

Finding Yourself

Confidence and reliance on moral truth are at the heart of finding yourself according to this world's perspective. If you don't have a solid foundation, an established sense of self-worth, you'll lack stability, listening to what others have to say all the time, becoming swayed by their insistence on what is wrong, right, and appropriate. Learning to believe in yourself, trusting your own feelings, serves as the basis for one's new sense of self. Remember, patience with yourself and confidence in your abilities should be maintained as you live your life's desires, for everything will come to fruition with time.

A primary step in "Finding Yourself" is letting go of the need to be loved by all. One must accept that some people will think poorly of you no matter what you do. It's important to focus on yourself, to forget about what everyone else thinks, because no one can please everyone. In this case "self" must remain one's goal. And while you might not want to disappoint the people close to you, their love for you should want you to be happy. They need to learn to get past the offense and love the sinner and just hate the sin. If one lives to solely fulfill other people's ideas of whom one should be, (such as our Creator) people will never come to know who you really are. These thoughts are fittingly summed up in the saying: "He who trims himself to suit others will soon whittle himself away." What a waste of life!

Unfortunately this type of instruction found in self-help books to enhance popularity often leads a person in an endless circle back to the immature state of narcissism where one's own end, "the self," ceases having concern for others. As a result one is never able to satisfy one's goal of fulfillment. Selfishness takes over leading one to withdraw from acts of being human.

Thus by stopping the process of solely seeking benefits for yourself and devoting one's efforts into what serves and benefits another, one will discover an improvement in humanness achieved through effort, the action of love. Yahshua described this process in terms of losing and finding life.

Mt 16: 24~27 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him **deny himself**, and take up his cross, and follow me. **For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.** For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man **according to his works.**

The man who perceives that finding life is the goal through the acquisition of meeting one's personal needs will discover a life lost; a useless gift of Yah's available grace squandered, misspent on self. Not because there is anything wrong with the things he desires to possess, but rather because the desire to possess them turns him away from what it meant to be human. To be human embodies the act of love, the outgoing concern for others, apart from self. When I make myself the center of my life, when my needs become the focus of my existence, I choose a path that leads to the destruction of my humanity. In that end, I discover that I have lost my own life, the essence of why I was called by Yah to choose life. I will still have the given breath of life, but not the Holy Spirit which assures eternal life.

The very heart and root of sin lies in exhibiting an independent spirit. When we erect the idol "self", and desire others to worship it along with ourselves, we create the great sin of worshiping a false god.

John 12:20~26 And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast: The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus. Philip cometh and telleth Andrew: and again Andrew and Philip tell Jesus. And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. **He that**

loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: **if** any man serve me, him will my Father honour.

“But what about my needs, what’s in it for me?” Thus this question states the problem: isn’t it all about me, myself and I losing the focus, the center stage? Our culture trains us to think in terms of personal benefits. It constantly parades covetousness in front of us, the desire for attractions we can consume. From the smallest to the greatest, we are taught to satisfy desire by consuming what is offered. The key to successful marketing is the ability to create desire refined to a fine art.

Another problem arises when we try to satisfy “the self” by applying these same tried-and-true marketing skills to relationships...the desire to have our needs fulfilled by others. In other words, we view relationships in terms of a potential asset to us. We treat relationships in the same way we treat any other possession; we expect relationships with others to provide benefits to us. If these relationships don’t provide what we need or want, then we consider them less valuable, less attractive and ultimately useless.

*But just like chasing rainbows, the passion of defeat is precisely linked to the passion of lust. And worse, we never seem to arrive at the point that finds it satisfied. The more we want self exaltation by others the less we find it as stated in the scriptures; “**He that loveth his life shall lose it.**” The reason we never get there is one of the great paradoxes of life. Why? Because our focus is wrong!!!*

If you seek exclusively your own ends, you will never find yourself. But if you stop seeking benefits for yourself and devote effort into what serves and benefits another, you will discover fulfilment in your own humanness as joy starts to wash over selfishness.

Yahshua tells us that if we choose to give up the quest of self-fulfilment and take up the challenge of living for others as one living for Him, we will find life that satisfies.

Lk 17:20~37 And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, **The kingdom of God cometh not with observation:** Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, **the kingdom of God is within you.** And he said unto the disciples, The days will come, when ye shall desire to see one of the days of the Son of man, and ye shall not see it. And they shall say to you, See here; or, see there: go not after them, nor follow them. For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day. But first must he suffer many things, and be rejected of this generation. And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. **Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.** In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back. Remember Lot's wife. **Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.** I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together.

Life goes on the same unaware of the coming consequences until the end, at which time it is too late to purchase oil for your lamp as the ten virgins in the parable experienced. Yet as that parable relates, it also

becomes too late to have our name written in His Book of Remembrances of Good Deeds made possible by His Spirit gifted in us.

Mt 25:31~46 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, **Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.** Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, **Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.** And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Of course, we can play the game of pretending we are living for others in order to declare this “new life”, but that is nothing more than hypocritical fraud. The only man who finds his life is the one who has truly given himself away. You can fool some of the people some of the time, but you can't fool Him that witnesses our actions from heaven, the King of Kings, our Judge.

Compare some obvious different characteristic of self love verses Yah's love in which the angels are recording to whom the gift of Yah's Holy Spirit is given. Thoughtlessness verses thoughtfulness, getting verses giving, and the act of being served verses serving others. Begrudgingly serving verses serving joyfully, the focus on me, myself and I verses the outgoing concern of others. Loneliness verses love, the observance of seeing only selfish, thoughtless people where ever one goes. The common denominator in that picture is that “self” is in each setting. The reason one sees selfish people all around, is the fact that one perceives that they should be serving them. Life is like a mirror, what we present is the reflection of what we receive.

*Most of us can hear and understand Yahshua's words, but do we practice them? Do we put them into action seen as truly evident to Yah and man by the fruits produced; the true sign of our faith? We need to question ourselves as one declares to be walking in truth: Am I truly committed to My Lord as His spouse or do I still expect something in return? Is my walk with Yah superficial, focused on what I can get out of the relationship? Or am I truly walking according to the calling afforded me? This relationship gives me the opportunity to live as a servant of the **Greatest Master**, who frees me from my transgressions and offers me eternal life with Him? This gift of life is only given to a few and should not be placed in the drawer with other acquired trinkets. Thus the question; who is the most important person in this relationship: me or my Master? Am I to serve Him or does He serve my needs?*

Any true master, employer or friend would enable his servant with all he needs to accomplish his task. But note; his needs are met to allow him success in serving, not for personal reward. Yah, through Yahshua has no desire for you and me to serve Him specifically, that is not His intent. There is nothing that you can do personally for our Creator that can be attested as worship. The way Yah has declared true worship is to live

*in His likeness with love for others. As stated: **Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.** Imitation is the greatest form of worship.*

We live in Babylon, the culture manifesting personal consumption. All of our lives we are taught to seek what rewards us. It is only a small step to see personal relationships in the same light. In fact, I would be surprised if we didn't see personal relationships in terms of consumer benefits.

This study is to remind us to act in opposition to this animal craving, to take steps toward being humane. You can decide to live for another, not because you feel like it, not because you expect reward, but simply because it is the right thing for humans to do...to be Christ like...the reason for this life!!!

*The best way to **"Find Yourself"** is to lose yourself in the service of others. All reflection of oneself, void of reaching out to others, can cause you to shut yourself off from humanity. Service to other people and to the community is the ultimate way to secure a purpose and a sense of your place in this corrupt world.*

When you get to see how hard life can be for those in greater need than yourself, it's often a wake-up call that puts your own worries, concerns, and issues into perspective. It helps you to see what you do have, and the opportunities you've been able to seize through Yah's gift of life. This valuable perspective can fuel an accurate positioning of self, because suddenly everything now can be viewed as having been placed in your life by God to produce a self realization of what matters most...faith, hope and charity.

John 13:34~35 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. **By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.**

*The lesson that Yahshua gives us is the gift of grace; unmerited pardon shown to us through mercy. We can do likewise by **"paying it forward"** to others...mercy, outgoing concern for others without strings attached.*

***If** it is important to you, you will find a way
If not, you will find an excuse*

Action of Belief Ministry
ActionofBelief@centurylink.net