

Zahakiel: Blessed and loving Father in Heaven, we thank you for these sacred hours of the Sabbath day. We thank you for the many blessings you've given to us in the week that has passed, in which we have been privileged to honor you with our labor. We thank you now that we honor you with our rest. Be with us now as we enter into contemplation of your holy truths, by which you sanctify us to eternal life, that we may be drawn to you in love and unity. We ask this, with thanksgiving, in the name of your Son, Yahshua. Amen.

Peter_Jr_18: Amen.

Adriel: Amen

Elyna: Amen.

Naraiel: Amen

Ruthline16: Amen.

Peter: Amen

Zahakiel: Happy Sabbath to everyone. Tonight's study is a fairly basic one, and I have entitled it, simply, "Needs." It seeks to address a question that is often asked, but rarely contemplated as it ought; that is, "What is it that I, as a Christian, need?"

If we were to ask an individual, "What is it you need," we might get several typical answers. These might include air, food, water, shelter, clothing and so on. If the answers take on a more philosophical note, we might get such things as a sense of purpose, or social interaction. Being subjects of the Kingdom of Yahweh, and recognizing our relationship to One who knows all things, it would be in our best interest to determine what the Scriptures tell us of our needs.

In the Book of Ezra, when King Darius was issuing his order allowing the Jews to return and build the Temple in Jerusalem, we read,

"Moreover I make a decree what ye shall do to the elders of these Jews for the building of this house of Elohim; that of the king's goods, even of the tribute beyond the river, forthwith expenses be given unto these men, that they be not hindered. And that which they have need of, both young bullocks, and rams, and lambs, for the burnt offerings of the Almighty One of Heaven, wheat, salt, wine, and oil, according to the appointment of the priests which are at Jerusalem, let it be given them day by day without fail, that they may offer sacrifices of sweet savours unto the Almighty of Heaven, and pray for the life of the king, and of his sons." (Ezra 6:8-10)

The Book of Job, the Psalms and the Proverbs speak several times of the "poor and needy," those who are in need. In speaking to the people, Yahshua said during His ministry,

"Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin, and yet I say unto you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if Yahweh so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? "Therefore take no thought, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or, 'What shall we drink?' or, 'Wherewithal shall we be clothed?' (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things." He concludes with, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow, for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." (Mat 6:27-34)

This is quite a bit to read, so please let me know when you've caught up.

Adriel: F

Peter_Jr_18: F

Ruthline16: F

Elyna: F

Peter: f

Lucan joined the chat

Zahakiel: Continuing, then...In another place, Yahshua says, "...They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick [need one]." (Mat 9:12)

In Acts, we read that the goods donated to the brethren were distributed "unto every man according as he had need," (Acts 4:35) and then the word is used in another sense when we are taught "that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead." (Acts 17:3)

The last two uses of the word and its several forms appears in Revelation, indicating that the City of Yah's glory has no need of the light of the sun or moon, (Rev 21:23) and then that those in the city have no need of either the sun or candles, because Yah Himself gives us light. (Rev 22:5)

The sampling I have provided is by no means a comprehensive survey of all the places where the words "need" or "needs" appear in the Scriptures; however, they give us a fairly good idea of the manner in which they are used.

As CSDAs, one of the unique things that we see in the character of Yahweh, and thus in the course of our sanctification, is the great care that our Father puts into the details. As I believe I noted some time ago in a previous study, the closer you inspect something a human being has made, the more readily its inaccuracies and approximations appear – in other words, things become coarser and less remarkable up close. On the other hand, the more closely we look at the work of our Father, the more

detailed and intricate it becomes.

Before the invention of the microscope, and then even more precise tools, we had no idea of the level of complexity of our cells. We have learned things that baffle and perplex those who have adopted the position that life arose without the guidance of a super-human intelligence.

This is a principle reflected in character-building, for we are taught that we must be faithful in the smallest of matters, or we will never inherit dominion over everlasting responsibilities. Certainly, our words – those things that arise from our minds and hearts, and are released into the eternal record of the universe – matter very much. We are told that we will have to account for every idle word uttered, (Mat 12:36) an idea steadfastly avoided or minimized by those who believe that the mere declaration of faith, unaccompanied by resulting acts of righteousness, are sufficient to indicate salvation. We read in another place,

“Go to now, ye that say, ‘Today or tomorrow, we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain.’ Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, ‘If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.’ But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil. Therefore to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin.” (James 4:13-17)

So then, for those who may be tempted to think that we focus too much on the “small” matters of wording, like “I feel,” vs. “I am,” (a previous, and very important, study) or discussions of such things as “embracing” the health message vs. learning more about its details, consider the words of James. The apostle here rebukes those who so much as leave out acknowledging the will of Yahweh in their daily plans. To think that we may succeed at even the most “ordinary” tasks without the blessing of the Creator is seen by James as rejoicing, as boasting, and as sin.

I would suggest that, based on the Scriptures we have read, we have a new opportunity to refine our language, and that with regard to our understanding of the things that we need. What is it we need? As we have seen, the Bible uses the word in slightly different ways. Darius indicated that the returning Jews needed sacrifices for Yahweh. Certainly, the elements of worship are important. Other books, including the Gospels, speak about what humanity considers its “basic needs” in order to maintain life, these being food, water, and shelter. In order to be healthy, at times one may need a physician. In order to save humanity, Yahshua “needed” to be sacrificed on the cross, to rise again in glory. In the City that will descend, humanity will “need” no light beyond what the Father and Son

provide. How exactly this will work, I do not know...but I am looking forward to seeing it and understanding.

When examining the way the word "need" is used in the Bible, it is always contextualized. We need sacrifices... if we are going to be conducting worship. We need a physician... if we are sick and in need of care. We need food and water... if we are hungry and thirsty, and so on. The need is always placed in the context of the intended goal. We need X if we intend to accomplish Y. But in an ultimate sense, do we actually need any these things? Consider this passage:

"And [Moses] was there with Yahweh forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments." (Exo 34:28)

Another is just like it:

"And the angel of Yahweh came again the second time, and touched [Elijah], and said, 'Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee.' And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God." (1Kings 19:7, 8)

In the beginning, before the entrance of sin, "they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed." (Gen 2:25)

In Yahshua, we conduct worship without the need for sacrifices, for the Great Sacrifice has already been supplied by the Father, and has been accepted on our behalf. In short, everything that even the Scriptures tell us we "need" is shown to be very situational. There are times when humanity, in the presence of Yah, has gone without clothing, shelter, food, water, all the "basic needs." And lest we think that we need even the air that we breathe, we read,

"Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord." (1Th 4:17)

If we are so high up that we are "in the clouds," then the air is too thin to breathe normally. Furthermore, inspiration has told us that following this scene described in Thessalonians, we shall be travelling seven days to the Place where Yahweh resides. As with the issue with the lights in the City, I don't know how exactly this will work, but I am eager to behold. What is certain is that Yahshua will not take us with Him and then revive

us in Heaven – we will be alive the entire time, and therefore any air that we need, He will supply directly.

After considering these matters, I have a very hard time saying that I “need” anything. At least, if I ever say I have a need, I will make sure I contextualize it, that I indicate what that need is for – for example, “I need a pen in order to write.” This may seem, again, like a small change, like a tiny thing hardly worthy of our time to examine, and yet I find in the Bible that we are blessed when we take the time to acknowledge the work of Yahweh in our lives for even the smallest thing.

What do we need – is literally nothing but the Father and Son. If we have Them, we have all things. Often enough, people say this... but they mean it in a “spiritual” sense. I am speaking here of a very real, a very material sense of the word. We read actual testimonies in the record of the Bible of those with Yah requiring none of the things that even the Bible itself says we “need” under ordinary circumstances.

This principle can underlie any testimony of faith. This principle, if taken to its logical conclusion, fills us with perfect love, because it casts out all fear of things being taken from us. The world may distract, may convince us that we need things, even things beyond what the Scriptures record. But what we learn as a matter of our faith, is that even those things that we are blessed to receive in order to continue to exist... we have no true need of them after all.

As I said at the beginning, this is a very simple idea, but let me just give you one application to our sanctified walk, and then I invite you, I encourage you, to apply it wherever you have “needs” along these lines.

Yahshua says, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” (Mark 16:15)

Now, those who “love the world” in one sense, but do not love it in agape, will have a difficult time with this. Loss of friends, family connections, reputation, and so on, will stifle the enthusiasm of the unconverted. Rarely, however, will those who hesitate say, “I cannot teach the Gospel, because I am not filled with the Gospel.” Few will be honest enough, and self-aware enough, to admit that the teachings and traditions they have accepted have not taken root in their hearts unto eternal life. Instead, they will begin to talk about the things that they “need.” “I cannot evangelize. I need more time.” “I cannot evangelize. I need more experience.” “I cannot evangelize. I need more Church support, or materials, or books.” “I cannot evangelize. I need to have the ‘gift’ of talking to people.”

Now, let us consider these statements in light of what we have just learned. Even IF these declarations were true, even if they were as true as "I need water, and I need air," they are still not a barrier to doing the work to which we are called. Even if the excuses were legitimate in content, nothing at all prevents us from doing the impossible – walking on water, rising from the dead – if we know the Father and Son, and have already experienced Their miracles. Those who are born again have already seen the greatest miracle. They were once dead, and now are alive. Beyond the basic needs, beyond food, clothing, water, and air... they have been called forth to life that needs nothing but the presence of Yahweh. If one has no needs, one has no limitations.

Elyna: Amen

Adriel: Amen

Peter: Amen

Zahakiel: If one has no need but Yahweh, then whatsoever He wills, we can surely accomplish. Again, a simple message, but one that I believe can refine our view of our Father, ourselves, and something as ordinary as our words. Let us consider the different ways in which this idea can be applied to our invincible testimonies, and to our very understanding of the creation.

Are there any comments or questions about tonight's study?

Elyna: C

Peter: C.

Zahakiel: Go ahead.

Elyna: Interesting study. That reminds me of a conversation I had with a friend a long time ago, when I knew nothing about the solvency of water. I told him that we did not need soap in order to clean. It was a nice "debate", and at the end he had to admit that truly we did not need soap in order to make things clean. While I am not recalling all my supporting arguments that convinced him, today I know for sure that we do not need soap to make things clean. So it is with our spiritual life and it is a burden taken off our back knowing that by beholding Yah, we are filled and fulfilled having need of nothing. Thank you for presenting this. End.

Zahakiel: Go ahead, Peter.

Peter: Thank you for this simple need to hear study but powerful to bring a deeper understanding of how we as a people can accomplish great things just by remembering that Yah knows what is best for us and knowing that He knows is a wonderful thing, we do not have a need because we are the apple of his eye and He will supply all things. End

Lucan: C

Adriel: c

Zahakiel: Go ahead.

Lucan: I have noticed that in the world, "needs" and "wants" are often confused. I see it often when working, and people will place an order for food such as, "I need X item..." That phrasing has often grated against me when used for frivolous wants.

Naraiel: C.

Lucan: I suspect I am sensitive to it due to having known poverty very well, and the very short list that truly qualifies as "needs..." I have to conclude that angels would find it similarly disgusting if Yahweh's people were to misuse those words, as they know the provision of Yahweh very well. The ditch on the other side of the road would be presumption / fanaticism. Yahshua clearly did not "need" to avoid falling from great heights, as He showed gravity was not a concern when He rose. But, He would not abuse His "lack of need" for anything less than a voice from Yahweh. Had Peter ventured onto the waves before Yahshua had told him to come, he would have drowned. Had Elijah opted to go without food for forty days and nights without actively following the instruction of an angel, he would have starved. I am blessed by this message that puts into perspective the lack of needs we have when following Yahweh's instructions. So, thank you for that. 😊<End.>

Zahakiel: Thank you for sharing that... the perspective of the angels is an excellent point to consider. Go ahead, Jody.

Adriel: I am also blessed by this message. I'm not sure if Elijah would have starved though. 😊 But on his own I don't think he would have went "in the strength" of that food though. That implies to me that going without those 40 days he was not weak...

David You mentioned us not needing to bring sacrifices since Christ is our sacrifice. That made me think of the "sacrifice of praise" and "presenting our bodies a living sacrifice". As I have thought about the sacrifice of praise in the past I wonder why it is called a sacrifice, when it seems natural to praise Yah for what He has given us. I had thought that perhaps presenting our bodies a living sacrifice would be more of a sacrifice, but really that is also a blessing. I wonder why it is termed "sacrifice". End

Zahakiel: Well, a sacrifice is not always something that is "killed." In the Old Testament, there were also "meat" sacrifices, which were actually sometimes grain. The idea is giving something up in order to obtain something else, an exchange through covenant.

So, in a sense we do "sacrifice" when returning tithes and offerings, when using time to worship, and so on. Of course, knowing what we gain in return, standing in the presence of Yah,

Adriel: c

Zahakiel: as Paul says it is barely worth speaking of it as a price. Giselle, go ahead with your comment, then we'll return to Jody.

Naraiel: I was thinking that Job is a good example, that the only thing He needed was Yah. Family members, properties, and even health was taken from him. Did he need all those things and people to define His faithfulness to Yah, or define his own value? No. End.

Zahakiel: Go ahead, Jody.

Adriel: Right. Sacrifice to me means something difficult to exchange for. So I agree with what Paul was saying. End

Zahakiel: Are there any others with thoughts to share before we close? All right, then I will ask Bro. Luke to offer a closing prayer.

Lucan: Dear heavenly Father. We thank you for providing all of our needs. We know that, in truth, the gifts you have freely given us are the only things we require. As we advance in the walk of sanctification, we find many things that are given and many that we must discard. May your Spirit ever lead us to discern rightly between the two, as we forsake all that would tie us to this earth when you call us into the skies. In Yahshua's name we pray, amen.

Pastor Chick: Amen.

Zahakiel: Amen.

Adriel: Amen

Peter: Amen

Elyna: Amen

Ruthline16: Amen.

Naraiel: Amen. (Amen, Amen)