

Zahakiel: It's time to start. Pastor, please offer an opening prayer.

Pastor Chick: Dear Heavenly Father, we come before Your Presence with praise and Thanksgiving for the week of victorious living, for the many blessings bestowed upon Your people. May our worship be pleasing in Your sight. In Yahshua's holy name, Amen.

Zahakiel: Amen.

Barb: Amen

Naraiel: Amen

Lucan: Amen

Adriel7777: Amen

Elyna1: Amen

Peter_Jr_18: Amen.

Zahakiel: Happy Sabbath to everyone. Tonight's study, a relatively short one, is called "The Fear of Flying."

From time to time, during the course of my giving these studies, I have drawn upon my own experiences with Adventism. I have spoken about my friends joining the mainstream SDA Church and then coming to me to talk about prophecy when I was a teenager. I have spoken about leaving the Church in spirit and falling into the world and beyond. I've spoken about Yah calling me to a spiritual re-awakening, but that upon going to pray in an empty SDA Church in Florida, where I thought I was supposed to go, I received my first vision, during which Yah spoke to me and said, "This is not My home." I have spoken on several occasions about meeting Pastor Chick for the first time, learning about the trademark, wrestling with the angel, and being converted to the truth.

I would like to focus tonight on one particular aspect of that experience, and though I have likely mentioned it before, I think it is valuable to contextualize it in this time of Yah's final appeal to those in the valley of decision, who know the truth and yet have not made the step of faith to surrender all to He who is all-knowing, all-powerful, and perfect in love.

We ask, "What is it that keeps those who know the truth from embracing the truth?" We ask, "Why do people despise the covenant, and fear to enter into the gates with thanksgiving for the unspeakable mercy that mankind has been offered?"

The simple, comprehensive answer is "sin." That is the only answer there can be, for "whatsoever is not of faith is sin," (Rom 14:23) and it is sin that keeps people from harmony with the Law.

As Adventists, we know that there is no separation between the Law of Yah and the Love of Yah. It is for love's sake, for Agape, that Yah gave mankind the Law. Even after the people He chose fell victim to Egyptian bondage, and were exposed to the corruption of a pagan theocracy, Yah released them from their years of slavery and set them on the journey to their intended inheritance. This is a well-established parallel to the act of

conversion, when the Christian departs from Egypt, and the process of sanctification, when the Christian leaves behind that which is carnal for that which is provided by the Creator.

The Gospel, just like the Old Testament religion of Yahweh, is based upon the Law. Yahshua says to those who come to Him, "Go and sin no more." In even these simple words, He is instructing obedience to His Father's Law, for it is an often overlooked fact of the Scriptures that "sin is not imputed when there is no Law." (Rom 5:13)

In other words, if we speak of repentance from sin in the New Testament, or if we speak of sin at all, the very act of doing so establishes both the presence and the authority of the Law over the believer.

This verse, Romans 5:13, ought to be held up as a beacon of truth against the false doctrines of this generation. He who believes on Yahshua has escaped the penalty of lawbreaking through His grace, for without the Law there is no sin, and without sin there is nothing to punish... no searing of the conscience, no lake of fire, no second death. These are all fiery manifestations of Yah's glorious presence, released from His self-imposed restraint to purify the universe from all that violates the Law and opposes the Gospel.

So then, when we say that "sin" and the love of it keeps people from accepting the Gospel as taught by the CSDA Church... of course, that is true. Those who do not love the Law, and therefore sin against it, cannot love the Gospel, which is the means of bringing mankind into unity with this Law.

Now, when we instruct such an individual, "Examine yourself, to see that you love sin more than life," few are likely to discover the truth of the statement in such stark terms. They are not likely to be sitting down, or kneeling in prayer, and have the sudden revelation, "I love sin more than life." It's not impossible, of course, for such things have happened, and they may find themselves surrounded by light from Heaven as Paul on the road to Damascus. Such occasions are unusual, however, and while – if pressed – they may concede that the words are true, it does not usually sink down to the heart-level, or else they would either repent or flee further into the darkness.

Then what is the experience of loving sin more than life? What does it feel like to resist the Gospel because of some idol preventing full surrender?

It feels like fear.

Those who love sin more than salvation are guilty of one sin more than any other, and it is the sin of fearing the experience of holiness. It may be buried deep. It may be hidden behind other thoughts and emotions, like anger, resentment, bitterness, distraction, disinterest, or deflection. The fear may protect itself by hiding behind outrage; for example, when confronted the individual may say, "Who are you to question my relationship with God?"

It may protect itself by hiding behind self-pity. There is little that the flesh loves more than excuses for failure. The flesh hates to take responsibility for its own decisions, and will cite reason after reason, factor after factor, for falling short of the standard of holiness.

This is how it was in the beginning, when Yah asked Adam, "Hast thou eaten of the tree?" and his reply started with, "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me..." (Gen 3:11, 12)

So returning to that aspect of my own experiences, I will tell you of the last time that I feared the Gospel of Yahweh. I was learning, for the first time in my life, that there was such a thing as Victory over sin. I had been to many sermons, and studies, and lessons... and I had never heard that we could live without the guilt, and the feelings of guilt, that arise from transgressing the Law. I was told, "Here is a message that God has given to you, and if you accept it, you will never sin again."

These were the words, and the Spirit confirmed it as truth. But then arose the familiar flesh, that which hates having no excuses, and said, "What will your life be after this? Will you be a different person? Can you be accepted by those who know you now? Will you hate the things you now love, and love the things you now hate?"

There was fear in those words. There was the sin of fear in those words, fear of change, of losing things the flesh considered valuable. There was fear of the loss of friends, family, loved ones. For some there is fear of the loss of status or money, of losing position in "life." Those things did not concern me, but Satan knows very well what concerns each of those whom he has kept under his dominion for years and decades.

And someone may ask, "Is fear truly a sin?"

In holy things, fear is sin, because it is the state of disharmony with the Law. It is sin when it causes violation of the Law, when it prevents people from enjoying obedience. It is a sin, for it prevents one from accepting the grace that makes us worthy of life; it is the "the fearful and unbelieving" that are the first ones named, before murderers, whoremongers and liars, as having a part in the second death. (Rev 21:8)

Fear is sin when it becomes more important than the worship of Yahweh, which is the first commandment, and when it keeps those who endure it from joyful association with the People of Yah's Covenant. Thus, fear keeps people from the two great manifestations of Agape, upon which hang all the Law and the words of the prophets.

So then, in that hour that I believed Victory over sin was true, and could be mine for the taking, I heard fear from the flesh. The tempting spirits sent to keep me in bondage knew those things that I would not surrender, but then Yah showed me a simple truth, and it is one on which I have reflected a number of times in the years since.

A simple truth: A bird must fly. A hatchling that remains in the nest will die. A young bird that does not trust the invisible currents of the air to keep him afloat will stumble and fall

to destruction. A bird that has spread its wings and left the nest lives because it believes that the air, which it cannot see, will bear it aloft.

Similarly, it is written that "The just shall live by faith." Four times the Scriptures tell us that the just live by faith. (Hab. 2:4, Rom 1:17, Gal 3:11, Heb 10:38) It is clearly a concept worthy of diligent contemplation. In seeing this truth, I understood that the fearful flesh will always seek to have excuses for failure. I had been doing that my entire life... looking for reasons why I did not accomplish what I intended.

But because of grace, we are released from our bonds, free to fly or fall based on what we truly believe. And here is the Good News about that freedom...When what someone believes is the truth, and he believes it with all his heart, not just as a theoretical acknowledgement of fact, he will live. The Father will cause him to live. There is no need for any excuses, and this is freedom. This is freedom; the spirit loves it and the flesh hates it.

And while familiar things may seem to be pleasant, a human being that unites with divinity is stronger than the need for these things; strong enough to endure their loss if needs be, and strong enough to use the treasures that Yahweh permits to remain for His glory.

In seeing this truth, I chose to trust the invisible currents, and to leave behind all those things binding me to the earth. I did not know all that this would imply. I did not have even the next hour planned out, but I knew that I could not reject this great gift, and that I would no longer fear being truly responsible for my own actions.

Contrary to every prompting of the flesh, I chose to accept what was offered to me, and trusted in the Father and Son to do the rest. Now, having made that choice, and resting each day in that choice once made, I speak, not of the flesh, of weaknesses, and excuses, and failure, but rather of strength, and victory, and those things that pertain to everlasting life.

The Spirit triumphs over the flesh. And we know all these things: A human being that unites with divinity can stand on a mountain for forty days and neither tire nor thirst. A human being united with divinity can survive the loss of all that the flesh believes it needs, and still rejoice - and even worship, knowing that Yahweh is the Almighty One, the All-knowing and the All-loving.

Adriel7777: Amen

Zahakiel: A human being that is One with the Father and Son knows perfect love that casts out all fear; and so, a human being that is One with Yahweh and Yahshua can fly.

A bird that fears to fly will die in its nest, never knowing the exhilaration of seeing the mountains and valleys beneath its wings. It never fulfills the purpose for which it was created, to feel the wind rushing past its face. It never experiences the world as Yah designed it should, from a high place, held aloft by invisible currents, trusting the air to

keep it alive, and giving glory in its own way to the Creator. May this never be the fate of those who hear these words.

The People of Yahweh invite the sin-sick and dying, the lonely and the fearful, to come up to a high place. It is our joy to say, with all the saints in light, "Here is a message that God has given to you, and if you accept it, you will never sin again."

May the words that Yah has given His people to speak draw forth a golden harvest from the world. May the trembling be hopeful, shed the chains that keep one bound to the earth, and take wing, mounting up as eagles, to fly among the holy ones that meet Yahshua in the air, so ever to be with our Savior and Lord.

Are there any comments or questions about the study tonight?

Adriel7777: Amen. C.

Zahakiel: Go ahead.

Adriel7777: Beautiful study...

Elyna1: Amen! C. Peter:

Adriel7777: and to add a verse to sin meaning the law is still valid... Here is a verse from I John 3:4. Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. End.

Zahakiel: Thank you for sharing that, yes. Go ahead, Peter.

Elyna1: [Peter] Thank you very much for this study. It fills my heart with great joy happiness... It's a wonderful supper. Thanks be to Yah. End.

Adriel7777: C

Zahakiel: Go ahead, Jody.

Adriel7777: Also I had someone say to me just a week or so ago..."You don't know about my relationship with God". I look forward to sharing this study and hopefully shedding some light on the fears that caused that response. End.

Elyna1: Amen.

Zahakiel: Oh, let us know how that conversation develops 😊

Adriel7777: Will do. 😊

Zahakiel: Also, welcome to the room, Piedad. I hope you were blessed by your visit. Are there any others with thoughts to share? All right, then I will ask Bro. Luke to offer a closing prayer.

Lucan: Dear heavenly Father. We thank you that, so far from fearing it, you have invited us to fly in the midst of heaven. And, you have given your people a loud cry, an everlasting gospel to share in the process. We thank you that the relationship you have given us is such that, if any do not know of it, we are blessed to tell them. And we ask for the presence of your Spirit in awakening hearts to receive it for themselves. In Yahshua's name we pray, amen.

Barb: Amen

Zahakiel: Amen.

Gloria: Amen.

Pastor Chick: Amen.

Elyna1: Amen.

Ruthline: Amen

Adriel7777: Amen

Kimber: Amen

Peter_Jr_18: Amen.

daphna: Amen

Elyna1: Peter: Amen.