

But Moses drew near to God

When YAHWEH came down to Mount Sinai, it was wrapped in smoke, for He descended upon it in fire; its smoke ascended like that of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly; all the people perceived the thunderings, and the lightnings and the noise of the trumpet and the smoking mountain, and as [they] looked they trembled with fear and fell back and stood afar off... and the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was (Exodus 19: 18; 20:18,21).

The path that leads us closer to our YAHWEH is not an easy path; it is a path that takes us through deserts, valleys, steep and rocky mountains. The closer we get to Him, the harder and steeper the mountain becomes, because He is holy, and we are still sinners, although redeemed by the blood of His Son YAHSHUA. It is there, close to Him, that we receive His anointing to have the power to live a holy life. It will be in submission, obedience and in a contrite heart that we will succeed in our journey to holiness, as we follow the path to Him. One of the reasons why we fail to climb higher to YAHWEH is, is because we are faithless. He said that without faith it is impossible to please Him. That implies that faith is the only link to God and only by faith we are able to please Him. It is through faith that we will believe, trust in His existence and draw near to Him. Without faith we do exercise the sins of unbelief and doubt and doubting even the existence of YAHWEH. Without faith we cannot experience the blessings of answered prayers; without faith we cannot personally experience YAHWEH'S love.

Israel could not face YAHWEH'S holiness at the sight of the Mount Sinai, because of their sinful nature, which separated them from their God. They could not look at Him neither stand near Him; but they could only stand afar off. They trembled at the presence of their own God, Who was leading them to the land He had promised to give them. They were with Him, but distant from Him. Their hearts still desired the onions of Egypt, reason why they committed the terrible sin of idolatry and unfaithfulness later when Moses went up to receive the tablets of commandments. They could not have maintained the remembrance, or understood the meaning of the Mount Sinai experience carrying the memory of Egypt and its gods in their hearts. They had a divided heart.

The holiness of our YAHWEH is unmeasurable; one cannot say He is so very holy, because there is no extent to His holiness. The holiness of YAHWEH is like a mirror penetrating our inmost being, showing us the condition of our sinful nature. We cannot stand before Him without a change of heart, as in the lives of Job, Isaiah and Peter. His attributes are entwined in the depth of His holiness, shining the glory of Whom He is. The closer we get to Him the more we become like Him in righteousness, fulfilling His purpose why He chose us – to be molded into the likeness of His Son. When YAHWEH humbles and allows us to suffer, it is because He wants to feed us manna from heaven. He wants us to recognize and know that we do not live by bread alone, but by His Word. He is calling us to a closer relationship with Him. Disciplining, He instructs us as our Father and guides us upwardly to Him. The great, terrible and dry desert He allows us to cross in our journey is to bring us to the fountain of Living Waters to satisfy our

spiritual thirst, equipping us to “to walk in all His ways, to love and to serve Him with our entire being”.

YAHWEH, as our Shepherd, is mindful of our needs; He leads us to green pastures, which is His Word and refreshes us with Living Water -His Holy Spirit, as we walk the valleys of sufferings and death. It is in our sufferings that we do experience His goodness, His mercy and love, for His word says they will follow us all the days of our life (Psalm 23:6). Every trial and tribulation should be for the believer a step closer to Him. We must understand that we cannot mature spiritually and draw closer to Him without the deserts and valleys of life. The life of Moses is an example of it. Paul teaches us to rejoice in suffering for it carries a weight of glory, which will be revealed to us when our journey ends here on earth. The harder our trials, the harder we should strive to draw closer to our YAHWEH. The human tendency is to get disappointed and frustrated when facing trials, but it should not be so for the believer. We must share in YAHSHUA’S sufferings, for He has suffered all we suffer in our life time. He, for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising and ignoring the shame, and is now seated at the right hand of the throne of YAHWEH (Hebrews 12:2b).

Peter said, After you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, Who has called you to His eternal glory in YAHSHUA the Messiah, will Himself complete and make you what you ought to be, establish and ground you securely, and strengthen and settle you (I Peter 5:10). Let’s climb higher and higher following YAHSHUA’S example of faith and perseverance; He never became weary and exhausted, instead He fought against our sin and was victorious, so that we could have peace and spiritual healing and salvation. Draw near to YAHWEH and He will draw near to you. You will know how close He is to you when you overcome the obstacles of temptation that block your way to get near Him; know that He is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him sincerely and in truth (Ps. 145:18). He is never so far that He will not hear you; you should never be so far not to hear His voice. While Israel stood far off from the presence of the Lord, Moses drew near Him. His relationship with the Lord kept Him in tune with God and not afraid of Him, as it was the case with Israel. Adam and Eve also stood far off from the presence of the Lord, when they had sinned against Him. The Lord is merciful; He will never reject those who come to Him, no matter the condition they are in as it was the condition of the prodigal son. Hear the words of the Lord, thus says the Lord: Stand by the roads and look; and ask for the eternal paths, where the good, old way is; then walk in it and you will find rest for your souls (Jer. 6:16a). When the road becomes tough and hard to follow, don’t give up; don’t look back and turn around, press on, press forward always climbing higher to reach the destination where YAHWEH is. Press on, my friend, you are almost there! Hold fast to your faith, for there is laid up for you the [victor’s] crown of righteousness, which the Lord will award you on that great day (II Tim. 4:8). While others are standing far off from the Lord, you draw near Him!

THINK ABOUT IT!