

The Color Gray: “Slowly we turn, step by step, inch by inch”

*Things are not always black or white, isn't that how the saying goes? Satan slowly chips away at us as we relax our focus, our zeal to the calling. Truth is allowed to be subjected to feelings and situations. We lower our guard by not striving forward, never pushing ourselves to succeed but giving into feelings of complacency in our walk. We start being comfortable with life, saying; isn't that what it's all about anyway...**to enjoy self**? Sure you know the truth, you have nothing to worry about and you have plenty of time, for every thing still looks the same. Perchance that's just how Satan wants one to feel...content, relaxed, and unaware of our spiritual condition. God also wants us to enjoy and be happy...pleased with what He has given us...right? But, perchance we should be on guard against the evil that lives around us.*

*Slowly we lose our edge over sin by conforming to the draw of the world's lust. Instead of fighting our evil desires, we ignore our focus and everything starts looking the same and we are unable to separate what is of God from what is of the world. Life seems to drift along: No focus, no purpose. The distinction between good and evil starts to become... **“That gray area”**. My life is seen looking no different than those around me. Have they all become believers...or have I become like them, just another walking dead in-spirit being?*

*At this point, Satan has our attention, our interest...stimulating those carnal desires that lay within us. We're no longer applying God's principles – and can't see His will for us – **“why we were called.”** We are not in touch with our Creator's Spirit but instead are focused on our inner God - **self-satisfaction**. We are living large today at the expense of our inheritance tomorrow in the same mindset as did the prodigal son who spent it all while not considering the reward to come later. Mt 21:28~32 and Lk 15:11~32.*

Phil 3:12~21 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but **I press on**, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things **which are behind** and reaching **forward** to those things which are ahead, **I press toward the goal** for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Therefore let us, **as many as are mature**, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. Nevertheless, to the degree that we have **already attained**, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind. ¶ Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, **that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:** whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly (**self-satisfaction**), and whose glory is in their shame (**or to their shame**)--who set their mind on **earthly things**. For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

*Trials come to test us... to jar our memory ...to make us think: Am I doing something that I shouldn't be doing... is something wrong? We must learn to question the things that happen in our lives. For nothing happens to us by chance. Everything that happens to us **“has a reason.”** Sometimes we are unaware of what is really going on in our lives being too busy just getting through the day. But once we stop to see, to think...**Selah**, acknowledging our error, we are faced with a choice; choose life or death. God says to choose life while Satan says; **“You shall not surely die”** Gen 3:4 which is one of the first lies recorded for us!*

Dt 30:19 I call heaven and earth to **record** this day **against you**, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore **choose life**, that both thou **and thy seed may live:**

Note that our response to choose life, taking the right path over evil, not only affects self, but those of our seed, meaning our children and loved ones around us. It affects all with whom we come in contact. If one

*chooses life it becomes an over spreading blessing or if not, that choice becomes a contagious disease that brings about death to all. Also note that this event which is our decision to make this day is **recorded against you.** Each person becomes a witness to whom Yah has given warning. Even though one might not hear and or heed that warning, nevertheless it is recorded as being sent to you **“as a witness.”** How one reacts to it is up to each individual, but note; **“you have been warned.”***

1Cor 15:50~58 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be **steadfast, (be) immovable, (be) always abounding in the work** of the Lord, **knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.**

*The message is to be **steadfast**, to be **immovable**, and always to be **abounding in the work** of the Lord. It's telling us to **move forward**, not backward. We are told to stay the course and **push on**, making the good fight to the end, the goal, the victory of salvation, not by standing still or just holding on, **but by doing.***

*There is nothing noted here that speaks of knowledge as being the goal. Nor does it say that knowing truth equates to salvation. No!...Only our **doing** is rewarded, through our **labor, abounding in our works** to the Lord, being **steadfast** and **immovable** in our focus, **the action of our belief**...it's all in the **doing.***

1Thess 4:13~18 ¶ But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For **if we believe** that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. **Therefore, comfort one another with these words.**

*Did you hear that the reward for those that are in Christ, **is the victory gained over death!** Yet, if we fall away now, we are already dead. There is no reward to come for the walking dead that hears not, nor sees not. No, it's not that we don't hear or see, for then we would have a legitimate excuse. But we say that we do hear and do see, just like the high priests affirmed when answering Yahshua...**but we also fail to...do** which becomes presumptuous sin. That's why scripture stresses for those that have ears let them to hear and those with eyes let them to see, so the message rings true and **is a witness to you.***

In 8:31~45 ¶ Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.** And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, **because my word hath no place in you.** ¶ I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father. They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, **If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.** But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the **truth**, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham. Ye do the deeds of your father. Then

said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God. Jesus said unto them, **If God were your Father, ye would love me:** for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is **no truth in him**. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.

1Thess 5:1~11¶ But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a **thief in the night**. For when they say, "**Peace and safety!**" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you **as a thief**. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night, nor of darkness. **Therefore let us not sleep**, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but **to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ**, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. **Therefore comfort each other and edify one another**, just as you also are doing.

*From the beginning scripture states that Yahshua will come as a **thief in the night**, at a time when we are unaware. Satan likewise makes the same entry into our lives, picking the time when we are **unaware**. The former comes quickly upon the clouds, while the latter comes slowly, hidden in the fog. White is tainted by the color of black, as impurity carried in the air **turning it gray**. Only a beacon of light burning brightly will be able to see evil coming before we are smothered in Satan's smog.*

*There is not darkness enough in all the world to put out the light of one little candle
If it's burning brightly*

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