

Cast the Net on the Right Side
(John 21:6; Luke 5:4)

“When all fails, read the directions”. This seems to be the guide lines we apply to our Christian living, as we often use the term, “I hope and pray”. God, in His love, has given us His precious Word to guide us in all our way of life. His divine power has bestowed upon us all things that [are requisite and suited] to life and godliness, through the **knowledge** of Him Who called us by and to His own glory and excellence, as Peter has said in II Peter 1:3. But it seems easier for us to call a friend, or turn on the TV to get directions concerning our problems than to go to the Word of God first. Electronics have become our way of direction, causing us to keep casting the net on the wrong side of the boat, and on shallow waters, while seeking our blessings, just like those disciples, who fished all night without catching a thing. We live in the dark of our spiritual understanding, blind and not being able to digest spiritual solid foods because we do not strive to know God. We believe Him to be good and loving and merciful; we believe that YAHSHUA has done all for us and that’s it. The truth of the matter is that, as Paul prayed for the Ephesians, we need the spirit of **wisdom of revelation** in the **knowledge of God**; we need to have the **eye of our heart flooded with light**, so we can **know** and **understand** the **hope** to which He has called us and how rich is His glorious inheritance in the saints; we need to know the greatness of His power for us who believe in him; we need to know the deep love God has for us in that He raised us together with Christ and made us sit down together with Him in the heavenly sphere (Ephesians 1:17-18; 2:6); we need to know our responsibilities to Him and only by getting into His Word we will know them. We consider ourselves to be YAHSHUA’S sheep, but we cannot hear His voice, when He has said, My sheep hear My voice, due to the clutter distracting our mind with all kinds of gadgets from the electronic world. The fruitless life of the Christian is an indication of a life lived for self, aloof from hearing the voice of the Savior, and Shepherd. Faith is increased by hearing and also by reading the word of God; how can we recognize His voice, if we don’t know Him? How can we know Him, if we do not know His word? How can we know His Word if we do not read it? How can we hear His voice telling us to, “Cast the net on the right side” or to follow Him, if our relationship is with the world?

We keep throwing the net on the wrong side of the boat, because our ears are plugged with gadgets that keep us tuned with the world, so that we cannot hear His voice telling us what to do. We are like sheep, which have lost the way, because God’s answer to our successful spiritual life is put away, collecting dust. The Lord God tells us, Listen to and obey My voice, and I will be your God and you will be My people; and walk in the whole way that I command you, that it may be well with you (Jer. 7:23). He says, 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. 6:16). He is telling us, Cast the net on the right side of the boat, but we stubbornly keep throwing it on the wrong side without finding rest for our soul, as He promised if we followed His directions. YAHSHUA compared the man who listens to His Word and does them to a man building a house, who dug and went down deep and laid a foundation upon the rock; and when a flood arose, the torrent broke against that house and could not shake or move it, because it had been securely built or founded on a rock (Luke 6:48). Our faith should be firmly secured on the Rock- YAHSHUA. He is the source of eternal life of all the spiritual gifts and blessings;

remaining in Him in obedience, we will harvest the blessings that come with obedience; we “will find rest for our soul”. When He told the disciples to “Cast the net on the right side of the boat”, He was offering them abundant blessings He had stored upon their obedience. In another occasion, in the beginning of his ministry, YAHSHUA ordered the disciples to Put out into the deep [water] and lower the nets for a haul (Luke 5:4). Although they had toiled all night without a catch, and did not know Him well, they obeyed and for their surprise, they caught a great number of fish. Heavenly reward follows obedience. Moses, at the end of his life, offered the Israelites the choice to choose life, so that they and their descendants may live. He said, I command you today, to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His ordinances, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land into which you go to possess (Deut. 30:16,19). Notice that their obedience would extend blessings to their descendants also. This can be one cause why some families are more blessed than others.

When Naaman, the Commander of the army of the king of Syria fell ill with leprosy, a Jewish slave told him about the prophet in Samaria who could heal his leprosy. He listened to her and went to see the prophet Elisha. But Elisha did not come out to him, as he thought, but he sent a messenger. Naaman’s pride got hold of him and he almost missed his blessing of healing. But when he listened again, this time, to his servants, he did what he was ordered to do to be cleaned from his leprosy and went home a happy man. Reward follows obedience, no matter how hard the consequences will be. It pays to overlook the challenge of the moment and fix the eyes on the hope of the promised reward. When the ten lepers of Luke 17:13-14 saw YAHSHUA, they raised up their voices and called, YAHSHUA, Master, take pity and have mercy on us! When He saw them, He said to them, Go and show yourselves to the priests. And as they went, they were cured and made clean. As they took the step of faith to do what YAHSHUA told them to do, they were healed. As they went, they were healed.

Moses and the Israelite were hemmed in between the Red Sea and the Egyptian army coming to destroy them. The Lord told Moses, Why do you cry to Me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward! Lift up your rod and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, and the Israelites shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.; then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night and made the sea dry land; and the waters were divided; and the Israelites went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters a wall to them on their right hand and on their left (Exodus 14:15-16,21,22). Had Moses been intimidated by the volume of water in front of them, and doubtful to do the command of the Lord God, they would have not experienced the blessing of walking into the midst of the sea on dry ground; the Egyptian army would have caught up with them and they would have perished. Moses’ obedience to God resulted in victory for God and for the Israelites, as they fled the hands of the Egyptian army with joy and celebration.

Job’s fortunes were restored when he obeyed the command of the Lord to pray for his friends. God accepted his prayer and turned his captivity and restored his fortune (Job 42:8-10). He did what the Lord told him, not expecting anything from that action, and God blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning. He lived after this experience 140 years, and saw his sons

and his sons' sons, even to four generations (Job 42:12-16). Fear to do what is right will cripple and hinder the blessings God has for us. Even if it does not make sense, even if it will cost your life, your fortune, choose to obey God, as Peter and John did when they were challenged not to teach about the name of YAHSHUA. They replied to them, whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you and obey you rather than God, you must decide; for we cannot help telling what we have seen and heard (Acts 4:18-20). Choose friends, choose life! Choose to follow and obey YAHSHUA!