything. He took everything, even a lot of good kitchen stuff, all my Tupperware containers, and..."

So here she is, still a magazine-front-cover-looking person, with nothing, and just says with a smile, "It's fine," and puts on that front-cover look. Everyone thinks that life is fine for her, but she has three children, and nothing, no security, and just grabs my hand, wishing there was something else.

That's why I'm so thankful, because there is! There is a dwelling place for her to come to, because the "Praise-the-Lord" lady at the next teller station can only say, "The Lord will take care of you. Don't you worry about anything. Praise the Lord!"

"Praise the Lord?" She looks at her, saying, "Yeah, sure." What else is there? But now there is a society being raised up who understands marriage, who understands what wives and husbands do, and can find grace to overcome and do our Father's will, and keep climbing. When you see people like the teller out there, you say inside, "*I've got to climb! There's no place for anybody like her to go!*" Then you tell her to come home with you.

The “Praise the Lord” lady says, “Come to my church sometime,” but we say, “Come! Come to our house. We have something for you. We have a place for those little children of yours, the tiny little ones you drop off at day care every morning.” Building a home for the lonely does not come easy. It is made by those people who get up every morning and climb, those who overcome.

There is definitely an assault against marriage, even that inborn desire to make a covenant. We know what it feels like. I told my teller friend, “I understand why your friend doesn’t want to get married...” and the Christian teller beside her says, “That’s sin; that’s just down-right sin that he won’t marry you, Praise the Lord...”

I know why he doesn’t want to — because he doesn’t have the confidence in himself to keep a covenant. His parents probably got divorced. He is scared. He thinks he could never stand up and say anything he could stand on because he doesn’t have the strength to stand on it. I understand why. He would need a savior. He would need a savior to be able to stand. He is just that kind of person.

We needed a savior, too. And now there is a people being raised up who are saviors, who have actually been saved from that complete total fear to be able to stand by their word, to keep a covenant.

I am thankful for Shemiyah, that He is an overcomer. We know the enemies that torment people in the world, but we plan on overcoming them until our dying breath. It’s not like we can’t understand why that man was that way. The love of our Father is making a people with a heart of compassion, who understand, and who are planning on overcoming until their dying breath.

Hannah — I’m so thankful that is the determination that we can wake up with this morning. I’m thankful to wake up with a purpose and be alive this morning. The climbers aren’t those who complain and whine about things, like Reah said. Hearing that, I wanted to be a climber, not someone who pulls others down, or is always thinking about myself, sucking life out of the Body. We can be those who, no matter how battered we get, or how hard it is to push through everything, can keep going, like the salmon.

Salmon are so amazing. They keep going even though bears are after them. They find a way to get through. Elishevah said, “There is such an example in the nucleus, through Yônêq and ha-êmeq, to just keep pushing forward. That is their foundation.” And that is how I want to begin my life: to be a climber, and nothing else but a climber.

The Three Enemies of Messiah

Overcoming is everything; we do it with our Master. He was able to overcome, and sit on His Father's throne. And if we overcome, we'll sit with our Master on His throne. 1 Cor 15:22-26 — There are three things we all have to overcome. I don't know what all is involved in selfishness, but every sin proceeds from there. Selfishness is everything that is sin; it is living for self. Those who live for Messiah, they *no longer live for themselves, but for Him*, and that's the end of selfishness.

We have to put all of our Master's enemies under His feet (Heb 10:13). We have to put them all there before He can return to earth, in order for us to welcome Him, and not shrink back when He comes. We won't shrink back if we have done "all we could" to put all of His enemies under His feet: the first, the second, and the third enemy:

Enemy #1: Selfishness

Enemy #2: Satan (and all of his schemes)

Enemy #3: Death (1 Cor 15:26)

There they are: the three enemies, and we have to put them ALL under our Master's feet for Him to return and establish His kingdom here on earth. "*The last enemy that will be destroyed is death*" (1 Cor 15:26). The last enemy will, of course, be destroyed at the end of the millennial age. *Death will be no more, and Satan will be no more*. And this will come about through His people living selfless lives. They are living for others, laying down their lives, loving as He loved, which is how we're commanded to love. What if we're not doing that? Then we do not love Him.

If you love Me, keep My commandments. (Jn 14:15)

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. (Jn 13:34)

If we're not doing that, it means we don't love Him. It's as simple as that. That is His commandment.

He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. (1 Jn 2:4)

Therefore whoever claims to know Him and does not keep His commandments lives a lie, and is a liar. We have to take His word seriously and understand it. We are here today to love. That is going to undo selfishness. It is through loving others, thinking more highly of others than yourself. How can we do it? By His grace, and by His Spirit. But we have to seek for His grace.

I'm thankful that John and Kim and their children are here. Our Father is going to be adding to those who *no longer live for themselves*. And what happens when they make that covenant? It will be the same kind of covenant as in Jer 34:18-20, which is the example of how all covenants are to be. That is the kind of covenant our Father made with Abraham in Genesis 15. Our Father had to walk through the split animals, as if to say, "If I don't keep My covenant, may I be like these animals: may I be cursed, split in two." That applies to all covenants, including the marriage covenant. You are saying, "If I don't keep my marriage covenant, let me be cursed." As you walk through the split animals, you are making a vow to be faithful and true. That is what it means.

Our Father walked through those animals, saying, "I will give you the land — an enemy-free land — forever," meaning for an age. But that hasn't happened in the 4000 years since that day. That means He is waiting for a people to do as Abraham did (Gen 18:19). We know this; it has been steeped into us. So we've got to continually pass it on and never get tired of hearing it. If you do, then you're a camper or a quitter.

We have to understand His timing, how He is going to keep that covenant. We have to understand that it is left for us to overcome in order that our Father, who vowed when He walked through those split animals, would not have to be cursed like those split animals.

Every covenant we make is the same way. Even in baptism, we are saying, "If I don't keep my covenant, my vow to serve you, doing all I can, and never turn back, may

I be like those split animals — cursed.” If you make a true covenant like this, then you will receive the Holy Spirit and the grace to keep it. He is our only hope. There have been so many quitters. Why? Maybe they did not receive the Holy Spirit at their baptism.

For those who did make a covenant, when hands were laid upon them, the Holy Spirit came and dwelt within them and they were sealed with the Spirit. Otherwise, if we’re not sealed, then we’re no better than the people in the Old Covenant. The Spirit was upon them, but the Holy Spirit wasn’t sealed within them (Jn 14:17).

Shemiyah — Once we’re sealed with the Spirit, then we have *the love of God poured out within our hearts* (Rom 5:5). That’s the great weapon we have against selfishness, because we can always love. When you find yourself thinking more highly of yourself than someone else, you can repent and think the other way, and you can love. Love is our weapon — the great weapon against selfishness.

So then what do we do after baptism? We start out with overcoming that first enemy: *the reign of selfishness*. Then what? *The reign of Satan*. Then at last, *the reign of Death*. Those are our three enemies. So let’s lift our hands to our Father, and surrender our life to Him, and present our bodies as one *living sacrifice* (not a dead one). That’s really all that needs to be done.