

## Cost of Discipleship

\* The main reason for the enormous amount of theological differences in the organized religious world is due to a lack of obedience to the One who calls all men to follow Him.

\* Men have rationalized away simple obedience into a labyrinth of theological theories, psychological understanding and rationalizations of all kinds.

\* Controversy and confusion is a clear sign of all those religious professors who never took the childlike step of trust and obedience in order to become intimately acquainted with the One they claim to follow.

\* In the final analysis the eternal destiny of any soul is not determined by the volume of divine knowledge and truths it knows but by the yielding of the whole being to those very truth in order to become true.

**\* Men are delighted and as they think, greatly edified by the clear and striking setting forth of spiritual truths, while they never realize that to possess it demands the surrender of the whole being.**

\* The pure words of the Messiah has been overlaid with so much human ballast – burdensome rules and regulations, false hopes and consolation – that it has become difficult to know the truth and answer in obedience to the call of Yeshua.

\* **Mar 7:9** And<sup>2532</sup> he said<sup>3004</sup> unto them,<sup>846</sup> **Full well<sup>2573</sup> ye reject<sup>114</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> commandment<sup>1785</sup> of God,<sup>2316</sup> that<sup>2443</sup> ye may keep<sup>5083</sup> your own<sup>5216</sup> tradition.**<sup>3862</sup>

\* It is not the words of the Messiah that puts men off but the superstructure of human, institutional, and doctrinal elements in the preaching.

\* The true knowledge of the Mighty One is reserved only for those who cast themselves wholly on Elohim and who love not the world or the things of this world. Before this death to self no man can know or understand Elohim and is left to shallow speculation and romantic notions of the Divine. When a man loses sight of the Messiah and his crucified religious self effort and humanistic knowledge becomes the substitute for true spirituality.

\* The direct result of lifeless religious preaching is the inability of the hearers to practically apply or relate to the spoken words. Truths spoken without the inspiration of the Spirit of truth becomes hollow, irrelevant, abstract discussions.

\* Man made dogmas robs truth of its sincerity and lulls the hearers into a false sense of peace and eternal security. Religion has truly become the opium of the people.

\* The organized religious world has erected a tyranny structure over men, by dictating to them what must be believed and performed in order to be saved, and by presuming to enforce those beliefs and behaviors with the sanction of temporal and eternal punishment.

\* True discipleship liberates man from all manmade dogmas.

\* Gal 5:1 In the freedom with which Messiah has made us free, stand firm, then, and do not again be held with a yoke of slavery.

\* **Mat 11:30** For<sup>1063</sup> my<sup>3450</sup> yoke<sup>2218</sup> is easy,<sup>5543</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> my<sup>3450</sup> burden<sup>5413</sup> is<sup>2076</sup> light.<sup>1645</sup>

\* The man who follows the Messiah single-mindedly, and unresistingly and lets His yoke rest on him, finds His burden easy, and under its gentle pressure receives the power to persevere.

\* The resurrection power of the Spirit is reserved only for those who follow the path of the cross. There can be no power unto spiritual life before a death unto self. Religious men desire this life and request it of Elohim before they believe they are able to obey. Everything of true spirituality is reserved exclusively for the obedient. Before obedience men must wallow in a shallow, soulish, counterfeit spirituality.

\* The instructions and call of the Messiah was never intended to become a religious externalism but by the revelation of the Spirit the spiritual man knows that whatever He requires He will also give the power to perform. Willpower speaks of self-effort and will soon fail under pressure. A willing yielding heart is what the Spirit requires. It must be made clear that the religious requires explanation and strength before they obey and thereby become rebels against the known will of Elohim because the first step is obedient action and then follows the power to endure.

\* True peace with Elohim has been replaced with the shallow soulish consolation of religion.

\* The grace extended to a sinner will only become his when he lays down his own life to follow his Redeemer. The forgiveness that cost the Messiah His life will cost the repenting sinner his.

\* The religious made the grace of Elohim a cheap, free gift without boundaries or requirement on the one who desires forgiveness. As a matter of fact repentance towards a righteous Elohim is not a requirement in order to receive cheap grace. Cheap grace supposes that the account has been paid in advance and therefore everything can be had without cost!

\* The presentation of cheap grace is a direct result of romantic notions of the love of Elohim. This humanistic love is sacrificial and without boundaries of righteousness. The truth is that the Messiah came because Elohim so loved the world, not to free men for their own sake but to call them to righteous and holy living, indeed to become slaves unto righteousness.

\* A misunderstanding of Divine love and a humanistic emphasis on euphoric feelings associated with love led to a natural resistance, even an animosity, towards every truth that dethrones emotion and strengthens reason. In their fear to eat from the tree of knowledge they unknowingly ate the fruit of mysticism which grows from that very tree.

\* An intellectual assent to the principles of grace is wrongly believed to be sufficient to secure the remission of sin. The mental self delusion springs from the lie that grace is unconditionally given to all without true repentance.

\* The essence of the word repentance is to literally turn away from sin. This turning away implies a turning away from self and a turning unto Elohim.

\* **Mat 16:25** For<sup>1063</sup> whosoever<sup>3739, 302</sup> will<sup>2309</sup> save<sup>4982</sup> his<sup>848</sup> life<sup>5590</sup> shall lose<sup>622</sup> it:<sup>846</sup> and<sup>1161</sup> whosoever<sup>3739, 302</sup> will lose<sup>622</sup> his<sup>848</sup> life<sup>5590</sup> for my sake<sup>1752, 1700</sup> shall find<sup>2147</sup> it.<sup>846</sup>

**Rom 6:16** Know<sup>1492</sup> ye not,<sup>3756</sup> that<sup>3754</sup> to whom<sup>3739</sup> ye yield<sup>3936</sup> yourselves<sup>1438</sup> servants<sup>1401</sup> to<sup>1519</sup> obey,<sup>5218</sup> his servants<sup>1401</sup> ye are<sup>2075</sup> to whom<sup>3739</sup> ye obey;<sup>5219</sup>

whether<sup>2273</sup> of sin<sup>266</sup> unto<sup>1519</sup> death,<sup>2288</sup> or<sup>2228</sup> of obedience<sup>5218</sup> unto<sup>1519</sup> righteousness?<sup>1343</sup>

Rom 6:17 But<sup>1161</sup> God be thanked,<sup>2316, 5485</sup> that<sup>3754</sup> ye were<sup>2258</sup> the servants<sup>1401</sup> of sin,<sup>266</sup> but<sup>1161</sup> ye have obeyed<sup>5219</sup> from<sup>1537</sup> the heart<sup>2588</sup> that form<sup>5179</sup> of doctrine<sup>1322, (1519)</sup> which<sup>3739</sup> was delivered<sup>3860</sup> you.

Rom 6:18 Being then<sup>(1161)</sup> made free<sup>1659</sup> from<sup>575</sup> sin,<sup>266</sup> ye became the servants<sup>1402</sup> of righteousness.<sup>1343</sup>

Mat 16:24 Then<sup>5119</sup> said<sup>2036</sup> Jesus<sup>2424</sup> unto his<sup>848</sup> disciples,<sup>3101</sup> If any<sup>1536</sup> man will<sup>2309</sup> come<sup>2064</sup> after<sup>3694</sup> me,<sup>3450</sup> let him deny<sup>533</sup> himself,<sup>1438</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> take up<sup>142</sup> his<sup>848</sup> cross,<sup>4716</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> follow<sup>190</sup> me.<sup>3427</sup>

Mat 16:25 For<sup>1063</sup> whosoever<sup>3739, 302</sup> will<sup>2309</sup> save<sup>4982</sup> his<sup>848</sup> life<sup>5590</sup> shall lose<sup>622</sup> it:<sup>846</sup> and<sup>1161</sup> whosoever<sup>3739, 302</sup> will lose<sup>622</sup> his<sup>848</sup> life<sup>5590</sup> for my sake<sup>1752, 1700</sup> shall find<sup>2147</sup> it.<sup>846</sup>

\* The kingdom principle of saving grace is clear, forgiveness and remission of sin demands an exchange of life for life, which is the sinner's life yielded forever unto the Messiah as servant unto Him in exchange for forgiveness through the death of the Messiah. This is costly grace both for the Messiah and the one that desires forgiveness and a new life.

\* Where grace is presented as free and cheap the sinner has no real desire to be delivered from sin but to merely have his sins covered.

\* Cheap grace leads to the justification of sin and not the justification of the sinner.

\* Those who make grace and not the Messiah the centre of their teaching will brand obedience to the word of the Messiah as dogmatic legalists.

\* Cheap grace is the grace the flesh gladly bestows on itself, Divine grace is the grace extended to a repentant sinner that abandons his own selfish way for the sake of the Messiah.

\* Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without repentance, resurrection power without a death, love without righteous requirements and sanctification without personal obedience.

\* Divine grace is the understanding that forgiveness is extended in the light of total moral corruptness on condition of absolute surrender in order to permanently change.

\* Mat 13:44 Again,<sup>3825</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> kingdom<sup>932</sup> of heaven<sup>3772</sup> is<sup>2076</sup> like unto<sup>3664</sup> treasure<sup>2344</sup> hid<sup>2928</sup> in<sup>1722</sup> a field,<sup>68</sup> the which<sup>3739</sup> when a man<sup>444</sup> hath found,<sup>2147</sup> he hideth,<sup>2928</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> for<sup>575</sup> joy<sup>5479</sup> thereof<sup>846</sup> goeth<sup>5217</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> selleth<sup>4453</sup> all<sup>3956</sup> that<sup>3745</sup> he hath,<sup>2192</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> buyeth<sup>59</sup> that<sup>1565</sup> field.<sup>68</sup>

Mat 13:45 Again,<sup>3825</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> kingdom<sup>932</sup> of heaven<sup>3772</sup> is<sup>2076</sup> like unto<sup>3664</sup> a merchant<sup>1713</sup> man,<sup>444</sup> seeking<sup>2212</sup> goodly<sup>2570</sup> pearls:<sup>3135</sup>

Mat 13:46 Who,<sup>3739</sup> when he had found<sup>2147</sup> one<sup>1520</sup> pearl<sup>3135</sup> of great price,<sup>4186</sup> went<sup>565</sup> and sold<sup>4097</sup> all<sup>3956</sup> that<sup>3745</sup> he had,<sup>2192</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> bought<sup>59</sup> it.<sup>846</sup>

\* In order to possess the treasure the man had to give up all that he had.

\* The essential point to be made is that the life and power of the Spirit is reserved only for the man that is willing to give up everything else and follow the Messiah.

\* True grace is costly because it requires of a man his life and it is grace because in exchange it gives him the only true Life.

\* Grace can only be extended to those that believe. Only he who is obedient can believe. The life of the Spirit that sustains the man is reserved only for the obedient. Before a man is obedient he will only have mental consent but no true spiritual understanding of the Divine.

\* It is wrongly assumed that the life of complete devotion is required of the most pious and saintly while in actual fact it is the ordinary duty of all those that desire to call themselves disciples of the Messiah.

\* The most religious good works are bondage to a self chosen path until the hearer responds to the call of obedience to the Messiah by which he is set free from self effort.

\* The mistake we make is to think that we can receive the grace of Elohim without having to face the One who gives the grace. Grace can only be given to the one that is willing to change his old way of self service to become a servant to the one that extends the grace.

\* Man will always be a servant, either of sin and selfishness unto death or of obedience to the Messiah unto life. If you can not free yourself from your eternal death doomed state, then you own your life and obedience to the One that delivers you unto life.

\* The religious desperately seek after the peace and presence of Elohim but it keeps eluding them because it is reserved for the obedient and single-minded follower of the Messiah.

\* Scriptural faith is nothing but trust in the character and integrity of the Mighty One. Trust is nothing but theory until obedience to the One who is trustworthy is acted out. Trust is not necessary where a man is not intending to cast himself wholly on the word of another and abandon his own way and understanding. "I don't need trust if I don't intend to follow."

By implication faith can only be real and living if I put in Elohim and act it out through obedience.

\* Cheap grace is the great foe of discipleship because it does not demand a call to follow. All spiritual truths come with the demand of obedience and discipleship before it could become a living reality in the follower.

\* The word Christian has with it a connotation of "having arrived" while the word disciple means follower or one that is obedient to the will of another.

\* From the beginning men have been tempted to eat from the tree of knowledge and therein find their consolation. Knowledge has become the replacement for divine revelation. Academic qualification has replaced a life qualified through obedience and repetitious dealings of the Spirit. The tree of knowledge demands nothing of the man but instead feeds the self-life and causes him to become arrogant and puffed up about the mental knowledge he acquired. Masses of men bow at the feet of mental gurus not knowing that it is not the truth you know that will save you but the truth you are through obedience. We can only know Elohim when we put ourselves in a position to trust Him only. We can only know Him to the extent that we are yielded to Him.

\* The preaching of a cheap grace make men rest secure in their ungodly living.

\* Cheap grace is disastrous to our own spiritual life because we allow ourselves the comfort of unrepentant sin and a tolerance of the world and everything in it.

\* Cheap grace is self-deception because the deceived is convinced that he can repent and turn whenever he wants to. Cheap grace hardens the heart in disobedience and rebellion against Elohim. True repentance is only possible when the Spirit brings the conviction of sin. When we hold on to cheap grace the call and conviction of the Spirit is resisted to the point that it seizes never to return. In other words cheap grace grieves away the Spirit who alone can bring about true repentance which results in true grace being extended.

\* The word of cheap grace and boundless love has eternally ruined more souls than the commandments of good works.

\* **2Co 7:10** For<sup>1063</sup> godly<sup>2596, 2316</sup> sorrow<sup>3077</sup> worketh<sup>2716</sup> repentance<sup>3341</sup> to<sup>1519</sup> salvation<sup>4991</sup> not to be repented of:<sup>278</sup> but<sup>1161</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> sorrow<sup>3077</sup> of the<sup>3588</sup> world<sup>2889</sup> worketh<sup>2716</sup> death.<sup>2288</sup>

**2Co 7:11** For<sup>1063</sup> behold<sup>2400</sup> this<sup>5124</sup> selfsame thing,<sup>846</sup> that ye<sup>5209</sup> sorrowed<sup>3076</sup> after a godly sort,<sup>2596, 2316</sup> what<sup>4214</sup> carefulness<sup>4710</sup> it wrought<sup>2716</sup> in you,<sup>5213</sup> yea,<sup>235</sup> what clearing of yourselves,<sup>627</sup> yea,<sup>235</sup> what indignation,<sup>24</sup> yea,<sup>235</sup> what fear,<sup>5401</sup> yea,<sup>235</sup> what vehement desire,<sup>1972</sup> yea,<sup>235</sup> what zeal,<sup>2205</sup> yea,<sup>235</sup> what revenge!<sup>1557</sup> In<sup>1722</sup> all<sup>3956</sup> things ye have approved<sup>4921</sup> yourselves<sup>1438</sup> to be<sup>1511</sup> clear<sup>53</sup> in<sup>1722</sup> this matter.<sup>4229</sup>

\* Men are either grieved because they got caught out or they are grieved because they sinned against a righteous Elohim. The one will seek cheap grace to comfort himself but the other will repent and obey and follow the Messiah.

\* True faith is not a confession of scripture but an act of obedience to the call of the Messiah.

\* Elohim requires obedience and does not need to explain Himself to His followers. It is the rationalization of truth that provides the selfish man with an escape route from the demands of obedience.

**Mat 16:13** When<sup>1161</sup> Jesus<sup>2424</sup> came<sup>2064</sup> into<sup>1519</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> coasts<sup>3313</sup> of Caesarea<sup>2542</sup> Philippi,<sup>5376</sup> he asked<sup>2065</sup> his<sup>848</sup> disciples,<sup>3101</sup> saying,<sup>3004</sup> **Whom<sup>5101</sup> do men<sup>444</sup> say<sup>3004</sup> that I<sup>3165</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> Son<sup>5207</sup> of man<sup>44</sup> am?<sup>1511</sup>**

**Mat 16:14** And<sup>1161</sup> they<sup>3588</sup> said,<sup>2036</sup> Some<sup>3588</sup> say<sup>(3303)</sup> that thou art John<sup>2491</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> Baptist:<sup>910, (1161)</sup> some,<sup>243</sup> Elijah;<sup>2243</sup> and<sup>1161</sup> others,<sup>2087</sup> Jeremiah,<sup>2408</sup> or<sup>2228</sup> one<sup>1520</sup> of the<sup>3588</sup> prophets.<sup>4396</sup>

**Mat 16:15** He saith<sup>3004</sup> unto them,<sup>846</sup> **But<sup>1161</sup> whom<sup>5101</sup> say<sup>3004</sup> ye<sup>5210</sup> that I<sup>3165</sup> am?<sup>1511</sup>**

**Mat 16:16** And<sup>1161</sup> Simon<sup>4613</sup> Peter<sup>4074</sup> answered<sup>611</sup> and said,<sup>2036</sup> Thou<sup>4771</sup> art<sup>1488</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> Christ,<sup>5547</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> Son<sup>5207</sup> of the living<sup>2198</sup> God.<sup>2316</sup>

**Mat 16:17** And<sup>2532</sup> Jesus<sup>2424</sup> answered<sup>611</sup> and said<sup>2036</sup> unto him,<sup>846</sup> **Blessed<sup>3107</sup> art<sup>1488</sup> thou, Simon<sup>4613</sup> Bar-jona:<sup>920</sup> for<sup>3754</sup> flesh<sup>4561</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> blood<sup>129</sup> hath not<sup>3756</sup> revealed<sup>601</sup> it unto thee,<sup>4671</sup> but<sup>235</sup> my<sup>3450</sup> Father<sup>3962</sup> which<sup>3588</sup> is in<sup>1722</sup> heaven.<sup>3772</sup>**

**Mat 16:18** And<sup>1161</sup> I say also<sup>2504, 3004</sup> unto thee,<sup>4671</sup> That<sup>3754</sup> thou<sup>4771</sup> art<sup>1488</sup> Peter,<sup>4074</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> upon<sup>1909</sup> this<sup>5026</sup> rock<sup>4073</sup> I will build<sup>3618</sup> my<sup>3450</sup> church;<sup>1577</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> the gates<sup>4439</sup> of hell<sup>86</sup> shall not<sup>3756</sup> prevail against<sup>2729</sup> it.<sup>846</sup>

\* The final question that remains for each individual to answer is "who do you say that I am?" The correct answer to this question necessitates a following of the Messiah. The foundation of the Apostolic body lies in the answer to this question. It can never be

overemphasized that everything in life is determined by how a man responds to the Messiah Yeshua.

\* The Messiah summons men to follow Him, not patterns of good life or religious ideas of Him.

\* The call to follow is something that is void of all content. It gives us no intelligible program for a way of life, no goal or ideal to strive after. It is not a cause which human calculation might deem worthy of our devotion, even the total consecration of ourselves.

\* The old life is complete left behind and any bridge back to it is burned. The disciple is called out of relative material security into a life of insecurity. The Master unfolds and reveals His plan only as it is needed to be revealed. The disciple is called from a life that is observable and calculable into a life where everything is unobservable and fortuitous (occurring unexpectantly).

\* The call of the Messiah is nothing else but to become a bondservant to Him alone.

\* The faith of Abraham is revealed therein that he was willing to follow the call of Elohim and leave the comforts of the known to enter into an unknown wilderness land where if Elohim did not provide he would have perished. True faith is a full reliance on Him who made the call irrespective of the nature of the call.

\* Christianity without the following of the living Christ is inevitably religiosity and pretence.

\* **Luk 9:57** And<sup>1161</sup> it came to pass,<sup>1096</sup> that, as they<sup>846</sup> went<sup>4198</sup> in<sup>1722</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> way,<sup>3598</sup> a certain<sup>5100</sup> man said<sup>2036</sup> unto<sup>4314</sup> him,<sup>846</sup> Lord,<sup>2962</sup> I will follow<sup>190</sup> thee<sup>4671</sup> whithersoever<sup>3699, 302</sup> thou goest.<sup>565</sup>

**Luk 9:58** And<sup>2532</sup> Jesus<sup>2424</sup> said<sup>2036</sup> unto him,<sup>846</sup> Foxes<sup>258</sup> have<sup>2192</sup> holes,<sup>5454</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> birds<sup>4071</sup> of the<sup>3588</sup> air<sup>3772</sup> have nests;<sup>2682</sup> but<sup>1161</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> Son<sup>5207</sup> of man<sup>444</sup> hath<sup>2192</sup> not<sup>3756</sup> where<sup>4226</sup> to lay<sup>2827</sup> his head.<sup>2776</sup>

**Luk 9:59** And<sup>1161</sup> he said<sup>2036</sup> unto<sup>4314</sup> another,<sup>2087</sup> Follow<sup>190</sup> me.<sup>3427</sup> But<sup>1161</sup> he<sup>3588</sup> said,<sup>2036</sup> Lord,<sup>2962</sup> suffer<sup>2010</sup> me<sup>3427</sup> first<sup>4412</sup> to go<sup>565</sup> and bury<sup>2290</sup> my<sup>3450</sup> father.<sup>3962</sup>

**Luk 9:60** (1161) Jesus<sup>2424</sup> said<sup>2036</sup> unto him,<sup>846</sup> Let<sup>863</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> dead<sup>3498</sup> bury<sup>2290</sup> their<sup>1438</sup> dead;<sup>3498</sup> but<sup>1161</sup> go<sup>565</sup> thou<sup>4771</sup> and preach<sup>1229</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> kingdom<sup>932</sup> of God.<sup>2316</sup>

**Luk 9:61** And<sup>1161</sup> another<sup>2087</sup> also<sup>2532</sup> said,<sup>2036</sup> Lord,<sup>2962</sup> I will follow<sup>190</sup> thee,<sup>4671</sup> but<sup>1161</sup> let<sup>2010</sup> me<sup>3427</sup> first<sup>4412</sup> go bid them farewell,<sup>657</sup> which<sup>3588</sup> are at home at<sup>1519</sup> my<sup>3450</sup> house.<sup>3624</sup>

**Luk 9:62** And<sup>1161</sup> Jesus<sup>2424</sup> said<sup>2036</sup> unto<sup>4314</sup> him,<sup>846</sup> No man,<sup>3762</sup> having put<sup>1911</sup> his<sup>848</sup> hand<sup>5495</sup> to<sup>1909</sup> the plow,<sup>723</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> looking<sup>991</sup> back,<sup>1519, 3694</sup> is<sup>2076</sup> fit<sup>2111</sup> for<sup>1519</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> kingdom<sup>932</sup> of God.<sup>2316</sup>

\* No man can choose a way of suffering for himself and no man can choose such a destiny for himself.

\* The gulf between voluntary offer to follow and the call by the Spirit to follow will be made clear in the time of suffering. He that offers to follow will soon fail and give up because his offer to follow came by the power of his own flesh.

\* At the critical moment, nothing on earth must come between the Messiah and the man he has called.

\* Discipleship has nothing to do with human understanding and he who is willing to follow based on certain conditions is disqualified even before he began. When the call to follow comes the disciple can not insist on his own terms.

- \* When we want to follow based on our own terms we reduce discipleship to a programme of our own arranged to suit ourselves and to be judged according to standards of rational ethics.
  - \* Discipleship can tolerate no conditions that will stand between the Messiah and our obedience to Him.
  - \* The first step of obedience following the call of the Messiah cuts the disciple completely and finally off from his previous existence.
  - \* There is only one true way of believing and that is to leave all and obediently follow the Messiah.
  - \* He who is called must first and foremost move out of a place of unbelief and put himself in a position where faith is alone possible. This position is one of complete abandonment unto Elohim at the cost of own conditions and understanding.
  - \* Once again all the promises of Spirit power and fruit is reserved for the obedient who brings the living sacrifice of self.
  - \* The call to follow the Messiah frees man from all earthly ties and binds him to the Messiah alone.
  - \* The disciple must plunge into the absolute insecurity of the unknown in order to learn the demand of the Messiah and in order to receive the gifts of the Messiah.
  - \* It is only as the disciple starts to walk in obedience to the Messiah that he learns his own weakness and the complete sustaining power of the Mighty One.
  - \* True discipleship starts where human ability ends.
  - \* Discipleship is not an offer man makes to Christ; it is a call that is out of Him through Him and to Him.
  - \* The road to Scriptural faith passes through obedience to the call of Yeshua. It is only the call of Messiah which makes faith possible because faith in essence is trust in the integrity and character of the one who called.
  - \* Obedience does not depend on the merit or intrinsic worth of a chosen path or situation but must be based purely on the call of Yeshua. As a matter of fact the call will most often ask for obedience where the true value of the act is hidden from reason and human pride.
  - \* Only he who believes is obedient and only he who is obedient believes.
  - \* The very first step that a man must take in obedience is one that will radically change his whole existence.
  - \* We can only take the first step of obedience aright if we don't focus on the work that we are called to do but on the word and person of Yashua who called us to do it.
  - \* The first step to walk on the water can not be taken by our own free will but Yeshua must first bid us to come.
  - \* Faith becomes extremely difficult, even impossible when there is one point of disobedience to the word of Messiah. Renounce the sin which holds you fast and then you will recover your faith.
- Pro 28:13 He that covereth<sup>3680</sup> his sins<sup>6588</sup> shall not<sup>3808</sup> prosper;<sup>6743</sup> but whoso confesseth<sup>3034</sup> and forsaketh<sup>5800</sup> them shall have mercy.<sup>7355</sup>
- \* There is no true fellowship with the Messiah if at some point in our lives we are running away from Him through disobedience.
  - \* To the disobedient the gracious call of the Messiah becomes a stern command by which he will be judged for his disobedience.

\* Unless we are obedient to every instruction and call of the Messiah, our faith will be unreal, and we will deceive ourselves.

\* The basis of the word "faith" is to trust. You do not need to trust who you do not intend to follow. Faith by implication can only be true faith if we surrender and follow the Master. Without yielding and following we are merely informed, religious sinners.

\* The call of the Messiah frees us from all earthly ties and binds us to Yashua alone.

**Gal 2:20** I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

**Rom 6:18** Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

**Rom 6:22** But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

**2Co 5:15** And<sup>2532</sup> that he died<sup>599</sup> for<sup>5228</sup> all,<sup>3956</sup> that<sup>2443</sup> they which live<sup>2198</sup> should not henceforth<sup>3371</sup> live<sup>2198</sup> unto themselves,<sup>1438</sup> but<sup>235</sup> unto him which died<sup>599</sup> for<sup>5228</sup> them,<sup>846</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> rose again.<sup>1453</sup>

\* The demand of the Messiah is an ultimate demand and the gifts and graces of Elohim are reserved only for those that give up their all to follow Him.

**Mat 7:13** Enter<sup>1525</sup> ye in<sup>1223</sup> at the<sup>3588</sup> strait<sup>4728</sup> gate:<sup>4439</sup> for<sup>3754</sup> wide<sup>4116</sup> is the<sup>3588</sup> gate,<sup>4439</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> broad<sup>2149</sup> is the<sup>3588</sup> way,<sup>3598</sup> that leadeth<sup>520</sup> to<sup>1519</sup> destruction,<sup>684</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> many<sup>4183</sup> there be<sup>1526</sup> which go in<sup>1525</sup> thereat:<sup>1223, 846</sup>

**Mat 7:14** Because<sup>3754</sup> strait<sup>4728</sup> is the<sup>3588</sup> gate,<sup>4439</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> narrow<sup>2346</sup> is the<sup>3588</sup> way,<sup>3598</sup> (contracted with pressures) which<sup>3588</sup> leadeth<sup>520</sup> unto<sup>1519</sup> life,<sup>2222</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> few<sup>3641</sup> there be<sup>1526</sup> that find<sup>2147</sup> it.<sup>846</sup>

**Luk 13:24** Strive<sup>75</sup> to enter in<sup>1525</sup> at<sup>1223</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> strait<sup>4728</sup> gate:<sup>4439</sup> for<sup>3754</sup> many,<sup>4183</sup> I say<sup>3004</sup> unto you,<sup>5213</sup> will seek<sup>2212</sup> to enter in,<sup>1525</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> shall not<sup>3756</sup> be able.<sup>2480</sup>

(Many in various ways manifest some desire to be saved. **They seek it, but do not agonize for it,** and hence, they are shut out.)

\* The grace that is extended to us from the Messiah will always demand a repentance and obedience unto a new way before it can become a reality in the disciples life.

\* Those who think that they can please Elohim by religious piety maybe rid themselves of external sinful habits but they are still very much in bondage to the essence of all sin which is self. When the call of the Messiah comes it will confront this very selfish nature of man and strike directly at the one idol that men zealously protect.

\* We will gladly sacrifice that which cost us nothing but unfortunately such a sacrifice is not pleasing to Elohim.

\* If you refuse the word of Yahweh's command you will not receive His word of grace. The scriptures are clear obedience precedes the extension of grace.

\* The man who disobeys can not truly believe the message of the kingdom but rather demonstrates a rebellion and uncrucified self -life.



1Sa 15:22 And Samuel<sup>8050</sup> said,<sup>559</sup> Hath the LORD<sup>3068</sup> *as great* delight<sup>2656</sup> in burnt offerings<sup>5930</sup> and sacrifices,<sup>2077</sup> as in **obeying**<sup>8085</sup> the voice<sup>6963</sup> of the LORD?<sup>3068</sup> Behold,<sup>2009</sup> to **obey**<sup>8085</sup> *is* better<sup>2896</sup> than sacrifice,<sup>4480, 2077</sup> *and* to hearken<sup>7181</sup> than the fat<sup>4480, 2459</sup> of rams.<sup>352</sup>

1Sa 15:23 For<sup>3588</sup> rebellion<sup>4805</sup> *is as* the sin<sup>2403</sup> of witchcraft,<sup>7081</sup> and **stubbornness**<sup>6484</sup> *is as* **iniquity**<sup>205</sup> and **idolatry**.<sup>8655</sup> Because<sup>3282</sup> thou hast rejected<sup>3988 (853)</sup> the word<sup>1697</sup> of the LORD,<sup>3068</sup> he hath also rejected<sup>3988</sup> thee from *being* king.<sup>4480, 4428</sup>

\* Only through obedience will you find yourself in a situation where faith in the true sense of the word is possible.

\* Unbelief thrives on cheap and easy grace, for it is determined to persist in rebellious disobedience.

\* Disobedience hides itself in many forms of rationalization, in order to keep part of a mans life under his own control.

Jam 2:14 What<sup>5101</sup> *doth it* profit,<sup>3786</sup> my<sup>3450</sup> brethren,<sup>80</sup> though<sup>1437</sup> a man<sup>5100</sup> say<sup>3004</sup> he hath<sup>2192</sup> faith,<sup>4102</sup> and<sup>1161</sup> have<sup>2192</sup> not<sup>3361</sup> works?<sup>2041, (3361)</sup> can<sup>1410</sup> faith<sup>4102</sup> save<sup>4982</sup> him?<sup>846</sup>

\* Those who obey believe and those who believe obey.

\* Men fall into great deception by seeking "higher spiritual revelations" while they are stubbornly disobedient to minor revealed truths of the Word of Elohim. To become obedient to the truth we already know is much more of a cross demand and a sacrifice than it is to simply acquire knowledge.

\* To partake of the tree of life requires an abandonment of our own understanding and lust for mere knowledge and instead calls us to a full surrender and obedience to the Spirit of truth.

\* Obedience always confronts us with one pressing issue, will we live through fellowship and eat from the tree of life or will we substitute it with rationalization and the artificial, deadly fruit of the tree of knowledge that is self-reliance.

\* The rational man is challenged to drop the academic question, and recall to a simple obedience to the will of Elohim as it has been revealed.

\* The rational man demands interpretation and explanation of the commands of Elohim before he will consider obeying them. Doubt and reflection takes the place of spontaneous obedience.

Gen 3:1 Now the serpent<sup>5175</sup> was<sup>1961</sup> more subtle<sup>6175</sup> than any<sup>4480, 3605</sup> beast<sup>2416</sup> of the field<sup>7704</sup> which<sup>834</sup> the LORD<sup>3068</sup> God<sup>430</sup> had made.<sup>6213</sup> And he said<sup>559</sup> unto<sup>413</sup> the woman,<sup>802</sup> Yea,<sup>637, 3588</sup> **hath God**<sup>430</sup> **said**,<sup>559</sup> Ye shall not<sup>3808</sup> eat<sup>398</sup> of every<sup>4480, 3605</sup> tree<sup>6086</sup> of the garden?<sup>1588</sup>

\* From the beginning the serpent tried to discredit the integrity and trust-worthiness of the creator.

\* The rational man wants to keep on posing problems with reasonings that will help him escape the necessity of obedience.

\* The selfish and religious seek for some extraordinary and personal, special command from Elohim because through their rebellious disobedience they can not see the sufficiency of the ordinary commandments of Elohim.

\* The call to follow the Messiah is an ultimate call that requires of us such radical obedience that we can not fall back on another path in case this one fails us.

\* It is only through obedience that we learn to know the truth.

Joh 8:31 Then<sup>3767</sup> said<sup>3004</sup> Jesus<sup>2424</sup> to<sup>4314</sup> those Jews<sup>2453</sup> which believed<sup>4100</sup> on him,<sup>846</sup> If<sup>1437</sup> ye<sup>5210</sup> continue<sup>3306</sup> in<sup>1722</sup> my<sup>1699</sup> word,<sup>3056</sup> then are<sup>2075</sup> ye my<sup>3450</sup> disciples<sup>3101</sup> indeed.<sup>230</sup>

Joh 8:32 And<sup>2532</sup> ye shall know<sup>1097</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> truth,<sup>225</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> truth<sup>225</sup> shall make you free.<sup>1659, 5209</sup>

1Jo 3:24 And<sup>2532</sup> he that keepeth<sup>5083</sup> his<sup>848</sup> commandments<sup>1785</sup> dwelleth<sup>3306</sup> in<sup>1722</sup> him,<sup>846</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> he<sup>846</sup> in<sup>1722</sup> him.<sup>846</sup> And<sup>2532</sup> hereby<sup>1722, 5129</sup> we know<sup>1097</sup> that<sup>3754</sup> he abideth<sup>3306</sup> in<sup>1722</sup> us,<sup>2254</sup> by<sup>1537</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> Spirit<sup>4151</sup> which<sup>3739</sup> he hath given<sup>1325</sup> us.<sup>2254</sup>

Joh 14:23 Jesus<sup>2424</sup> answered<sup>611</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> said<sup>2036</sup> unto him,<sup>846</sup> If<sup>1437</sup> a man<sup>5100</sup> love<sup>25</sup> me,<sup>3165</sup> he will keep<sup>5083</sup> my<sup>3450</sup> words:<sup>3056</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> my<sup>3450</sup> Father<sup>3962</sup> will love<sup>25</sup> him,<sup>846</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> we will come<sup>2064</sup> unto<sup>4314</sup> him,<sup>846</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> make<sup>4160</sup> our abode<sup>3438</sup> with<sup>3844</sup> him.<sup>846</sup>

\* To rely on Elohim is to have greater security than anything the material world can ever offer.

\* Reason, conscience, responsibility and piety, all stand in the way of single minded obedience.

\* We are excusing ourselves from single-minded obedience to Yashua on the pretext of legalism and supposed preference for obedience in "attitude and mind". By our clever reasonings we convince ourselves that Yashua did not really require literal, physical obedience but is rather asking for a "attitude of surrender".

\* The promise of true fellowship with the Messiah is given only to the single-minded obedient.

\* The reason why spirituality became such a complex and "evading" thing is because men prefer the rational paradoxical interpretation of the commandments of Elohim, instead of a literal, immediate obedience to Elohim.

\* It is only through actual obedience to the call of Elohim that a man becomes liberated to believe and know Elohim.

Isa 26:3 Thou wilt keep<sup>5341</sup> him in perfect peace,<sup>7965, 7965</sup> whose mind<sup>3336</sup> is stayed<sup>5564</sup> on thee: because<sup>3588</sup> he trusteth<sup>982</sup> in thee.

\* The true knowledge of Elohim is reserved for those that abandon themselves fully on the mercies of Yahweh.

\* Grace is presented as cheap when we rationalize single minded obedience away and substitute it with some romantic notion of mental agreement and "attitude" of obedience.

\* Grace is a gift that rescued us from the slavery of the world and self to become literal obedient bondservants of the Messiah.

\* By resisting simple obedience we become legalist, self-deceived Pharisees who speak a truth and expect it of others without personally obeying ourselves. By claiming obedience in the literal sense to be legalism, we become the worst legalists ourselves.

\* By avoiding literal obedience we will never become apostolic and we will fall into un-evangelical interpretation of Scripture.

\* When men try to interpret the Scriptures as an abstract principle it becomes legalism and the practical intention of the Scripture is lost.

\* Obedience to the call of the Messiah never lies within the power or ability of man. When a man willingly offers up something for the sake of Christ he can do so by his own power and is only choosing a voluntary way of life. His sacrifice is to an ideal and not to the command of the Messiah. Man is not set free from his own self-will by his own sacrifices but as a matter of fact is more subtly enslaved to self because of a good and religious thing he has done. True sacrifice and obedience is a result of Elohim's requirement in His time.

\* To obey is to rely on The Mighty One's integrity and to seek His kingdom and glory.

Mar 8:34 And<sup>2532</sup> when he had called<sup>4341</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> people<sup>3793</sup> unto him with<sup>4862</sup> his<sup>848</sup> disciples<sup>3101</sup> also, he said<sup>2036</sup> unto them,<sup>846</sup> **Whoever<sup>3748</sup> will<sup>2309</sup> come<sup>2064</sup> after<sup>3694</sup> me,<sup>3450</sup> let him deny<sup>533</sup> himself,<sup>1438</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> take up<sup>142</sup> his<sup>846</sup> cross,<sup>4716</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> follow<sup>190</sup> me.<sup>3427</sup>**

Mar 8:35 For<sup>1063</sup> whoever<sup>3739, 302</sup> will<sup>2309</sup> save<sup>4982</sup> his<sup>848</sup> life<sup>5590</sup> shall lose<sup>622</sup> it;<sup>846</sup> but<sup>1161</sup> whoever<sup>3739, 302</sup> shall lose<sup>622</sup> his<sup>848</sup> life<sup>5590</sup> for my sake<sup>1752, 1700</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> gospel's,<sup>2098</sup> the same<sup>3778</sup> shall save<sup>4982</sup> it.<sup>846</sup>

Mar 8:36 For<sup>1063</sup> what<sup>5101</sup> shall it profit<sup>5623</sup> a man,<sup>444</sup> if<sup>1437</sup> he shall gain<sup>2770</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> whole<sup>3650</sup> world,<sup>2889</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> lose<sup>2210</sup> his own<sup>848</sup> soul?<sup>5590</sup>

\* Suffering and rejection sums up the whole cross of Yashua.

\* The path of suffering and the cross is robbed of its "glory" by the fact that men will reject the suffering as senseless and without purpose.

\* To take up our cross and die for self implies to be despised and rejected of men.

\* The necessity to suffer and be rejected is laid upon the Messiah and all those who follow Him as a divine necessity. The disciple is never more than his Master, the bride never more than the Groom, the body never more than the Head.

Joh 15:18 If<sup>1487</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> world<sup>2889</sup> hate<sup>3404</sup> you,<sup>5209</sup> ye know<sup>1097</sup> that<sup>3754</sup> it hated<sup>3404</sup> me<sup>1691</sup> before<sup>4412</sup> it hated you.<sup>5216</sup>

Psa 34:19 Many<sup>7227</sup> are the afflictions<sup>7451</sup> of the righteous:<sup>6662</sup> but the LORD<sup>3068</sup> delivereth<sup>5337</sup> him out of them all.<sup>4480, 3605</sup>

\* Self- denial is not just a series of isolated acts of mortification of the flesh; it is rather to be aware only of Yashua and His glory, and to see only Him who goes before us and not the road that is too hard to travel.

\* To endure the cross is not a tragedy; it is a suffering which is the fruit of exclusive allegiance to the Messiah.

\* The path of the cross is a suffering and rejection, not for any cause of our own but solely for the sake and cause of Yashua.

\* If the gospel is watered down to an emotional lift which makes no costly demands and does not distinguish between natural and true obedient Christian life, we have fallen into religious self deception that leads to destruction and hell.

\* Modern Christianity does not want to be despised and rejected by men but rather seek the acceptance of men and therefore they removed the requirement of actual

obedience and substituted it with romantic notions of mental agreement without action.

\* When the life of obedience to the Messiah can not be distinguished from ordinary life then the cross is trampled on and the man deeply deceived.

\* The first cross that every man must suffer is the call to abandon any attachment to the world.

\* Only the man that is dead to his own will can follow Yashua.

\* Forgiveness is the Christ like suffering that the Messiah called all His disciples to. Those who sin against us and those who falsely accuse us we forgive as we take up the cross and bear the sins of others.

1Ti 4:10 For<sup>1063</sup> therefore<sup>1519, 5124</sup> we both<sup>2532</sup> labor<sup>2872</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> suffer reproach,<sup>3679</sup> because<sup>3754</sup> we trust<sup>1679</sup> in<sup>1909</sup> the living<sup>2198</sup> God,<sup>2316</sup> who<sup>3739</sup> is<sup>2076</sup> the Savior<sup>4990</sup> of all<sup>3956</sup> men,<sup>444</sup> especially<sup>3122</sup> of those that believe.<sup>4103</sup>

\* The call of the Messiah is out of necessity our death but results in our life.

\* The Messiah calls us to bear the sins of those who sin against us, and to do it through constant forgiveness.

1Pe 3:9 Not<sup>3361</sup> rendering<sup>591</sup> evil<sup>2556</sup> for<sup>473</sup> evil,<sup>2556</sup> or<sup>2228</sup> railing<sup>3059</sup> for<sup>473</sup> railing;<sup>3059</sup> but<sup>1161</sup> contrariwise<sup>5121</sup> blessing;<sup>2127</sup> knowing<sup>1492</sup> that<sup>3754</sup> ye are thereunto<sup>1519, 5124</sup> called,<sup>2564</sup> that<sup>2443</sup> ye should inherit<sup>2816</sup> a blessing.<sup>2129</sup>

\* Discipleship means allegiance to the suffering Christ and therefore a call to suffering, rejection and a cross.

\* The cup of suffering indeed did pass by the Messiah – but only through Him drinking it. We as disciples are also called to drink from that same cup. The disciple indeed overcomes not by fighting but by surrender.

\* Suffering has to be endured in order that it may pass away.

\* We can choose to shake off the burden that is laid upon us by the Messiah, only to find that we are now enslaved to carry a heavier burden of Self-enslavement.

\* Under His yoke we are certain of His nearness and fellowship.

\* Only those who trust not himself to his own knowledge, and care not for his own interest will find their journeys end.

\* Only those who admit their own blindness and willingly submit to the leading of the shepherd will find that He will lead them on the right path.

\* Not the road that a man choose nor the suffering that he devise, but the road which is clean contrary to all that you choose or contrive or desire, that is the road that you must take.

Luk 14:26 If any<sup>1536</sup> man come<sup>2064</sup> to<sup>4314</sup> me,<sup>3165</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> hate<sup>3404</sup> not<sup>3756</sup> his<sup>1438</sup> father,<sup>3962</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> mother,<sup>3384</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> wife,<sup>1135</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> children,<sup>5043</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> brethren,<sup>80</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> sisters,<sup>79</sup> yea,<sup>(2089)</sup> and<sup>1161</sup> his own<sup>1438</sup> life<sup>5590</sup> also,<sup>2532</sup> he cannot<sup>1410, 3756</sup> be<sup>1511</sup> my<sup>3450</sup> disciple.<sup>3101</sup>

Luk 14:27 And<sup>2532</sup> whosoever<sup>3748</sup> doth not<sup>3756</sup> bear<sup>941</sup> his<sup>848</sup> cross,<sup>4716</sup> and<sup>2532</sup> come<sup>2064</sup> after<sup>3694</sup> me,<sup>3450</sup> cannot<sup>1410, 3756</sup> be<sup>1511</sup> my<sup>3450</sup> disciple.<sup>3101</sup>

- \* Every man is called separately and must follow Yashua alone.
- \* The call of Christ set up a barrier between man and his natural life. The call places a sudden and ultimate demand on the man and comes angrily between the man and his natural life.
- \* The Messiah alone stands between us and Yahweh and for that reason must stand between us and every other thing or person.
- \* The world does everything in its power to retain its direct hold upon men and that is one of the reasons it is so opposed to Christ.
- Rom 8:7 Because<sup>1360</sup> the<sup>3588</sup> carnal<sup>4561</sup> mind<sup>5427</sup> is enmity<sup>2189</sup> against<sup>1519</sup> God:<sup>2316</sup> for<sup>1063</sup> it is not subject<sup>5293, 3756</sup> to the<sup>3588</sup> law<sup>3551</sup> of God,<sup>2316</sup> neither<sup>3761</sup> indeed<sup>1063</sup> can<sup>1410</sup> be.
- Rom 8:8 So<sup>1161</sup> then they that are<sup>5607</sup> in<sup>1722</sup> the flesh<sup>4561</sup> cannot<sup>1410, 3756</sup> please<sup>700</sup> God.<sup>2316</sup>
- \* Only the recognition of Yashua as sole mediator between Elohim and man will separate man from their self reliance and dependence on the world.
- \* It is the call of Yashua, regarded not as a religious ideal (which is by enthusiasm and willfulness of self), but what it truly is, the call of the Messiah.
- \* The follower of the Messiah has no more realities of his own and has no more direct relationships with any man, between man and his fellow man stand Yashua the mediator.
- \*