

WHERE IS THE POWER
IN THE
ASSEMBLY TODAY?

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WHERE IS THE POWER IN THE ASSEMBLY TODAY?

It was after listening to some very inspiring sermons by a very sincere and dedicated preacher who was earnestly searching for the “power” of the “early assembly of Acts” for his ministry and congregation, that I felt inspired to write this booklet. This preacher was well educated in a large fundamental college but had already found that the power of Yahweh was not in our education. Then after being filled with the Spirit, he found much more anointing on himself and his assembly, but he knew that the full power and witness of the Acts assemblies was not there. He had the courage and conviction to stand before his congregation and confess it, seek answers, and call for self-examination and more commitment.

Maybe I relate so much because I too was saved and tutored in a very fundamental assembly, where I was taught Youth Ministry and Evangelism by some of our most renowned teachers of today. Then I got caught up in and traveled through Full Gospel ministries, eventually graduating from Christ For The Nations Institute in Dallas.

Now I mean not to degrade any of these as they were mostly very sincere and dedicated people; but, I did find that many times the customs and traditions of men that are being taught today differ from what my Bible teaches me. I have had an insatiable thirst for my Bible and more of Yahweh ever since conversion more than 17 years ago at the age of 45.

In one of his sermons, this preacher illustrated very well the **DIFFERENCE** between Isaac, the “child of promise”, and Ishmael, the “child of the bond-woman”. Abraham had grown impatient waiting on the blessing Yahweh had promised him, through a son that he did not have yet. Abraham tried to help Yahweh keep His promise by having a child by his wife’s hand-maid, since his wife, Sarah, seemed to be too old and barren. Abraham named this child of the bond-woman Ishmael, and asked Yahweh to carry out His covenant and blessings through him. But Yahweh refused to honor what He had not ordained, and though Yahweh did give a blessing to Ishmael also, the promise of the covenant was not wrought through him. Eventually Ishmael and the bond-woman had to leave Abraham’s home. In the meantime, Yahweh in **HIS OWN TIME AND PLAN**, gave Abraham the son and heir He had promised him, by his wife Sarah, as promised, and he was named Isaac. Yahweh has carried out His covenant and plan through Isaac whose descendants are the children of Israel, Yahshua, and all “born-again” Believers!

This sermon showed how our religious system today is also running ahead of Yahweh, with their own plans and programs “to do Yahweh’s work”, instead of waiting on Yahweh, obeying, and believing Him to carry out His covenant and promises. Yahweh has made a covenant and many promises to us today also. Will we **BELIEVE, OBEY, TRUST AND WAIT ON HIS TIMING?**

Please get your Bible and read the references! The whole purpose of this booklet is for you to see what your Bible really says, instead of what our educators say it says!

I believe that the answer this preacher is looking for is found in “*restoration of the paths to dwell*” (Isaiah 58:12), because we have been “teaching for doctrine the commandments of men” for more than a thousand years now! (Mark 7:6-8) We have laid aside the commandments and promises of Yahweh and teach our own traditions, our own “Ishmael”. We see some blessing in it also, but not the full blessing of the “children of the promise!”

For many years I have felt driven to find why the assembly of today does not have the power of the assemblies in the Book of Acts. I can find only one answer: **REGARDLESS OF HOW SINCERE WE ARE, WE ARE NOT KEEPING HIS COMMANDMENTS AND ARE NOT LIVING AS PLEASING IN HIS SIGHT!** If we were, we would receive the answers to our prayers just like they did in Acts 4:29-31, “*Now, Yahweh, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy servant Yahshua. And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Kodesh Spirit, and they spoke the word of Yahweh with boldness.*” This is a promise of I John 3:22, “*And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.*” It is also a promise of John 15:7, “*!f you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.*”

All religions have great orators. But we must be **DEMONSTRATORS**, not just orators and debaters. I Corinthians 2:1-5, “*And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of Yahweh. For! determined not to know anything among you except Yahshua Messiah and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of Yahweh.*”

While in Tucson in the mid 70’s, I had access to many early assembly writings at the University of Arizona library. A Bible college professor, and I started a very exhaustive study of early assembly history. I hope you will hear me out and prayerfully consider what I feel Yahweh has shown me. As many seeking Believers have said today, “We need to fast and pray.” This study has come through fasting and prayer, the kind that we are told of in Isaiah 58 that will bring “*restoration of the paths to dwell in.*” This is the kind that will also restore the power. Notice verse 14, “*Then you shall delight yourself in Yahweh; and! will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, and feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of Yahweh has spoken.*”

In the mid 70’s there was a nation-wide movement among most of the assemblies based on 2 Chronicles 7:14, “*If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves,*

and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. Although there was much more unity and cooperation among the assemblies than usual, the land was not healed! The assemblies did humble themselves. The assemblies did pray. The assemblies did seek Yahweh's face. So we must assume that the reason the prayers were not answered was that they did not "*turn from their wicked ways*", or they would have received the promise. Then we must also assume that this wicked way must be something they all did in common, something they did not realize or admit, or they would have changed it--a **DECEPTION**.

I John 3:22 tells us that **IF** we keep His commandments and live pleasing in His sight, He will grant whatever we ask in prayer. So again we have to assume that the assemblies were not complying. Yahshua said in John 15:7 that **IF** we abide in Him, and **HIS WORD** abides in us, we can ask what we will, and it **WILL BE DONE**. So again, we must assume that somewhere the assemblies were not complying, or those 2 Chronicles 7:14 prayers would have been answered. Yahweh is not a liar and His word is very plain on that subject!

What commandments and life-styles then are the assemblies not keeping that the early assemblies did keep when they were still full of the power of Yahweh and receiving those promises. What commandments are not being kept by the "born again" people today, or what "Words" are not abiding in them that keeps them from qualifying for the answer to their prayers, as promised in I John 3:22 or John 15:7 and in many other places? How long are we going to follow the interpretations and traditions of our established educators of our established religious systems, and then pretend we are keeping the commandments of Yahweh? When are we going to admit to ourselves that we are not keeping the commandments of Yahweh, and/or that keeping them is not "legalism" or "self-righteous works"? It seems most of Christianity today teaches and believes that the commandments and the law were nailed to the tree. They do not really believe that under the new covenant it is written in the hearts and minds of the believer. The following verses clearly show that this gives us the **POWER TO OBEY BY FAITH!** "*Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their Almighty.*" (Ezekiel 11:19-20) "*For not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of Yahweh, but the doers of the law will be justified; for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things contained in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them.*" (Romans 2:13-15) "*But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel: After those days, says Yahweh, I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their Almighty, and they shall be My people.*" (Jeremiah 31:33) Hebrews 10:15-16 and 2 Corinthians 6:16 also speak of this.

The true signs of an apostle and the power that was evident in the early assemblies of

the Book of Acts **ARE NOT EVIDENT** in our assemblies today, and have not been, except for isolated cases, for hundreds of years.

Our educators in our seminaries, colleges and assemblies have not had the true signs of apostles or the power described by Paul for hundreds of years, yet they establish the doctrine of our entire religious system! They set up their customs and traditions, even though Yahweh does not confirm His Word with signs following. Even at Christ For The Nations Institute, where they bring in the very strongest of the apostles, prophets and teachers from all over the world to minister and teach, I never saw a wheelchair emptied in a year's time!

In the study of the early assembly writings and records that I spoke of earlier. I found that power started waning about the time John the Apostle passed on and Polycarp was martyred. They seemed to be the last ones standing in the way of the Roman Church to change the Passover Supper to Easter, and other compromises that were already creeping in to coincide "Kodesh Days" with pagan "holidays."

During the next two hundred years, there was a steady decline and compromise from the practices and customs of the early assembly of "promise" (the Isaac assembly) to coincide with the pagan sun and fertility worshipers' holidays and festivals. The persecution stopped when the assembly became "legal" in the 300's. From then on the assembly has become an Ishmael assembly (helping and improving Yahweh's plan.) During this time the power had declined steadily as more and more people adopted the Roman leadership. After the assemblies became legal (Ishmael), the power was mostly gone and has not returned except in isolated cases. Even during the "reformation", most of the Ishmael practices of the Romans carried over. Again at the turn of the century, Yahweh gave a restoration in the early Pentecostal movement. But as the people still carried forth the Ishmael traditions, the full restoration has never come to full maturity. It now has mostly faded away, and because they have itching ears, men are still heaping to themselves thousands of teachers (2 Timothy 4:3), still trying to promote Ishmael instead of waiting on Isaac and the promise.

Sabbath is Isaac. Sunday is Ishmael. Passover Supper is Isaac. Easter is Ishmael. We are supposed to be the children of promise *"And if you are Messiah's, than you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. "(Galatians 3:29) "For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is that circumcision which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly, and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from Yahweh. What advantage then has the Jew of what is the profit of circumcision? Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of Yahweh."* (Romans 2:28-3:2)

The decline of the power of the early assemblies closely coincided with the gradual adoption of these new practices and "theology" of the Roman Church. As an example, the

weaker believers, about half of the early Believers, had switched to “Sun”-day by A.D. 200, in order to escape persecution. Among the stronger Believers, however, people were still being raised from the dead, and healings and miracles were still taking place. These stronger Believers were slower to compromise. Believers were easily identified during the persecution period of the early assembly because they observed the Sabbath and came to the Synagogue on the Sabbath, just as Paul had.

In order to change their “day of rest” to the pagan “Sun-day” to be less conspicuous, the “theologians” justified the change by declaring that a “Great Light” had come into the world and so should be worshiped on the “Day of the Great Light”. (The Sun)

I could go into much greater detail, but by the mid-300’s Christianity’s compromise had become “legal”, and Sunday had become the “legal” day of rest and worship. But the power had also stopped in the “official” church. I believe an open-minded study of the Bible will show that the Sabbath is of much more importance than we have been led to believe by the “father of lies” through the Roman Church! Remember! We have been taught theology by those that did not have that “power” or the “signs of an apostle” for hundreds of years! Even the King James Bible was translated after more than 1,000 years of Roman traditions.

Please, in prayer, with an open mind, let us examine the Sabbath by the Bible, remembering that *"all Scripture is given by the inspiration of Yahweh, and is profitable for doctrine, reproof correction and instruction in righteousness, that the man of Yahweh may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."* (2 Timothy 3:16,17)

The seventh day was set apart at creation, before there was “Jew” or “law”. Genesis 2:3, *"Then Yahweh blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which Yahweh had created and made."* Only it and marriage were ordained at this time. This was before the “fall of man”. It has been preserved until this time. It is forever, Exodus 31:17, *"It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days Yahweh made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed."* Yahshua said it would still be in effect at the time of His return, Matthew 24:20, *"And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath."* It will be in effect in the new earth, Isaiah 66:23, *"And it shall come to pass that from one New Moon to another and from one Sabbath to another, all flesh shall come to worship before Me, says Yahshua."*

In the Ten Commandments we are told to “remember” it and “keep” it *kodesh*, which tells us it already existed (Exodus 20:8). Was it just to signify rest? No, the Bible shows that it was so we would not **FORGET** the Creator or the creation. (No evolution) This is what we have been missing. The Sabbath is for remembering and honoring the Creator, who is **ALSO** our Saviour. John 1:3-10, *"All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There was a man*

sent from Yahweh, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through Him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man who comes into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.” The fourth command tells us **TO REMEMBER, HOW** to remember, and **WHY** to remember (verse 11): *‘Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of Yahweh your Almighty. in it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your manservant, nor your maidservant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days Yahweh made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them and rested the seventh day. Therefore Yahweh blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.’* (Exodus 20:8-11)

This commandment is not a curse, it is a blessing! Under the curse, man was to earn his keep by the “*sweat of his brow*” (Genesis 3:16-19), and we know that Yahweh does not retract gifts.

The Ten Commandments did not create the Sabbath. That was done at creation, and then established in the wilderness **BEFORE** Mt. Sinai. Observing and honoring the Sabbath was also a **TEST** to see if we would obey Yahweh at all. Exodus 16:4, *“Then Yahweh said to Moses, behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not.”* I believe that it is still a test for us today, as verse 6 also shows the Sabbath is to remember our deliverance from Egypt (sin-slavery). *“Then Moses and Aaron said to all the children of Israel, At evening you shall know that Yahweh has brought you out of the land of Egypt.”*

Is it not true that most have so many “things” they would rather do than spend a day with “The Word” (John 1:1), resting and refreshing both body and spirit and remembering our Creator, Deliverer, and Saviour? We have developed all kinds of Ishmael practices and theology and philosophy (Colossians 2:8), so that we “don’t have to” spend a day at home with Yahweh. How can anyone remember their creation and deliverance, and not praise their Creator and Saviour? How can anyone **NOT WANT TO SPEND A DAY WITH SOMEONE THEY LOVE?** Look at I John 5:3, *“For this is the love of Yahweh, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.”*

Did Yahshua **COMMAND** us to teach something that He has “done away with”? Matthew 5:19, *“Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”* Is it not true that we have tried to make the **GIFT OF THE SABBATH** as “only for the Jew”, or a “curse of the law”, or a “ceremony”, because we really get bored trying to spend a day in the Bible fellowshiping with Yahshua? What about spending a day with TV or sports? Or some other “loved one”? Why did Yahshua say the Sabbath was “made for man” (Mark 2:27)? Is not the observance of it for both our physical and spiritual well-being, to remember, be

thankful and rest?

Abe Lincoln once said, “If a sheep’s tail was called a leg, then how many legs would the sheep have? Five? No, four! Calling a tail a leg does not make it one.” In spite of how much we **CALL** Sunday “Yahweh’s Day”, the Bible never does. Over and over it tells us that the Sabbath is Yahweh’s Day and holy unto Him (see Isaiah 58:13).

Modern theologians try to “wrest” (2 Peter 3:16) Sunday and Easter in. By no means do I want to detract from the Resurrection, but the Passover Supper, “communion”, is to remember the **DEATH**, the shed **BLOOD** and **BROKEN BODY** that **PAID** the **CURSE** of the law for the believer. I Corinthians 11:26, “*For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim Yahshua’s death till He comes.*” Also verse 29 tells us to “*discern Yahshua’s body.*” Today we have our resurrection before our death! Passover is “promise”, Easter is “Ishmael”, in order to coincide with a pagan festival!

Isaiah 58 shows exactly **HOW** we are to bring about restoration. And notice again, the power and blessing we are praying for is “promised” in Isaiah 58:12-14 and Galatians 3:29. Isaiah 58:12-14 (NAS), “*And those from among you will rebuild the ancient ruins; you will raise up the age-old foundations; and you will be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of the streets in which to dwell. if because of the Sabbath, you turn your foot from doing your own pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of Yahweh honorable, and shall honor it, desisting from your own ways, from seeking your own pleasure, and speaking your own word, then you will take delight in Yahweh, and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth; and I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father, for the mouth of Yahweh has spoken.*”

Again, Galatians 3:29 shows us that we are the “children of promise”. “*And if you are Messiah’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.*” Isaiah 56 makes it very clear that anyone who “joins himself to Yahweh” (not joins himself to the Jews) is an heir to the promise! “*Thus says Yahweh, Keep justice, and do righteousness, for My salvation is about to come, and My righteousness to be revealed. Blessed is the man who does this, and the son of man who lays hold on it; who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, and keeps his hand from doing any evil. Do not let the son of the foreigner who has joined himself to Yahweh speak, saying Yahweh has utterly separated me from His people; nor let the eunuch say, Here I am, a dry tree. For thus says Yahweh: To the eunuchs who keep My Sabbaths, and choose what pleases Me, and hold fast My covenant, even to them I will give in My house and within My walls a place and a name better than that of sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off Also the sons of the foreigner who join themselves to Yahweh, to serve Him, and to love the name of Yahweh, to be His servants--EVERYONE who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, and holds fast My covenant--even them I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; for My house shall be called a hours of prayer **FOR ALL NATIONS**. Yahweh Almighty, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, says, Yet I will gather to him others besides those who are gathered to him.” (Isaiah 56:1-8) Read also verses 9-12 to see*

what He says about the watchmen!

Look at Romans 2:28-29. *“For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is that circumcision which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly, and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from Yahweh.”* **ONLY THE “REPENTED AND REBORN” ARE “JEWS” AND “CHILDREN OF PROMISE!”**

Aren't we of today just like the Pharisees? We can only see what we “have to give up” or “have to do” on the Sabbath. We can not see that the day should be a joy, and we will be blessed. Instead of waiting on Yahweh for Isaac, we are going to the bond woman for Ishmael! And now we are asking Yahweh to give the promise and blessing to our Ishmael!

Under the Book of the law, the breaking of the Sabbath was punishable by death, so it must have been of as great importance as murder or adultery, etc. Is the assembly dying today because of the profaning of the fourth commandment, and the consequences that have come of it? What or who is most important in our weekends today? Is not **“OUR OWN PLEASURE”** first today? Sports, TV, shopping, etc.? Have not even our assembly services become an entertainment rather than a day of rest, spiritual and physical refreshing, and worship?

It is easy to see that even in the Book of Acts, the Sabbath was the day of worship and study for the masses, both Jew and Gentile, even though the word “day” is added to the “first of the week”. (The disciples “broke bread” every day!)

In the times of the early assemblies, the “first of the week” started at SUNDOWN. Even Acts 20:7 shows the disciples coming together **AFTER** the Sabbath, on what is now Saturday night! Notice verse 8 says “many lights”, it was dark. I think it clearly shows that Paul started preaching in the evening, until midnight. Then after the incident of the young man falling from the window, they talked the rest of the night (verse 11), and on “Sunday” morning Paul departed and walked many miles to Assos. (Hardly a day of “rest and worship”.) It had been an all night service, but not an all day and all night one.

The Book of Acts shows that Paul preached every Sabbath, sometimes for more than a year in the same place, to both Jews and Gentiles. Early writings show that the Gentiles were actually some of the **LAST** to accept the change from Sabbath to Sunday.

If we claim that entering our Sabbath rest upon receiving salvation replaces the Sabbath rest, then what about our “sons and daughters, guests, and animals?” (Deuteronomy 5:14) Do they receive “rest” also? I believe the rest that comes with salvation should enhance the Sabbath, not void it! There are **NO PROMISES FOR SUNDAY OBSERVANCE** anywhere in the Bible! The King James translators seem to

have been effected by the Catholic traditions of over 1,000 years. They added the word “day” in many places, even “Easter” for “Passover” in Acts 12:4, and other marginal interpretations to support Roman Catholic doctrine of the times. But the truth still shines through by a careful study of Greek terms. As an example, Hebrews 4:9 should read *“there remains a keeping of the Sabbath.”* In I Corinthians 11:2, what “ordinances” had Paul delivered to the Spirit-filled Corinthians? The word is “paradosis”, Jewish traditional law!

We seem to not really grasp Pentecost, we only concentrate on “tongues”, and fail to see the transfer of the law from tables of stone to the tables of the heart, from the “letter” to “by the Spirit.” Look at Paul, a Pharisee keeping the law by the letter, changed to an apostle keeping the law “by the Spirit”, in love! Romans 3:3 1, *“Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.”* Read Romans 6:10-23. Also Romans 7:25, *“So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of Yahweh, but with the flesh the law of sin.”*

Look at tithing by the letter in Matthew 23:23, *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.”* Then look at tithing by the Spirit, by believers after Pentecost in Acts 2:44-45, *“Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.”* Also in Acts 4:32-35, *“Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. And with **GREAT POWER** the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Master Yahshua. And great grace was upon them all. Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles’ feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.”* Also Acts 1:8, *“You shall receive power after the Holy Spirit is come upon you.”* They didn’t have to go to college to learn how and why!

I know this seems to be making a lot over what some may think to be an insignificant matter, but if we don’t love Yahshua enough to **WANT** to spend a day with Him, then I doubt if we really love Him. We just want Him to “save us”. The Sabbath could still be a test! Will Yahweh give us His power to play by our own rules or game-plan? Under the law we keep the commandments out of fear, but under grace we keep them freely in love.

In summary, this study reveals what we should have seen in the first four chapters of Acts. That is, the **LOVE OF YAHWEH** that was **EVIDENT AFTER REPENTANCE** in Acts 2:38-47 is **NOT** evident in the assembly today. Is that because **COMPLETE** repentance is not really there? Also, the **LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER** that came with **CONVERSION**, as in Acts 4:33-37, is **NOT** evident today, and has not been for hundreds of years. I John 3:14 says it should be: *“We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.”*

The **LOVE OF YAHWEH** that makes the Sabbath an opportunity, a “delight” to rest and fellowship with The Word, is not there. Just as the other commandments, it is judged by what we “can’t do,” or “have to do”. Or as “religious works”, I John 5:3 says this should not be: *“For this is the love of Yahweh, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.”*

From the cradle up, our children are taught competitiveness, self-exaltation and pride, to be #1, through sports, T.V., etc. Even those claiming to be Christian who are taught and supported by the assemblies have this attitude rather than the ministering and serving heart that Yahshua said **MUST COME WITH CONVERSION!** Matthew 18:3, *“Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.”* Matthew 20:26-28, *“Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave--just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”* Instead we seem to teach: We “can keep” 90% but be “have to” give up 10% instead of the “love your brother as yourself” attitude displayed in Acts 2 and 4. *“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become as sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I do nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.”* (I Corinthians 13:1-3)

How many “foot-washers” do we see today? John 13:14, *“If I then, your Master and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.”* What does it mean to wash one another’s feet? *“...if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saint’s feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work.”* (I Timothy 5:10) Washing one another’s feet is humbling ourselves, servicing one another, loving one another more than ourselves; in other words, walking as Yahshua walked. *“But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of Yahweh is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.”* (I John 2:5,6)

Do we believe Luke 14:26 and 33? *“If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple... So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.”* Instead we concentrate on how much we still “get back” if we tithe, and how we will “prosper” if we “accept” Yahshua! We have become the “Laodicean Church”. *“I am saved, no harm can come to me. I have authority! I am a winner! I am safe. I am Spirit-filled. I have power. I have got it all together. I’m a child of the King and rich and...”* *“And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, these things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of Yahweh: I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither*

cold nor hot. I will spew you out of My mouth. Because you say, I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing--and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked--I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.” (Revelation 3:14-19) “Cry aloud, spare not; Lift up your voice like a trumpet; tell my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins. Yet they seek Me daily, and delight to know My ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and did not forsake the ordinance of their Almighty. They ask for Me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in approaching Yahweh. Why have we fasted, they say, and You have not seen? Why have we afflicted our souls, and You take no notice?” (Isaiah 58:1-3)

Matthew 16:24, *‘Then Yahshua said to His disciples, If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross, and follow Me.’* Luke 14:27, *“And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.”* We cannot be His disciple if we seek to save this life, and we must give it up and take up our cross **DAILY**. How many really crucify **SELF** today? How many really **do** this even one day a week, yet alone **DAILY**? How many are ever really taught this? *“Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”* (Matthew 5:19)

The good news that is taught (sold) today is: “Accept Yahshua in your heart, and you will not have to burn in Hell, you will go to Heaven (even though He is not your Master), you will not have to go through the tribulation, and you will be free from the law.” So **WHAT** do we repent **FROM**? What do we **TURN** to? I John 3:4, *“Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.”*

Why don’t we love Yahweh’s laws as David did? Is it not the same Kodesh Spirit? Is smiling, hugging, handshaking, raising our hands, shouting and praising, the love that fulfills the “royal law” (James 2:8,9)? We seem to have forgotten that the first and greatest commandment is not “love one another as we see fit.” It is “keep my commandments” which tell us **HOW** to truly love Yahweh and one another properly! Not **OUR** way, but **HIS WAY**! Not with an Ishmael, but with an Isaac! Are we sure we want to be restored to the garden of Eden level? The seventh day was blessed and sanctified there!

Strong’s translation of GRACE: “The Divine influence on the heart and its reflection in the life.”

Acts 1:8, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

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