

**Zahakiel:** Let's begin... I will ask Pastor to offer an opening prayer, if he is there with Sis. Barb.

**Barb:** PC: Dear Father in Heaven. We request your blessing for this Sabbath convocation. We thank you for the presence of Your Spirit, and for the rest that we have in Yahshua. Thank you for hearing and answering our prayers, as we especially think of Sis. Maria at this time. In Yahshua's holy name, amen

**Lucan:** Amen

**daphna:** Amen

**Zahakiel:** Amen.

**Peter:** Amen.

**Barb:** B: Amen

**Naraiel:** Amen.

**Adriel777:** Amen

**.gadriel:** Amen. Gracias

**Zahakiel:** Happy Sabbath to everyone. Last Sabbath, I ended the meeting with this sentiment, this paragraph: "Let nothing discourage us. Let us be settled, let us choose to be settled, into that truth so that we cannot be moved, not by any emotion, not by any false doctrine, not by any appeal of Satan's angels to our flesh. Those who are in the Covenant, let us carry the Cross with pride, and resolute devotion (and I will speak of that word "Resolute" next week). Those who are not yet in the Covenant, I said this a few weeks ago, and I say it again: Aggressively pursue the path of life. I shall not fail to continuously exhort you to this. And you... let not your tongue be silenced by discouragement, or circumstances, but lay claim to the life that Yah has promised you. The root of false doctrines is nowhere within Yahshua, nor is it to be found in His Bride, for the flesh is dead among those born again."

**daphna:** Happy Sabbath

**Zahakiel:** I thought it important enough to share that paragraph in its entirety, because I believe it perfectly sums up the "mind of Christ" as it must surely be, residing in a Christian of this generation. With distraction and destruction all around, there is much that may tip the mind toward negativity and sorrow, and yet Yahweh has not changed, nor have His plans for His people changed. His desire for us has not been altered one bit by the passage of time or the change of circumstances, and our work has become – if anything – more valuable as the need for the Gospel's message of love has increased.

As indicated, I am calling this study "Resolute," because this is the characteristic of the mind of Christ that causes it always to be victorious, always to be successful at its objectives.

I want to begin, perhaps somewhat strangely, with a quotation from Ellen White. I tend to draw directly from the Scriptures for these studies, but in this case I am not sharing her works in order to give evidence for a doctrine, but rather to comment on, and discuss, some particulars of her statements. We read, then, "Those who make bold assumptions of holiness give proof in this that they do not see themselves in the light of the law; they are not spiritually enlightened, and they do not loathe every species of selfishness and pride. From their sin-stained lips fall the contradictory utterances: 'I am holy, I am sinless. Jesus teaches me that if I keep the law I am fallen from grace. The law is a yoke of bondage.' "The Lord says, 'Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.' We should

study the Word of God carefully that we may come to right decisions, and act accordingly; for then we shall obey the Word and be in harmony with God's holy law." [Faith and Works, p. 95]

Now, for those of us who love the doctrine of Righteousness by Faith, and believe in perfect Victory over Sin for the born-again believer, we might hesitate to say "amen" to the entirety of that statement, since the first portion may seem to speak against a bold testimony, and those who oppose the truth certainly use it for that purpose. And yet, taken in full it does nothing but support the Bible's explanation of conversion.

The purpose of inspired writing is to communicate the thoughts of Yahweh to humanity in our own language. It is not intended to be viewed in pieces, and in fact even some of the chapter divisions of the Scriptures have led to misunderstandings in books such as Paul's letter to the Romans. What some have done is taken the above quotation and, reading it through the lens of their own failed experiences, attempting with the "self's" power to do Yah's righteousness, isolated the portion:

"Those who make bold assumptions give proof in this that they do not see themselves in the light of the law...[saying] 'I am holy, I am sinless.'" They then take the statement itself to be the problem, understanding it to mean that if one says, "I am holy," that means they are not holy, and if they say, "I am sinless" that means that they are both sinful and deceived. And yet, the Bible and Ellen White's writings declare us to be holy: "According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love." (Eph. 1:4)

The Bible and Ellen White's writings instruct us to be bold, for we read: "The wicked flee when no man pursueth, but the righteous are bold as a lion." (Pro 28:1)

We should obey (and believe!) Yah rather than men.

There are two errors in thinking that the quotation from Faith and Works points out, and they are 1) assumptions, and 2) contradictory utterances.

Obviously, if one makes claims to holiness and a sinless experience, but is not truly born again, they do not see themselves clearly. Even more importantly, the contradictory utterances are defined as "I am holy, I am sinless," vs. "Jesus teaches me that if I keep the law I am fallen from grace."

Now, carefully consider, if these two statements are contradictory, then from the context, one of them is true and the other false. Looking at those two, which is the false one? The false statement is the second one – that Yahshua's teachings indicate that we are fallen from grace if we keep the Law. This being the case, then, according to this quotation, the proper statement for the Christian to make IS, "I am holy, I am sinless." If we say we "have not sinned" we deceive ourselves, for all have (in the past) come short of Yah's glory; but in Christ, today, there is no condemnation (the penalty of being a sinner) for those in Christ Yahshua. The Law is not a yoke of bondage; the Law sets us free from sin, confusion, and self-deception. The Law reveals the emptiness of Satan's "new principles," which we discussed last week, and shows the fullness of Yah's glory.

Now, if we are going to make these bold statements, we must make sure they are not assumptions – they must be true. They must be our valid testimony that, because Yahshua lives in us, we are

like Him. Because Yahshua is without sin, and I have His mind, and His Spirit, then no sin can possibly reside in this mortal flesh. Perhaps more specifically, the sin that resides by nature in the carnal flesh has no power to control the fullness of the being that I am. Because Yahshua is holy, then as the Scriptures plainly state, I have been chosen to be both holy and "without blame before Him in love." These are powerful statements, and ones that are often skimmed over, often read past, without the reader letting the mind linger on these thoughts, which are spirit and life.

Inspired writings, the Bible directly, and from the pen of more recent messengers, tell us what we are to be, and yet so many Adventists, those gifted with a double portion of these blessings, are often the fiercest opponents of the Victory message.

Finally, for the purpose of understanding this quote, let us read the last portion carefully: "We should study the Word of God carefully that we may come to right decisions, and act accordingly; for then we shall obey the Word and be in harmony with God's holy law." Who, calling himself or herself a Christian, says, "We cannot obey the Word, we cannot keep the Law?" If they believe this, then they have not met the prerequisite – a study of the Word of God carefully. If one is confused, if one is uncertain, if one is prone to falling into temptation, one has not used the great gift that Yah has given us, because we study this Word "that" (so that) "we may come to right decisions AND act accordingly."

I emphasize the AND, because there is a great temptation here. Some may say, "The Bible teaches that to KNOW the Father and Son is everlasting life, therefore all I must do is learn of Them, and my actions do not matter that much. I will be Their friend, and they will save me, because it is about faith and not works."

True knowledge leads to right actions. True faith invariably leads to righteous behavior. When we have the Spirit of Yah, and we are educated by the word, then we both make the right decisions and do the actions that reflect those decisions.

I do not mean to dwell too long on this quotation, or what turns out to actually be a very straightforward point if the entire passage is taken into account... but I do want to make it clear, and very clear, that Bible believing Christians, and CSDAs in particular, are instructed to be bold in testifying to the effect of the Gospel on our lives. The people of Yahweh, those who love and study the Word, those who learn deeply of the principles of the Kingdom to come, obey the Law. They resolutely turn away from sin, and resolutely perform the commandments of the Law. In this, the perfection of Yah is revealed to the world.

Now, it is revealed in a way that human beings can understand, because if Yah came to earth, obeyed His own law, and then returned to Heaven, humanity would have no example it could understand. In fact, even Yahshua could not do this without the ministry of His people. He has made it the Truth that He must operate in the world through His Spirit as manifest through His people. Of course, the Father and Son can do "all" things, but they have placed the Gospel work in the hands of human beings, not of sinless angels, because it is necessary for the bold testimony of the born-again to be heard. A person who IS a sinner, must hear the testimony, "I WAS a sinner, and now I am a saint."

Yah may say, "You do not need to be a sinner," and an angel may say, "Trust in the Son, and you will cease from sin," but the testimony is to be, "I am like you. You may see yourself perfectly in

me, and yet Yahshua has redeemed me from sin and death." The testimony began with Christ, who came to earth to be like us, and it ends with the evangelist, with the testimony, "What Christ has done, in His perfection, we may also do in our imperfection, because He has placed His perfection upon us."

It must be bold. We must be resolute, to hold the testimony of holiness, of victory over sin, without presumption or assumption. Doing the works of the Law, as described in the Ellen White quote, is one example of how the resolve, or the will, of man, is combined with divinity. The world does not see the divine, it sees the human actions, and from that can understand the divine. We may put it this way: the physical is seen, and the divine is understood.

When Yahshua said "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father," (John 14:9) he was using the word "seen" in two different ways. You, the disciples, have "seen" my speaking, and teaching, and healing... with your physical eyes. As a result of this, you have "seen" the Father, in the sense of understanding something and saying, "Ah, I see."

We read, "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil." (Ecc. 8:11)

Here we see the downfall of the carnal man. One who relies on the senses cannot "see" Yahweh, because even if he sees the actions of the righteous, he will not understand their motive to be divine, but rather something he can relate to – something carnal and centered in the self.

Justice, mercy, and love... the Work of Yah is often subtle, invisible, gently moving the words and actions of the righteous; thus, Yah's influence is, and can only be, spiritually discerned. We must be bold, resolute, so that our Father may be gentle. Our actions, visible, must reveal His character, invisible.

For those who are seeking the truth, for those who are hungry and thirsty for righteousness, this is how the human will has the power to bring Yah's divinity, an understanding of His holiness, to the world even though it is invisible. We are the messengers, we are the representatives, of Yahshua to the sick and dying, so that "He shall come to be glorified in His saints." (2Th 1:10) We do this by choosing to do so, by deciding to accept His invitation, which is freely available to all mankind.

By Yah's grace, and by that only, (for here is the proof of His presence) we have been given the ability to choose righteousness, even though it is a very un-natural act. It is a miracle for a sinner to choose to be redeemed, for the sinner's very life is the state of sin. So confusing is this idea to some, so miraculous and super-natural, that even some Christians do not believe it is possible... they find it easier to accept the idea that Yahweh has predestined some to life and others to death, rather than wonder at the mystery that He has created, in the death of Christ, a "little space" (Ezra 9:8) so that we may make a freewill decision for time and eternity.

Of freedom we may read, "When I say unto the wicked, 'O wicked man, thou shalt surely die,' if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. "Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul." (Ezek. 33:8, 9)

This is one of the clearest passages that discuss human choice. Not only does Yahweh give each person the ability to "turn from his way" "if" he is warned and receives the grace that Yah places in the words of the warning, but WE have a choice to make whether or not we will even carry the grace with us. Ultimately, it is by grace we are saved, but the will determines if and how that grace is used. The "grace" that saves has been shed widely upon mankind. It has appeared to all, (Titus 2:11) but it is our resolve, our will, that determines how effective it is going to be.

Yah has left it to us to take responsibility for our words, and our actions... and this is why mankind will be "judged." There can be no judgment by a just God if there is no freedom in which to act as one desires. Order, reason, and language are defied if we were to accept anything to the contrary.

Now, if we were to understand, truly, the power that Yah has given to those created in His image, and those restored by the Gospel to that image, we would be bold indeed. We would be fearless, and filled with love for our Father and our fellow men. We would be resolute in our separation from sin, and our harmony with the Law... and this is all it is, an understanding, a realization, that we have been given all we need already.

Here is the very simply-stated message of tonight. The Bible declares that we have been called to be holy, and without sin... and that we are to be bold in declaring it. We have been given all that we need already. Therefore, we, who know victory, have ceased from sin, because we have said, with faith, "I do not want to sin." It really is as simple as that. If we say these words, trusting that Yah will give us our desires, then by our faith we are healed. What could be simpler?

Yahshua tells us, "If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" (Luke 11:11-13)

And again, "And if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him." (1John 5:15)

**Adriel777:** Amen

**Zahakiel:** Now, we must exercise care here, just as we must exercise it with quotations from Ellen White, or anything else of everlasting importance. Some will say, "I can ask for a big house, or a new car." One can ask, of course, but are these things truly the petitions that we, His children called to holiness, desire of Him?

The promise is self-regulating. Those who have the Spirit of Yah, such that He will hear us and give us our desires, will ask for those things that please the Father for us to have. This is an aspect of our unity with Him. We will know what to ask for, because our desires will be those things that draw us closer to Yah, and give us greater power to speak His glory to the world. There is little to add here that pertains to the simplicity of this doctrine.

I have said to the yet unbaptized, "Aggressively seek baptism." I say to the baptized, "Aggressively seek all your desires in Yahweh." We who have said, "I do not want to sin," and have seen Yah honor that desire with a victorious life, may say, "I want," any righteous thing, and we shall have it. It is about being resolute, and trusting in the clearly written promise, having the Faith of

Yahshua. We may say, "I want to be healthy," or "I want to be a good teacher of the Word," or "I want the opportunity to introduce someone to the faith..." Have we asked for these things? Have we asked resolutely? Have we believed that we have received them, and rejoiced, using our will, our choices, to bring them into the world? Remember, our visible actions reveal the invisible Creator. Our obedience to what He reveals to us is what accomplishes His glory, and gives us the desires of our hearts.

Yah says, of tithes and offerings, but really of all things, "prove me now herewith." (Mal 3:10) This is a challenge, as well as a promise. See that I will not disappoint you. Ask much of Me, for I have much to give. Ask of Me even the impossible, and "prove Me now" when you see your righteous desires fulfilled. Brethren, we have not asked enough of our Father. We have not been resolute in expressing our desires to the Almighty, or even, at times, one another.

The word of the generation is "communication." Let us say, "I want to communicate effectively with my Father in Heaven, and my brethren." Say it resolutely, with all your will, and then you will know how to ask for everything else.

The Bible says we must love Yah with all our "might." (Deu 6:5) Have you considered what this means? We can put "might," that is, power, effort, will, into our love, into our desires, into our aggressive pursuit of our petitions. Yah says to you, "Prove me in this," and I urge you to take advantage of this promise, to take up this challenge.

Time grows short, and we must begin to live, here on earth, as we will live in glory. Yah shall be no more "real" when we can see Him; therefore, let us now both "know" these wonderful promises, and act according to that perfect Faith of Yahshua that He has placed within us.

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

**Adriel777:** Amen!

**Zahakiel:** If there are not, then I will ask Bro. Luke to close the meeting with a prayer.

**Lucan:** Dear heavenly Father. We thank you that you have not given us a faith of idleness, or delivered us into a rest that involves no active choices on our part. But rather, that you have made us active agents in cooperation with your Spirit and the ministry of your angels. We know that we are standing in the judgment, and that it is our words and deeds that are being judged. We thank you that we are given opportunity to examine and know these things, that they may be sent before to judgement. May our influence ever be to call others to readiness, and prepare a people for your soon return. In Yahshua's name we pray, amen.

**Pastor Chick:** Amen.

**Elyna:** Amen

**Barb:** Amen

**Adriel777:** Amen

**Peter:** Amen

**.gadriel:** Amen

**Peter\_Jr\_18:** Amen.

**Naraiel:** Amen

**Zahakiel:** Amen.