



BULLDOZER FAITH
LIVING LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

*"And whoever does not take up his execution stake and follow me is not worthy of me,"
Matthew 10:38*



CROSSING POINT GLOBAL COMMUNITY

JULY 2021

WHATEVER IT TAKES...

I find myself saying these words, "Whatever it takes," a lot the last few months as I have been seeking the Father's guidance for the steps, He wants us to take. These words have lived in my heart from eleven when I first answered the call to commit to following Yeshua and truly lay down my life. When Hayley said yes to being my wife, she also knew she was saying yes to Yeshua and a life of living by faith and those words, "whatever it takes" were key as we began our life together as sojourners of the gospel.

We have traveled to many nations in obedience to the call, and it has been a blessing with rewarding challenges and sacrifices to live a life of purpose for our King. Witnessing the fruit of hope and salvation planted into the hearts of many makes the cost of following Yeshua worth it all!

I wanted to share a snapshot of what it truly means for us as a family to give our all to Yeshua and to do whatever it takes to get to the next step of where He is calling us to be.

I have shared with you already the countless battles and attacks that we have had to engage in since being in Israel. The cost and strain on resources for us personally and as a ministry has been substantial. Still, the Father has been faithful and, as always, provided a way through for us. It would have been easier for us to leave it all behind and move elsewhere to another country and not face the spiritual opposition that continually comes against us here in the land of Israel. But Yehovah didn't call us to run away when things become tough. The example Yeshua showed us was to pick up our execution stake and follow Him, so we do, hallelujah.

When we say we live by faith, I mean that in a very literal sense. We could not live this way if we didn't truly trust in the Lord, Yeshua, to always be there for us. We haven't built our life on the worlds' foundations but remain secure in Yehovah to provide the means for us and to guide us to live the life he has called us to.

In preparation for the move, we are currently in, we have seen the Father removing so many things from our life and test the steps ahead as we let go and let Yahovah. It is not always easy to let go of possessions we use and value as a part of our mission toolbox, but those words, "whatever it takes" builds the resolve in our hearts to always put Him first - NO MATTER WHAT!

During this move, we have had to sell our vehicles, instruments, and furniture that had become a blessing to own. But what is the value of all these things that are not eternal? "If we cling to our life, we will lose it; but if we give our life for Him, we will find it." (Matthew 10:29)

I know for my family and me, we have found our life in Him, and we will continue to serve the Lord and do whatever it takes with joy and praises in our hearts. With all we have we choose to surrender to walk in the will and purposes as Elohim leads, we know He will provide.

Yeshua never said it would be easy, but with great joy we know He promised us it would all be worth it!!

Many Blessings,

Kenny

MANY ARE CALLED BUT FEW ARE CHOSEN

What does it mean to be a true disciple and follower of Yeshua HaMachiach in this day and age? To answer that question, I went back to the original twelve disciples that Yeshua Himself chose, each handpicked for a specific purpose. They were not only disciples but also chosen to be apostles.

"One of those days Yeshua went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to Elohim. When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles: Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor." (Luke 6:12-16)

Definition of a *Disciple* is a follower or pupil of a teacher, leader, or philosopher.

Definition of an *Apostle* is a vigorous and pioneering supporter of a particular policy, idea, or cause.

It's easy to see the difference; Yeshua needed people who were tough and able to be resilient in the face of persecution, a commitment that was sincere and unwavering, and most of all, a willing heart to leave their old life behind and to follow Him. It wasn't just about listening and learning all that He taught, as a disciple would. Still, Yeshua knew these men would have to take what they knew and share it to a hostile world to establish the coming Kingdom here on earth.

Most of the men he chose were fishermen from Galilee, hardworking men that knew the importance of a great catch and that it took skill and patience to bring in the haul. He promised them He was going to make them, 'fishers of men'.

Josephus described the Galileans this way, "They were ever fond of innovation and by nature disposed to change and delighted in sedition. They were ever ready to follow the leader and to begin an insurrection. They were quick in temper and given to quarreling. They were very chivalrous men." Other texts described them as being "more anxious for honor than for gain, quick-tempered, impulsive, emotional, easily aroused by an appeal to adventure, loyal to the end."

So I can see a significant portion of the group were men of great zeal and an exciting bunch to be around, men that Yeshua knew were a bit rough around the edges. Still, He knew the potential that lay in each one of them to fulfill their calling.

The secret of an effective team is to throw in challenges that encourage everyone to grow and learn. Yeshua did not want them to rely on what they knew, but He wanted them to always put their faith in Him and what He was asking them to do.

Enter Matthew, the Tax Collector, a person considered to be right up there or down there with the scum of society, and He was joining the crew. If that didn't make them all sit and scratch their heads, wondering if they should reconsider their choices, nothing would. And guess what, they all stayed!!

So it was a motley crew that came together. The apostles were just as human as we are today with all our quirks and insecurities, pride, selfishness, immature ways, all waiting to be transformed into the men Yeshua needed them to be.

Even Judas Iscariot fulfilled the role required to bring forth the steps of the coming Saviour of the world. Yeshua knew that he was the enemy in the camp and that his heart would never change from the path that it was on. Even in this person, we can learn that there will be those around us from the enemy. Still, we have nothing to fear because Yeshua has already promised that he will not lose, not one that is His.

At times, I read the stories of all those people that have gone before us, the ones in the pages of the Bible and all the ones since then; missionaries, people who have genuinely laid down their lives, they dream for themselves to follow a Saviour, a God that we cannot see but believe with all our heart, mind, body and soul that He exists for us and that He is worth it. I can't fathom how to be anything like these courageous men and women, and then He reminded me, "You didn't choose me. I chose you. (John 14:16), and it clicked! Yehovah knows the beginning from the end; He already knows what you and I can do because He created us for such a time as this. He chose us to be in the world at just this time. It's no mistake that we are all here right now, and we have a spiritual battle in front of us.

He chose every one of us just like He chose the twelve apostles back in their day, simple folk going about their day just trying to make a living, having no idea that their job was about to change. They were about to be conscripted into Yehovah's army.

Well, we are now that army of Yehovah, and now we have a job to do!

A Call to Persevere from our friends and brothers, the Apostles

"But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah foretold. They said to you, "In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires." These are the people who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.

But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in Elohim's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah to bring you to eternal life.

Be merciful to those who doubt; save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Yeshua the Messiah our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen. (Jude 1:17-25)

Esther

THE 12 DISCIPLES CHOSEN BY YESHUA

1.PETER, also called Simon, Simon Peter, and Cephas by Yeshua - meaning a 'Rock.'

Family/Friends - Married and his wife was known to travel with him on missions, close to John, son of Jonas, one of the three disciples who were closest to Yeshua and got to witness miracles and moments the other apostles didn't, including when Yeshua raised a girl, Jairus's daughter, from the dead (Mark 5:35-43), The Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-13), and when Yeshua was in agony in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46)

Lived - Bethsaida, a town near the Sea of Galilee

Profession When Called - Fisherman

Character - Peter has been described as impetuous, always speaking his mind, and acting on impulse. But it was these very traits that saw him shine as a leader and spokesman for the other disciples. He was not afraid to ask the difficult questions, the ones the most likely they were all thinking, but no one wanted to speak out. He may have had many faults, including denying knowing the Messiah on multiple occasions. Still, he made up for that with a heart full of love and the courage to admit he was wrong and to make amends.

Known For - Walking on water (Matthew 14:28-33), disowning Yeshua to avoid persecution (Luke 22:54-62), addressing the crowd at Shavuot (Acts 2:14-41), envisioning an assembly that included Jews and the nations (Acts 10:9-48), being a pillar of the assemblies. (Galatians 2:9)

Ministry - A prominent leader of the early assemblies after Yeshua was resurrected, evangelistic work amongst the Jews as far as Babylon. plays a major role in each of the four gospels and has his account of Yeshua's ministry in Peter 1 and 2.

Death - Martyred, according to tradition, Peter was crucified by Emperor Nero around 64 AD; it has been said that Peter asked to be crucified upside down because he didn't believe he was worthy of dying the same death as Yeshua.

2.ANDREW

Family/Friends - Brother of Simon Peter, son of Jonas

Lived - Bethsaida, a town near the Sea of Galilee

Profession When Called - Fisherman

Character - A passionate and bold teacher of the gospel and was quite content to be in the shadow of his loud and boisterous brother, Peter.

Known For - Was a disciple of John the Immerser and the first disciple Yeshua called (John 1:35-40), bought his brother, Peter to Yeshua and recognized Yeshua as The Messiah (John 1:41-42), in the feeding of the 5,000; Andrew found the boy with the five loaves and two fish (John 6:1-15), Philip refers the Greek men to Andrew to ask if they could see Yeshua (John 12: 20-22), Peter, James, John, and Andrew share a private moment with Yeshua asking about the destruction of the temple (Mark 13:3-4), it appears that Andrew held a position of leadership among the disciples.

Ministry - Preached in Scythia, Greece, and Asia Minor.

Death - Martyred, tradition claims Andrew was crucified in the Greek city of Patras around 60 AD. Like Peter, he didn't consider himself worthy of dying the same way as Yeshua. Instead, he was bound to an X-shaped crucifixion stake and hung there for three days, preaching the entire time. He was tied instead of nailed to prolong his suffering.

3.JAMES, also known as James the Greater, nicknamed 'Sons of Thunder' along with his brother, John by Yeshua

Family/Friends - Son of Zebedee, older brother John, James, and John were inseparable. James was one of the three disciples closest to Jesus and witnessed miracles and moments the other apostles didn't.

Lived - Bethsaida, a town near the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum in Galilee, and also Jerusalem

Profession When Called - Fisherman

Character - James quietly displayed the fruits of the Holy Spirit with extraordinary faith. He was a man of courage and forgiveness, a man without jealousy, living in the shadow of his brother, John. Both James and John were known for being men of intense passion and enthusiasm.

Known For - Asking Yeshua if he and John should call down fire from heaven to destroy a village which failed to show them hospitality (Luke 9:54), Asking Yeshua if he and John can sit on either side of Yeshua's throne in heaven, and unwittingly promising to follow Yeshua into martyrdom (Mark 10:35-40).

Ministry - Preached in Jerusalem and Judea.

Death - Martyred, James was the first disciple to be martyred and the only disciple to have their martyrdom recorded in Scripture (Acts 12:1-3). Herod had him killed by the sword and was likely beheaded. His unnamed accuser was moved by his courage and repented and converted on the spot and requested to be executed alongside James.

THE 12 DISCIPLES CHOSEN BY YESHUA

4. JOHN, nicknamed "Sons of Thunder" along with his brother, James by Yeshua

Family/Friends - Son of Zebedee, brother of James, and close to Peter. He came from a more well-to-do family than the rest of the Apostles since his father had hired servants in his fishing business. John was one of the three disciples closest to Yeshua and witnessed miracles and moments the other apostles didn't.

Lived - Bethsaida and Capernaum in Galilee and also Jerusalem

Profession When Called - Fisherman

Character - A very ambitious man with an explosive temper and an intolerant heart that mellowed out over time. At the end of his life, all that was important to him was the Lord's command to love.

Known For - Asking Yeshua if he and James should call down fire from heaven to destroy a village which failed to show them hospitality (Luke 9:54), asking Yeshua if he and James can sit on either side of Yeshua's throne in heaven, and unwittingly promising to follow Yeshua into martyrdom (Mark 10:35-40), Taking care of Yeshua's mother, Mary (John 19:26-27), beating Peter in a race to Yeshua's empty tomb (John 20:2-9), being a "pillar" of the early Ecclesia (Galatians 2:9), the disciple Yeshua loved and often sat next to Him.

Ministry - John wrote a large portion of the New Testament Ministry - Book of John and John 1, 2, 3, and Revelations. He wrote more about love than any other New Testament author. No doubt, this resulted from his close relationship with Yeshua and how much the Messiah loved him.

He preached in Ephesus, was exiled to the Isle of Patmos, where he wrote the Book of Revelations, and was later freed to return to Ephesus and preached among the churches of Asia Minor.

Death - According to tradition, John died of old age after 98AD, a rare occurrence among the apostles.

Interestingly, Peter asked Yeshua what would happen to John, and Yeshua said, "It's none of your business" in a way that implied there might be something different planned for him: (John 21:20-23)

5. PHILLIP

Family/Friends - close to Nathaniel and most likely studied the Scriptures together

Lived - Bethsaida, a town near the Sea of Galilee

Profession When Called - Most likely a fisherman

Character - Phillip knew how to deal with Nathanael's skepticism about Yeshua and was naturally well equipped to be a missionary. He had a simple faith that served him well. He had a warm heart and a pessimistic mind and desired to do for others but often couldn't see how they could be done.

Known For - Bringing Nathanael/Bartholomew to Yeshua (John 1:45-46), one of the first to whom Yeshua addressed the words, "Follow Me." John appears to consider him one of the Twelve (John 21:2), Yeshua tests Philip by asking him where they should buy bread to feed the crowd of 5,000 people (John 6:5-7), Philip asks Yeshua to show them God the Father, and Yeshua responds by saying "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father (John 14:6-10).

Ministry - A heart for evangelism, thriving in Samaria, led the Ethiopian eunuch to Messiah (Acts 8:26), stayed with Paul in Caesarea (Acts 21:8), missionary to Greece, Syria, and Phrygia.

Death - Martyred, according to tradition, was whipped and thrown into prison. He was crucified upside down at Hierapolis, Phrygia, with Nathanael around 80AD. Philip preached to the crowd while hanging on the execution stake. When they wanted to release the two disciples, Philip told them to free Nathanael and leave him hanging there. He also requested his body be wrapped in papyrus, not in linen as Yeshua was.

6. NATHANIEL, also known as Bartholomew

Family/Friends - very close to Phillip, He was from a royal family as his father was the king of Geshur and whose daughter was the wife of David, mother of Absalom. He was the only one of the 12 disciples who came from royal blood or noble birth.

Lived - Cana in Galilee

Profession When Called - Not recorded

Character - expressed some local prejudice about Nazareth, Yeshua recognized how sincerely his love for God was from the beginning when He said, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" (John 1:47)

Known For - When Phillip first told him about Yeshua, he was very skeptical, "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" (John 1:46), but then changes his mind, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel" (John 1:49), he was a great searcher of the Scripture and a scholar in the law and the prophets.

Ministry - One of the Church's most adventurous missionaries, preached in India, translated the Book of Matthew for believers, preached with Phillip in Phrygia and Hierapolis and Armenia.

Death - Martyred, tradition suggests he was crucified upside down beside his close friend, Phillip, in 80AD. Still, other accounts indicate he may have been taken before he died to be skinned alive (flayed) and beheaded.

THE 12 DISCIPLES CHOSEN BY YESHUA

7.MATTHEW, also known as Levi

Family/Friends - Son of Alphaeus

Lived - Capernaum

Profession When Called - Tax Collector. Of all the nations in the world, the Jews were the most vigorous haters of tax collectors. To the believing Jewish people, God was the only one to whom it was right to pay tribute in taxes. Tax collectors made their money by saying people owed Caesar more than they did and then skimming the extra off the top—and there was nothing anyone could do about it. As a result, tax collectors were right up there with prostitutes for the go-to example of the worst sinners. When asked why he was eating with the worst of the worst, Yeshua said to them, "It is not those who are healthy that need a physician, but those who are sick; I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners." (Matthew 9:10-13)

Yeshua showed that no one—not even those considered irredeemable—would be excluded from God's table.

Character - Not recorded

Known For - His calling is recorded by Matthew, Mark and Luke, (Matthew 9:9, Mark 2:14, Luke 5:27-28); Matthew invites Yeshua to eat at his house with other tax collectors, sinners, and other disciples (Matthew 9:10-13)

Ministry - The first man to present the teaching of Yeshua in the Hebrew language, wrote the Gospel of Matthew. preached the gospel to Ethiopia and Egypt.

Death, martyred, was stabbed in the back by an assassin sent by King Hertacus in Ethiopia after he criticized the king's morals.

8.THOMAS, also called Didymus, is better known as 'Doubting Thomas.'

Family/Friends - Not recorded

Lived - Galilee

Profession When Called - Not recorded

Character - An outspoken skeptic to the point of being known as a pessimist, courageous, and devoted to Yeshua, a quality not often attributed to Thomas.

Known For - Famously doubted the resurrection of Yeshua and told the other disciples, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe" (John 20:25), Thomas's declaration, "My Lord and My God!" (John 20:28), Thomas is the story of Lazarus, "Lazarus had died, and the disciples feared for the life of Yeshua and themselves if they were to go back to Bethany. Thomas speaks up. "Let us also go, that we may die with Him." (John 11:16). His devotion to Yeshua, "And you know the way where I am going. Thomas said to Him, Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?" (John 14:4-5).

Ministry - Tradition strongly suggests that Thomas started the ecclesia in India, worked in Parthia, Persia, and India. He was also commissioned to build a palace for the king of India.

Death - Martyred, according to tradition he was preaching in India when a group of angry locals pierced him with a lance in 72AD.

9.JAMES, the Less

Family/Friends - Son of Alphaeus and Mary, brother to Jude the Apostle and Joseph

Lived - Galilee

Profession When Called - Not recorded

Character - A man of a strong character and was an exemplary and fiery man

Known For - Except for a few details about his family, there is nothing more mentioned about him in Scripture. Maybe therefore he is referred to as James the Less in Mark 15:40.

What is important to remember is although James was somewhat in the background, he was chosen by Yeshua to be one of the twelve disciples. He was trained and powerfully used by the Messiah to further the Kingdom of God.

Ministry - Preached in Judea and Egypt

Death - Martyred, was one of the oldest apostles; at the age of 94, he was beaten and stoned by persecutors and killed from a blow to the head with a club.

THE 12 DISCIPLES CHOSEN BY YESHUA

10. SIMON

Family/Friends - Not recorded

Lived - A Canaanite who lived in Galilee

Profession When Called - A Zealot, probably a political activist in younger years, formally a fisherman.

The Zealots were fanatical Jewish Nationalists who would suffer heroically and struggle for what they regarded as the purity of their faith. The Zealots were crazed with hatred for the Romans.

We see that Simon was a fanatic and a man devoted to the Law with a bitter hatred for anyone who dared to compromise with Rome. He was transformed into a man of strong faith and let go of all his hatred to show the love he was willing to share with the rest of the disciples, especially Matthew, the Roman tax collector.

Character - A man of fierce loyalties, amazing passion, courage, and zeal. Simon had believed the truth and embraced Christ as his Lord.

Known For - Being a Zealot

Ministry - Preached in Mauritania on the west coast of Africa, partnered up with Jude in Persia, went to England.

Death - Martyred, according to tradition he was most likely crucified either around 65A.D or 107A.D.

11. JUDE, also known as Thaddeus or Lebbaeus

Family/Friends - Son of James

Lived - Galilee

Profession When Called - Believed to be a fisherman

Character - Not recorded

Known For - Lived in obscurity as one of the Twelve, asks Yeshua the question, "Lord, why are you going to reveal yourself only to us and not to the world at large?" (John 14:22), Jude looks pretty concerned with this question. Yeshua responded by saying He would reveal Himself to anyone who loved Him.

Ministry - The Book of Jude, early tradition says that Jude took the gospel north to Edessa, healed the King of Edessa, Abgar. preached the gospel in many places, including the Euphrates River, Assyria, and Persia

Death - Martyred, again different accounts have him being clubbed to death, killed with arrows at Ararat. and being killed in Persia.

12. JUDAS ISCARIOT

Family/Friends - Son of Simon

Lived - Keriath of Judah

Profession When Called - Nothing is known about Judas' background, and his call by Yeshua is not recorded in Scripture.

Character - Traiterous, driven by greed, a covetous man seeking to be recognized by the Governor, he became a follower of Yeshua. Still, he certainly didn't give Him his heart, and Yeshua knew this, was the treasurer of the band, and at times he used his position to steal from the everyday purse.

Known For - He is known as the traitor because he betrayed Yeshua with a kiss to the enemy's hands for thirty pieces of silver (Matthew 26:15). Yeshua answered them, "Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?" Now He meant Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him (John 6:70-71), Judas betrays the Messiah and is recorded in Matthew, Judas meets with the chief priests and agrees to betray Yeshua (Matthew 26:14-16), Yeshua goes to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray, and the disciples keep falling asleep (Matthew 26:36-44), Judas arrives with an armed mob sent from the chief priests, and points out Yeshua by greeting him with a kiss (Matthew 26:47-49), Shortly after, Judas regrets betraying Yeshua, tries and fails to return the money the chief priests gave him (Matthew 27:3-4).

Ministry - Not recorded

Death - His death was unique, and he was the first of the disciples to die. In the book of Matthew 27:5, he writes that Judas hung himself, and yet in Acts 1:18-19, it says he bought a field and fell over in it, and his stomach burst open, and all his intestines spilled out. Either way, he took his own life.

The other eleven apostles are all great encouragements to us because they exemplify how God can use ordinary people with typical failings in uncommon, remarkable ways. On the other hand, Judas stands as a warning about the evil potential of spiritual carelessness, squandered opportunity, sinful lusts, and the hardness of the heart. Here was a man who drew as close to the Savior as it is humanly possible to be. He enjoyed every privilege Messiah affords. He was intimately familiar with everything Yeshua taught. Yet, he remained in unbelief with hardness in his heart and paid the price for it.



"Last Friday I was doing sidewalk advocacy to standby for anyone who might need help. We had a woman standing and speaking into a loudspeaker - just words of encouragement and hope. The women inside the clinic can hear her. A young woman actually walked out of the clinic and changed her mind before anything was taken, I got to chat with her and send her for help. It was awesome and I thanked the Father for such a blessing." 🙏

Mary F.

What is sidewalk advocacy?

Training, equipping, and supporting communities across the United States and the world in sidewalk advocacy: to be the hands and feet of Christ, offering loving, life-affirming alternatives to all present at abortion facilities, thereby eliminating demand and ending abortion.

Two years ago, I was at a different place in my walk; I kept my beliefs to myself, unlike the fire I felt as I started this walk. I thought everything I ever needed I could obtain from my studies and Torah portions.

My testimony is a little difficult to share. Still, God knows the beginning from the end, and the future is promising; praise Yehovah!

When I started college, I met some Pentecostal Spirit-filled friends who introduced me to 'speaking in tongues' mostly from a young lady in the group who became a good friend and later I met another encouraging guy. I was very happy that I was making friends who were serious about their faith. This newfound spiritual life caused persecution back home from several family members but my new found friends were offering support helping me to overcome life challenges.

Things became difficult for me when I found myself drawn to my male friend in a way that I knew wasn't in line with my beliefs, but I felt I could handle it if I didn't act on my feelings as I was committed to following Torah. I decided to distance myself from him, but his family would still invite me to their family gatherings. It became even more problematic when I got a job and discovered that his grandma was my assistant. I can look back now and laugh about it, but at the time, it was very painful.

I prayed about it and soon discovered that my two friends had started dating each other so I felt that was the answer to my prayer. I was trying to be a supportive friend, but I couldn't help feeling angry and jealous hearing all their stories.

I started making excuses to shut myself away from everyone and manage without my friends' support.

Occasionally we went out together, but the group dynamics had changed. I was now the third wheel but with a secret. I felt sorry for myself and believed Yehovah was punishing me for my sins. I prayed and asked for the pain to be taken away.

The very next day, my father arrived from California for a surprise visit. We had a great day together and ended up at the movies only to see the person I had been trying to avoid. The heaviness in my chest returned, along with confusion and anger. I directed these feelings at God as I felt He had done it on purpose. For the next nine months, I turned my back on Yehovah and went back to living a sinner's life.

Those nine months was a time of still waters as there were no conflicts in my life from family, finances, or health issues. Whenever I thought of that person, it would send me to a dark place where I contemplated suicide, but Yehovah was faithful. He was still there for me, but I refused to listen.

It didn't take long for things to change around me, there was a lot of friction at home again, and even in my place of work, the enemy was stirring up trouble. I started to feel a debilitating fear and was paranoid that a local gang was targeting me. My all-time low was when a customer walked up to me to ask for help. I convinced myself they were a gang member. It hit me that I no longer felt that assurance that Yehovah was there for me because I had shut him out, and for the first time in nine months, I longed for Yehovah to be back in my life.

In my room that night, I asked the Father to forgive me and accept me as the least of his servants.

I called a close friend who is a spiritual mother to me and asked if we could fellowship again. She was so excited as she had been praying for me with her husband. It reminded me of the people I didn't even know who had let me know they had been praying for me over that time.

Starting over has been difficult; I feel I have lost much ground of what I understood before and getting back into praying is taking some practice.

Even when I was listening to my favorite music, I couldn't feel anything. It was like my heart had turned to stone from hating for so long.

I prayed and said to the Father, "Honestly, I don't know if you love me or even care about me, but all I want is to feel something again."

As I finished praying, it felt like something fell into the room at that very second. I could hear the music playing and could feel the drums beating. I could even sense the emotion in the singer. It wasn't just noise anymore; it was heartfelt music.

I was crying tears of joy that I haven't felt in so long. From that day forwards, the first of April 2020, a revival has taken place in my heart.

Miguel



SAVED - Part 1

<https://inspire-truth.com>

Blog by Hannah-rose Russell

What does it mean to be saved? The other day, a friend asked me this question, and it caught me off-guard. It seems like a simple inquiry, but as I began thinking about how to respond, I couldn't find the right words to say. No one had ever asked me what it meant to be saved before; it would've been one thing if a Christian or Believer had asked, but trying to explain the answer to someone who doesn't have the same faith or belief proved to be a little more difficult.

My answer was weak and unclear. I think I said something about finding God and that having a relationship with Him saves you from the evil in this world. Honestly, that answer is partially right, but I could've explained it a lot better. I'm not sure why I blank so much when this friend asks me faith-based questions; maybe it's because they're usually deep, thought-provoking questions I've never really thought about before. Or, because I keep thinking that my answers must sound so ridiculous to his ears that he couldn't possibly take me seriously for believing this stuff.

The next day, as I was walking my dog and contemplating my friend's question, the song Simple Pursuit by Passion played through my headphones. As I listened to the lyrics and sung along, I felt God give me the answer I should've said.

He made two points: The first was that I shouldn't shy away when asked questions about my faith. I have a terrific opportunity to answer questions I've never been asked before, but my fear of saying the wrong thing kept me from learning how to hear God's voice and replying correctly. It's so much easier for me to explain things through writing than speaking, but we don't always get the luxuries we want.

The other point God made was that being saved is about a lot more than having Him in our hearts and being protected from some of the evil in this world (which isn't always the case, anyway). It's one thing to say that you're a Christian or saved; it's another actually to live like you are. So, how do you become saved or a believer?

The dictionary definition of the word saved is, "To rescue from danger or possible harm, injury, or loss." While the theological definition is, "To deliver from the power and consequences of sin." Both are fitting, but what does the Bible have to say about it?

The most renowned passage used is Ephesians 2:8-10, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

However, I think I found the jackpot with Romans 10:9-13, "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, 'Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.' For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'"

Coming to faith, or becoming saved, is an occurrence that is between you and God; no one else can make you believe. It's not about saying a little prayer or telling people that you're a Christian/Believer; instead, it's about wholeheartedly believing in Yeshua, the Messiah, and professing that belief to others. It's all about what is in your heart and allowing God to take the reins. You are saved through your faith and belief alone, not by the things you do to prove your faith.

Now, that's what it means to become saved, but what does that entail? What does being 'saved' symbolize? I believe that when you become 'saved,' you officially become a child of God (becoming a part of the House of Israel) and come under His protection. You can now have a personal relationship with Him and hear His voice. Your life is no longer yours; you are just a vessel to do God's Will. Once we are saved, we are no longer under the Law of Sin and Death but are under His Renewed Covenant that takes death away and replaces it with everlasting life through Yeshua/Jesus, the Messiah.

The entailments are endless, but it's not so much about what you gain from becoming saved as the transformation that occurs in your life. When you become saved, life changes. The things that used to appeal to you won't any longer, and you'll start to see the world as God does, though some will debate about what that world looks like. For me, the world is a massive adventure waiting to happen and doors of opportunity anticipating the day they will be opened. We are all a part of this world, and God wants to use us to bring forth change and restoration.

A couple of weeks ago, someone told me about the journey they'd been going on and how they'd realized that as a believer, they were called to be Set-Apart and different from this world. I agreed with the terminology they used, but our definitions were fairly different. To them, being a believer meant that we should be completely separate from this world; that we should make our differences known and not interact with non-believers the same way we do with believers.

My view, however, is that we shouldn't be trying to fit into this world's bubble, doing the things others do, but reaching out to those who need a friend or helping hand. We are a part of this world whether we like it or not, so we shouldn't act like we are above those who think differently from us and try to indoctrinate everyone we come across. Yes, we will be different from those who don't share our faith, but we should still be relatable to make connections. Only listening to godly music or solely speaking about God is alright for some, but it won't get you very far with those outside your religious circle.

Yeshua said to His disciples in John 15:18-25 that the world will hate them because it first hated Him and that they should not belong (keyword) to the world. However, just two chapters later, as Yeshua was praying for His disciples (John 17:13-19), He states that He has sent them into (another keyword) the world!

To belong to this world and to be in this world are two very different statements. Belonging to something is taking ownership of it. If we belong to this world, we are treasuring our possessions on earth and fitting in with those around us. To go into the world means that we are a part of it, but it doesn't own us; we can leave at any moment. In a sense, we are vagabonds wandering the earth, not belonging to a group of people but God alone.

The Bible tells us that we should go out into the world and make disciples. We shouldn't stick around the same like-minded crowds because they already know what the Scriptures say. Of course, all believers need encouragement and should have like-minded friends, but our real goal should be to meet new people and listen to their thoughts and beliefs. How else are we going to reach the multitudes if we stay in the same place, hanging out with the same people? We don't need to go to exotic locations to fulfill this calling either; it can happen wherever you are!

But, how do we portray all this to someone who has never learned about Yeshua, the Bible, or faith? I don't think there's one right answer to this question, but there is a commonality, and that is love. No matter what we say, it should always be said in love. Listen to God and say the words you feel He is giving you; chances are they're the right ones to say.

As I travel, I meet different people at every stop. I don't automatically start talking about my faith or ask if they've heard about Yeshua. Instead, I get to know them and tell them about myself. I think that unless God has called you to speak into someone's life, people will not receive what you have to say concerning themselves and God. When forming friendships, we should always start by learning about the other person and answering whatever questions they have; even if you don't talk about God, they will probably notice something different about you and comment on it. As the saying goes, "Actions speak louder than words."

This week, keep your eyes open to the people around you and try something new. Go over to that person who always sits alone at lunch or do something outside your usual routine. Ask the Father, and He will guide you to the places He wants you to go. When friends ask you questions, answer them honestly, and don't shy away from the truth when tough questions come your way. If a person is asking, they genuinely want to know. I can't wait to see where God leads me this week, and I look forward to hearing your testimonies, as well!

PARTNERSHIP IN MINISTRY

Gottalife Ministries is blessed to have a growing partnership base standing with us. We want to encourage newcomers to consider partnering with BulldozerFaith, monthly or as the Ruach HaKodesh leads.

We have been serving the global community of believers for over 28 years through media, online, and traveling ministry. For us, it is not only about people listening to teachings and attending ministry events but also joining together with other like-minded people to engage in missions. Today, we are connected with a growing group of passionate believers from different nations who desire to gather in one designated online space for prayer and encouragement in the Messiah. This has inspired us to launch Crossing Point Global Community to support the calling the Father has placed on our lives and create an environment for us to unite in faith and purpose.

The positive takeaway from the events of 2020 during the Covid-19 pandemic is that we have enjoyed more frequent interaction and online fellowship. Our daily devotional times have been a great source of encouragement and faith-building as we focus on edifying and supporting many on their daily faith walk. Through BulldozerFaith, get ready for more spiritual growth and consider playing a part in our mission to develop ways to interact and build a strong faith community. Crossing Point's focus is to be a new platform developed within Bulldozerfaith as an outreach tool to share with our families and friends, bringing Yeshua's truth through the Torah and the Gospel of the Kingdom. We will be providing better access for personal ministry, prayer groups, and discipleship training to equip and operate more as a faith community where we can serve each other and function better as the body of Messiah, making a difference in others' lives.

Our direction in outreach is in three steps for ministry growth: friendship, relationship, & partnership.

1. **Friendship** – Outreach through caring for the needs of others and hands-on personal ministry.
2. **Relationship** - When we spend time together around the Word in the presence of Elohim, bringing us all to closer relationships, as a family, being one in the Messiah.
3. **Partnership** - When we establish mutual trust and desire unity together in outreach and fellowship, partnering becomes easy for seeking His Will and being dedicated to giving in time and finances to support the ministry.

We are prayerfully seeking Elohim to bring new partners to join us as the Spirit leads us to continue maintaining the ministry and expanding into the areas of greatest need.

Kenny is available to chat with you if you are considering supporting us in any way, and we thank you for being a part of what Yah is doing through BulldozerFaith. Please send him an email at kenny@bulldozerfaith.com, and we look forward to what YHVH has in store for 2021.

To give online please use this link <https://www.bulldozerfaith.com/give> or, if you would like to use PayPal, click here <https://paypal.me/bulldozerfaith>

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Email kenny@bulldozerfaith.com letting us know the amount so we can know in advance, thank you!



**THANK
YOU**