



Dear Precious Friend,

*September, 2015*

## **The Yeshua Way**

What I love about Yeshua is that He had no problem with straight talk, no identity crisis when someone dealt with Him straight on, passionately, desperately, emotionally, outside of the religious box. He knew who

He was and didn't have to prove it. He had no problem with someone dealing with Him straight on as long as they were sincere and not a hypocrite with a hidden motive. In fact, the Lord always responded to those who dared to cross over lines of religiosity and norms in order to get what they needed or hoped for from Him. Luke 8:44-48; Mark 46-52. He was a servant leader which He modeled for His disciples again and again. He spoke of a humble equality between them, no titles or positions other than that of friends and brothers. Mathew 23:8-12. He said we were to be like Him in this. *(Please understand that I'm not advocating a revolt against leadership. I'm talking about a heart attitude, not that we don't need leaders.)* He portrayed Himself as one of them, which as the Son of Man having taken on flesh and blood, He surely was, and in being so, people could be completely open and real with Him. He was the very opposite of the Pharisaical leadership that was controlling the people without offering them life. Luke 11:46

One of the keys to becoming servant-leaders like Yeshua has to do with becoming integrated and whole on the inside and secure in our identity in Him. A hindrance to this wholeness is when we compartmentalize our lives and relationships in order to maintain control. Some people seem to feel more comfortable with a compartmentalized life. Perhaps they don't think another way would work. Personally, I have seen that relationships thrive naturally and freely in the Holy Spirit in a more uncontrolled and Christ-like way. It may take longer to see outward results, but the end in this case truly justifies the means, by operating in Christ-like patience and long suffering in the Holy Spirit.

Similarly, some people wear different hats for different aspects of their personality, especially but not exclusively men. One hat for husband, another for occupation, another for father, another for friend and so on. They play a different role with each hat and each relationship. This may look innocent on the outside, but it can be dangerous since it is a sign that the heart within has become compartmentalized and divided as well and rather than Christ-like integration in the personality, there is separation with each title and role one plays. *(Jesus never did this!)* This behavior has to do with a fear of letting go and allowing God to do a deeper healing in the heart. Since redemption restores us to God's wholeness within ourselves, with God and with our neighbor, we have the potential and

privilege to live it out in this present life and in "ministry." It is this wholeness that causes us once again to be one with Him and with one another and frees us from being slaves to our old shattered selves.

Just as toys in and of themselves never mature children, neither do the gifts we receive from God. Paul says that we must have love in order for the gifts to be truly edifying and for us to grow into Christ-likeness. I Cor. 13. It is the character of Yeshua that can only be formed through a crucified life style that brings about true wholeness and maturity. It is becoming more and more like Yeshua in His perfect humanity that is the goal, not power. The power in and of itself can delude us into thinking we are mature when in fact, we are not. I have seen that the outward expression of true leadership comes out of inward Christ-likeness and not the other way around and that being a leader doesn't ever guarantee true Christ-like expression.

Communing with one another as a friend or sister/brother, as Yeshua did, rather than as a "minister," would bring a very radical change in the body. What would happen if we dared to relate to our leaders in familial relationship rather than in a ministerial way? What would happen if leaders responded, not as a minister, but as a friend, father or brother?

I believe that Esther coming before the King is a good example of the integration I'm talking about. She came before the King outside of law. She could have died, but she was received not only because God's favor was upon her through fasting and prayer, but because the king knew her intimately as bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh. There was an intimate relationship that God knew He could use to open the way for Him to intervene for the sake of the nation. When Esther came before the king, if he had seen her merely as a woman who had defied the law, he would have put her to death, but he saw her as his wife, as part of himself, as a woman he loved. He responded in love and grace and not according to the law, as a husband and man and not simply as a king. This is the way God responds to us through the blood of Yeshua. He never compartmentalizes His role as God and King from His being our Father, Friend and Bridegroom. That is also the way He desires us to respond to one another.

When our desire for transformation into Christ-likeness far surpasses our desire for titles, gifts and power, then and only then can we come into Christ-like servant leadership and genuine unity.

We know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the in part will be done away with. Now we see in a mirror dimly but then face to face. Then we shall know even as we are known. *I Cor. 13:9-12*

If God is telling us that gifts, knowledge and prophecy are in part and not the whole, then the gifts in and of themselves will not bring us into perfection. Yeshua said, "I in them

and You in Me that they might be perfected in unity." John 17:23. The spiritual gifts are necessary, but the essence and goal is oneness with Him and with one another, becoming whole and integrated in the image of God.

**Good News from the Land:**

I am facilitating a small conference in Thessaloniki as a first step to uniting the Israeli and Greek believers. It is small step, but it feels huge in the Spirit since this is the first time we are doing anything like this and perhaps the first time someone has taken a more serious approach in building a bridge between Jews and Greeks in this region. Please pray for the meetings on October 7th, 9th and 11th. Please pray for strength, health and protection.

Eitan Shiskoff, who is a senior Israeli pastor and part of the leadership of Tikkun International, will be joining me. I will be sharing on Oct. 7th, and Eitan will be doing the meetings on Oct 9th and 11th. Our deepest desire is to build relationships. I believe the union between Jews and Greeks has potential to develop as in the book of Acts and bring revival to our region of Israel, Greece/ Cyprus.

Please continue to pray for a true miracle for dear Eddie Santoro who will begin extensive chemo-radiation therapy after Sukkot.

Thanks so much for your faithful partnership in Yeshua. May you be richly rewarded now and in eternity for His glory!

Your Friend in the Gospel,

*Greta*