

A lighthouse with a white body and a red top section stands on a rocky shore. The sky is filled with dramatic, colorful clouds in shades of orange, red, and blue, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The ocean is visible in the foreground, reflecting the colors of the sky.

HADEREKH RADIO
90 DAYS IN THE
SCRIPTURES

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INTRODUCTION

As followers of Yeshua, despite our positive confessions and aspirations, many of us have and still do struggle to get into the Scriptures on a regular and consistent basis. That can sometimes be because we try to sit and read long passages, chapters or even books in one sitting.

There is a saying that the only way to eat an elephant is one bite at a time. Similarly, our suggestion is that rather than trying to devour the Scriptures in one go, we at least start by reading bite-sized portions.

The following daily readings are designed to encourage the reader to begin that process – until your appetite is whetted enough to begin to feast on the bread of life each and every day. May we, like Job, in time, “esteem the words of His mouth more than our necessary food.” (Job 23:12).

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DAY 1 – DO NOT GIVE UP!

‘And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.’ Galatians 6:9 (KJV)

Archimedes is meant to have said, ‘Give me a lever that is long enough and somewhere to stand, and I will move the world’. Sometimes we just need someone to give us the tools to do the job. We may have passion, determination, talent and strength, but it is not enough unless we are equipped with the ‘lever’ – the tools and materials to move the mountains that stand before us. Yehovah always equips us for what He has called us to do, but we need to know what tools to use, and where we should be positioned, for maximum impact. There is a saying that *knowledge means knowing what to do; but wisdom means knowing where, when and how to use that knowledge*. Sometimes we have more knowledge than we can safely cope with – but we simply need to ask Yehovah for the wisdom to know where He wants us to be, and how He wants us to function, in order to have the maximum impact on the world around us. We also need to learn persistence; sometimes we need to hang on just that little bit longer before our breakthrough will come. Imagine hitting a rock with a sledge hammer ninety-nine times, and then giving up – one strike short of the time when it would have split into pieces on the hundredth blow! Our reward will come through as promised – if we ‘faint not’. The Scriptures encourage us, ‘Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord’ (1 Corinthians 15:58).

DAY 2 - THE WORD OF YEHOVAH

“...the Spirit of the Lord, Yehovah is upon me...” Luke 4:18

There is nothing that can be hidden from Yehovah and the Scriptures cut straight to the heart of the matter. They will speak into every situation in our lives if we allow them to. When Yeshua went into the synagogue, He found the place in Scriptures where it was written concerning Him. Every day, each of us will face different situations and challenges in life, which can swamp and overpower us. But Yehovah will speak to us through the Scriptures to equip us, encourage us, and guide us through them. Open the book and find ‘the place where it is written’ concerning your situation; there is always wisdom, faith and hope to be found in Scripture. Believe what Yehovah tells you, confess it aloud, and follow His instructions. Copy out verses that speak to you; memorize them, even stick them up in your house, car or office to remind you. Remember that Yeshua Himself has experienced every trial and temptation that you face; there is nothing that He cannot empathise and sympathise with and help you to overcome. There is a purpose in knowing the Scriptures – it makes you whole: ‘All Scripture is given by inspiration of Yehovah, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of Yehovah may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work’ (2 Timothy 3:16-17). The words of Yehovah will not only help you, but it will help others through you as you live out your good works today.

DAY 3 - WHO DO YOU CONFESS?

'Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Messiah, the Son of Yehovah".' Matthew 16:16

Yeshua is the eternal Son of Yehovah. He had left the splendour of heaven to come to earth, and brought salvation, deliverance and healing to mankind. He raised the dead, healed the sick, delivered the oppressed, and yet almost no one recognised Who He was! Many people would not be happy with that situation; they would seek acclaim, fame and praise, and would want to be thanked for all they did. Yeshua knew that His mission was to destroy the works of the devil, and that this would inevitably involve His eventual betrayal and crucifixion. His desire was to please His Father, not to please and be recognized by men. You too may not be recognized or appreciated by men but make it your first priority to please Yehovah. Live for Him, to receive His smile, His 'well done, good and faithful servant' (Matthew 25:23 NKJV). When you understand Who Yeshua is, you no longer care about the opinion of others; all you care about is following Him, learning to hear His voice, to do His will, to have *His* approval. Whatever you have, in terms of gifts, talents, abilities, time, and finances today, offer them to Him, make Him your number one priority. When you realize, as Peter did, that Yeshua is the Messiah, the Son of Yehovah, then He will become the most important person in your life. His mission becomes your mission; to see the devil defeated in the power of Yeshua's name, and to see broken lives made new! Do it now, confess Him as your Lord and Messiah today.

DAY 4 - FOCUS ON YEHOVAH (1)

'You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You' Isaiah 26:3 (NKJV)

Every day, you face situations in life that seek to distract you, dismay you, and destroy your hope in Yehovah. When Yehovah sows the word of faith in your hearts, the thief comes immediately to try to steal it away, before it can take root and have an effect on your life. The devil will do what he can to trip you up. If he can get your attention away from what Yehovah says, and onto the situation you face; if he can steal the Word out of your heart, then your faith becomes ineffective and insular, focused only on the immediate and temporary things of life. It is rather like being in a maze and only seeing the surrounding walls and hedges. It can be almost impossible to find your own way out of whatever lies before you.

However, if you realize it, at your disposal you have a guidebook, which contains all the necessary instructions for every situation in life. This book is the Scriptures – which it is worth its weight in gold, and more! And if you turn your attention upward, you will see the One who is above the whole maze and is ready to direct you through the twists and turns, to victory today! This, of course, is Yehovah! It takes trust to rely totally on what He says, to keep your mind steadfast and fixed on Him, and it takes determination to allow His Word to grow down deep into your heart

DAY 5 - FOCUS ON YEHOVAH (2)

‘...Stripping off every unnecessary weight and the sin which so easily and cleverly entangles us, let us run with endurance and active persistence the race that is set before us’ Hebrews 12:1 (AMP)

Do you realize that *anything* or *anyone* that comes between you and Yehovah is an idol? Anything means *anything!* Worry, finances, friends, careers, ambition, romance; anything that takes up space in your heart and mind that belongs to Him, is an idol. Imagine running in a race and finding that your attention is forever being drawn to the crowd instead of the goal of finishing the race. The chances are high, if you are constantly distracted and losing your focus, that you will fall over your own feet! Paul urges believers that it is not just about *running* in the race but about doing well and *winning* it! ‘Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever’ (1 Corinthians 9:24-25 NIV). Keep the focus and the priorities straight in your life and run the race that is set before you; keep your eyes fixed on Yeshua; the author (the starter), and the finisher, of your faith. If you get distracted and fall, pick yourself up, and keep on going! Ask yourself today, ‘what is my attention focused on? What is my priority in life?’

DAY 6 - FOCUS ON YEHOVAH (3)

'If the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed...' John 8:36 (NKJV)

The devil's greatest desire is to steal from, kill and destroy mankind. He does this craftily, by lies and deceit. If someone believes what the devil says, he becomes enslaved. However, because Yeshua came to destroy the works of the devil, you can walk in freedom, and truth. You can learn to distinguish Yeshua's voice from the voice of the enemy and be set free from sin and death. Yeshua said that 'you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free' (John 8:32). The devil is sly, and often wraps up his lies with an element or hint of truth, to make people less aware that it is his voice. Yeshua explained however, that the Holy Spirit; the 'Spirit of truth', would guide you into all truth. The Holy Spirit's role is to teach and guide. He will quicken your spirit to discern Yehovah's voice, and He will always point you to Yeshua. As you grow in faith and knowledge of Yehovah, the Holy Spirit will work in your life, setting you free from areas of past enslavement. As you learn to identify the truth, and understand what Yehovah says, and how He views you, you will become stronger, and learn to stand against the devil's lies. He may try to tell you that you are still in captivity - but refuse to be entangled again with any yoke of bondage. Some lies may be very deep-rooted, even from your childhood, but whatever you face, you are not alone. The Holy Spirit is your guide, and Yeshua your Saviour. When the Son sets you free, you are free indeed.

DAY 7 - TURN TO THE LORD

'I will lift up my eyes to the hills – From whence comes my help?' Psalm 121:1 (NKJV)

David was a man who seemed to get himself into problems and situations of his own making from time to time. Does that sound familiar? We all do that at times, don't we? Yet David knew where to run to when he was in need of help. He often cried out to Yehovah for help and strength: 'Be my strong refuge, to which I may resort continually; You have given the commandment to save me, for You are my rock and my fortress' (Psalm 71:3). David also often declares who Yehovah is: 'The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold' (Psalm 18:2). David said he would lift his eyes to the hills; but where would his help come from? Not from the hills, but from the Lord. Even when David had committed adultery, and arranged a murder, instead of hiding from Yehovah in shame, he humbled himself before Him in grief and repentance: 'Have mercy upon me, Yehovah, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin' (Psalm 51:1-2). Even if your situation is a mess because of your own doing, turn to Yehovah, just like David did. When you come up against life's challenges, where do you look? Where do you seek your help from? Don't even wait until you hit a problem; always look to Him, and He will be sure to answer you.

DAY 8 – DAILY MERCIES

'Blessed be the Lord, who daily loads us with benefits, the God of our salvation!' Psalm 68: 19

A salesperson is trained to sell their products to us through a system of features and benefits. That is, they are trained to point out how a particular feature of a product or service will benefit us, the consumer. The more benefits that we see, the more possibility there is of us buying it. The ideal response that a salesperson wants is 'this is so good, I just have to have it'! Yehovah daily loads the life of a follower of Yeshua with benefits – not because He wants anything from us, but because He loves us, and desires to bless us. Are you going through times of trial and hardship? Rest assured that you will not be consumed. In the midst of the worst times, reach out to Him and you will find that His mercies are new each and every day - for you. The prophet Isaiah brought this word of encouragement to Yehovah's people: 'Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you. For I am the LORD, Yehovah...' (Isaiah 43:1-3). Whatever you walk through, remember His great love for you; His desire to hold you, and to comfort you. Remember His salvation and His promises, for His mercies towards you endure forever. Do not miss His benefits for you today.

DAY 9 - THIRSTING FOR YEHOVAH

‘As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, Yehovah. My soul thirsts for Yehovah.’ Psalm 42:1-2

Imagine that you are walking down a long country road. The sun is so hot that your mouth is dry, and you are desperate for a drink. You have been walking for hours, your feet are sore and throbbing. If you don't get a drink soon you will faint. You walk past someone who is drinking from a bottle of water. The clear, refreshing liquid is flowing out, spilling down their chin, as you look on in desperation. Now someone comes along and offers you £100. Kind though that is, it is not what you need. Someone else comes along and offers to buy you a meal. That too is not what you want and need. The one thing that you need at this moment, is a drink. Eventually you will reach the stage where you will say, ‘give me water or I will die!’ This is what the psalmist is saying. He realizes the one thing that he cannot live without, is Yehovah Himself. ‘Give me Yehovah or I will die! I cannot live without Him; I am desperate for Him.’ In the New Testament, we read the words of Yeshua: ‘Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again. But whoever drinks the water that I give him will never be thirsty again. But the water that I give him will become in him a spring of water [satisfying his thirst for Yehovah], welling up [continually flowing, bubbling within him] to eternal life (John 4:13-14 AMP). No-one can survive for long without water – physical or spiritual – so make sure that you are refreshed by Yehovah daily too!

DAY 10 - DEALING WITH HARD TIMES (1)

'I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.' Psalm 34:1 (NKJV)

The Scriptures say that Psalm 34 was written by David, when he was forced to act like a madman to save his own life! When David fled from King Saul, he fell into the hands of King Achish, who was told what a strong warrior David was. Fearing that the King would kill him, David faked insanity, scratching and dribbling until he was sent away (see 1 Samuel 21, 22). 'And everyone who was in distress, everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to him. So, he became captain over them. And there were about four hundred men with him' (1 Samuel 22:2). That does not sound like a great group to lead! Yet despite all these difficult circumstances, David chose to bless and praise Yehovah whatever situation he was in, and whatever he felt like. No matter what sort of people were around him, and whether he was in danger, or in hiding, he continually chose to make Yehovah his focus, and to worship Him. We often make excuses when times are hard, stressful or busy, yet if we follow David's lead, and put Yehovah first, then we will be able to cope with the rest of our life. David continues, 'I sought the LORD, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. They looked to Him and were radiant, and their faces were not ashamed (Psalm 34:4-5). The same applies to you, today. Even if you are in the hardest of circumstances, the Lord longs to be there with you. If you can turn your eyes to Him, you will find that your face too, will be radiant.

DAY 11 - DEALING WITH HARD TIMES (2)

'...We...glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope...'
Romans 5:3-4 (NKJV)

This is the kind of verse which can easily be misinterpreted. It may make people think, 'pile on the pressure, tighten the thumb screws, it will do me good'. Perhaps we do not put it quite as bluntly as that, but many of us think like that deep down. Tribulation and trials will come even if you are living a "Yehovahly" life; in fact Yeshua experienced suffering, and warns that His disciples will face it too. However, it does not mean that it is Yehovah who causes you to suffer. Whether it is the devil, or just life itself that causes troubles, how you deal with those situations determines your character. Perseverance means that you continue in the face of adversity, maintaining your faith and confidence in Yehovah. You learn to stand and endure, whatever the foe; whatever the cost. As you remain firm, hope will rise within you, and you can declare, 'Yehovah has brought me through everything else, He will bring me through this'. Remember that you know the end of the story – you win! Yeshua has already defeated sin and death, and so nothing that you face can destroy you, but you can use it to make you stronger. As your character grows and matures, you learn patience as well as perseverance. When all your hope; and all your security, rests on Yeshua then you lack nothing. Suffering does not have to define you, but your attitude to it can do. So, determine to believe in Yehovah's goodness, and His ability to keep you strong and secure in Him.

DAY 12 - ASSURANCE

'And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me.' John 17:22-23 (NKJV)

Deep in the heart of every person, is the desire and need to be loved and accepted. When you were born again, you accepted the invitation of Yeshua – that if you came to Him in faith, repented of your sins, and received Him into your heart and life, then you would be saved. Despite this knowledge, and the expression of faith, there are still so many believers who remain unsure of Yehovah's attitude towards them. After accepting the assurance of sins forgiven, and of eternal life, do you now think that Yehovah has put you on probation? Do you fully understand what Yehovah thinks of you? In John 17, you will see the relationship between Yeshua and Yehovah, His Father. Yeshua speaks with utter confidence, sure of His position of acceptance with His Father. We have an insight into their love and close fellowship. Yeshua reveals the closeness of *our* relationship with Yehovah, our Heavenly Father. He says that Yehovah loves us just as He loves Yeshua – that is how much Yehovah loves *you*! You can be as confident of Yehovah's love as Yeshua is. People get the idea the Father is some big, bad, angry God, and it is Yeshua who is protecting us from Him. However, the truth is that it was *Yehovah the Father* who chose to love us, as Paul explains: 'having predestined us to adoption as sons by Yeshua, to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved' (Ephesians 1:5-6). It is the Father's pleasure, the Father's will and because of the Father's grace that you are safe and secure in Him.

DAY 13 - THE PEACE OF YEHOVAH

'And let the peace of Yehovah rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.' Colossians 3:15

Yeshua gave us *His* peace – not the world's kind of peace, but one that was literally made in heaven! It is a peace that will surpass all human understanding and will keep our hearts and minds steadfast through Yeshua. We are given the opportunity to allow the peace of Yehovah to rule in our hearts. Although it sounds like and, indeed, is a great thing, it is not always easy to do, because we have learned to rely on ourselves, not Yehovah! Every day we face situations where we have the choice to react according to the dictates of the natural man, or to allow the fruit of the Spirit to be manifested in us. One of the fruits of the Spirit is peace. That means that believers should be recognizable because of the peace that is visible in their lives. The fruits that should grow in our lives are 'love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control' (Galatians 5:22-23 NKJV). The Lord has equipped us with His peace, like a barometer within us. As we see the pressure rise, we have an advance warning of an impending storm; however, we can avoid the storm by allowing His peace to reign in the situation. So how do you get this peace? By keeping your eyes on Him because what you focus on, grows. If you focus on your problem, it will seem bigger. If you focus on Yeshua, you will regain your peace!

DAY 14 - PRESSING ON!

'...Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race...' Philippians 3:13-14 (NLT)

There is a theory that time is like a piece of string; if you cut it in half you will have two pieces – one is the past and one is the future. So where is the present? Nowhere – it does not exist! The Scriptures, however, paints a different picture of time. In the life of a human, there is the past, the present, and the future. Now the past is in the past. It has formed your identity and character to a certain extent, and may have been good, bad, or have elements of both. You may have been wronged and done wrong. But when you are in Yeshua, you are a new creation. Paul urges us to forget what is in the past and focus on what lies ahead. What lies ahead is your future. If you are passive or apathetic, then the future will just 'happen' to you; you will drift through life and one day wake-up and realize that most of your life is behind you. Live in the present, and in the will of Yehovah, here and now, in order to press on, run, and race for the prize that lies ahead! Your destiny and your future are in your hands. Where is your thinking? If you live in the past, you will never walk into your future. If you live in the future, you will never actually do anything to get you there! You need a vision, a "Yehovah-given" goal to work towards, to keep you pressing on, today. Forget the past, live in the present, but press on to fulfil Yehovah's calling for your life! Keep your eyes fixed on Yeshua and on the reward to come!

DAY 15 - A HEART FULL OF YEHOVAH!

'Whatever things are true, noble,.... just,pure,lovely, whatever things are of good report,praiseworthy – meditate on these things.'
Philippians 4:8 (NKJV)

Yeshua said 'out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks' (Matthew 12:34). In other words, whatever is in the heart of a person, will sooner or later come out of their mouth. If you realize what you are saying, you would be shocked! In the world of computers, there is a phrase: 'rubbish in, rubbish out'. You can only get out of a computer, what you have first put in. So, what are you programming your mind with? Paul's advice is to fill your mind with things that are good and pure. If your mind and heart are filled with such things, then those things will flow from your speech. 'Filling your mind' means to read, to watch, to look at, and meditate on. There are a multitude of ways in which you can do this; reading the Scriptures and other, teaching books, watching dramatizations of the Scriptures, or DVDs which glorify Him, listening to worship music, memorising scripture, walking and looking at the beauty of creation, discussing Yehovah with friends, and talking about what He has done in your life. Joining with a local group, fellowship or church family in corporate worship, and in weekly small groups, is a good way of filling your mind, and your time, with Yehovah. You grow in faith when you share what you have with others; maybe you could help with a homeless project or soup kitchen, perhaps you could help in the church crèche, allowing an exhausted new mum to access the service? Both within the church, and in the community around you, are hundreds of ways that you can bless others with the overflow of a heart full of Yehovah.

DAY 16 - COME LIKE A CHILD

'Unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.'

Matthew 18:3-4 (NKJV)

In other words, we should continue to walk with Him, in the same way that we became disciples of Yeshua. How does a person become one of His disciples? They must repent and believe the gospel. They must recognise that they are unable to make themselves holy and righteous but must rely wholly on Yehovah's provision in Yeshua. They see that they are helpless and hopeless without Him and need His strength and anointing to do anything. However, after the initial step, many people's tendency is to revert to living in their own strength, which is why it is easy to fail and fall. Yeshua is saying here, that in the same way that you first came to Him, humbly, like a helpless little child, that is how you must continue to walk with Him, relying on Him for your continued existence. In the same way that a small child is unable to survive and prosper without its parents/carers, no more can we survive without our heavenly Father. We need to draw daily on His strength and His knowledge, trusting that He knows more than us! Have you ever heard a little child going through the 'why?' stage? They want to know about everything! Be like that with Yehovah! Ask Him about everything; ask His opinion, spend time with Him, want to be with Him, walk close beside Him. As you learn again how to come to Him as little child, so you will regain that first love, and special intimacy, of a new believer, like a child with their parent.

DAY 17 - THE NEW YOU! (1)

'... that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Yeshua.'

Philemon 1:6

When people become followers of Yeshua, they often start to hear from those in church, about how bad they still are! They are told that they are wretched, rotten sinners, 'saved by grace', but still the dregs of the earth; useless and hopeless! It is a miracle that anyone gets saved when they look at a lot of Yeshua's follower, who could almost be advertising 'come and join us and be miserable too!' Some of them have such long faces, or sour expressions, and negativity always seems to come from their mouths! Yes, it is true that when we turned to Yeshua, we came as sinners; lost and undone, having no hope, and without Yehovah. BUT Yehovah has made us alive. He has redeemed us, made us righteous and holy, justified and sanctified us. The Scriptures say that we are blessed with *every* spiritual blessing in the heavenly realm. We gain all of this, not because of our own merit, but because we are 'in Yeshua'. We are accepted in Him, because of what He has done. The best thing about this is that each of us stands equal before Yehovah, in Yeshua. There are no favourites, no one who is better than the others. So, stop talking about what you used to be like; but declare who you are now in Yeshua. When you begin to confess who you are in Him, you will become effective in what you say and do. The Scriptures tell you who you are! Start agreeing with Yehovah; speak the truth of what He says about you, and watch your life become dynamite!

DAY 18 - THE NEW YOU! (2)

'And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.' John 16:8 (NKJV)

The word 'reprove' comes from the Greek word 'elegcho' which is also translated as: convict, rebuke, tell one's fault, convince. Now we all know that one of the things the Holy Spirit does is reprove us, rebuke us, convict, convince and show us our faults, when it comes to any area of sin or judgement in our lives. However, when was the last time we allowed Him to convince us of our *righteousness*? When we were born again, we recognised that we were sinners, and that we needed a Saviour. We accepted the good news of the gospel; that the death of Yeshua on the cross was sufficient to pay our debt before Yehovah. The Scriptures says that 'He made Him who knew no sin, to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of Yehovah in Him' (2 Corinthians 5:21). That means that you have complete right standing relationship before and with Yehovah. When the Father looks at you now, He sees Yeshua. You are made anew; born not just of the flesh, but of the spirit. Now you have become a saint! You are a vessel of the Holy Spirit; a temple of Yehovah. How many of our lives would be transformed if we allowed that truth to sink deep down in our hearts and minds? You can have confidence before Yehovah; you have direct access to the Father, through the Son. You are a beloved and valued member of His family. Allow the Holy Spirit to convict and convince you today of just how righteous you are in Yeshua.

DAY 19 - THE NEW YOU! (3)

'There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Yeshua ... For the law of the Spirit of life in Yeshua has made me free from the law of sin and death.' Romans 8:1-2

The Scriptures say that the wages of sin is death. He paid the debt that you owed, by His death. At that point, all outstanding accounts against you were charged to His account, and yours was completely cancelled. The slate was not just wiped clean – you received a completely new one! Then, in another divine transaction, the gift of Yehovah, eternal life, was paid into your account! Yehovah brought you into a personal, intimate relationship with Himself. Do not let the devil condemn you – Yehovah Himself does not! The word 'condemn' means to judge, blame, damn, pronounce as incurable or unfit for use. So often, some of Yeshua's followers are immobilised in their walk with Yehovah because of self-doubt, guilt and shame. However, none of these are things that Yehovah wants for you. You never need to doubt yourself, because you are able to do all things through Yeshua. Your identity, security and significance must be found in Him alone. You are loved and you are worthy, not because you have everything sorted, but because you trust in the One who has! It is easy to think that if you have done wrong, you should feel guilty, but that is not helpful in continuing to walk with Yehovah. The Holy Spirit will convict you, but then you can repent, and keep moving forward. The same is true of shame; shame is not a legitimate burden for a disciple of Yeshua to carry. He died for ALL your sins, so walk freely in that knowledge!

DAY 20 - SEEING CLEARLY

'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.' Psalm 119:105
(NKJV)

'I cannot see where I am going!' This is something that everyone says at some point, stumbling in the dark and tripping over things! 'Put a light on,' goes up the cry. 'Where is it? I cannot see it!' Well, if you could see it, then you would not need the light on! When you are a follower of Yeshua, you do not only need sight, you need vision as well. How often people stumble through life, unsure where they are, let alone where they are headed. If you do not know where you are going, how will you know when you get there? Open the Scriptures and ask Him to light up your way; to guide and direct you in the path He wants you to go. Ask Him for a goal, a vision, for 'where there is no vision, the people perish' (Proverbs 29:18, KJV). The word 'perish' here is the Hebrew word 'para', which means 'naked'. Without vision you are naked; you are unprepared and vulnerable. A vision from Yehovah clothes you; giving you strength and purpose. Vision brings life, and also direction. If you are unsure which path to take, or which choice to make, you can always return to the question, 'What is my vision? What has Yehovah called me to?' This will often make the path clearer. Some people may have a very specific calling; to be a missionary, for example, or a teacher or a nurse. Others may have a more general one, such as to serve the poor or be a friend to the lonely. Let Yehovah light your way, through His Word and His vision.

DAY 21 - WALK BY FAITH

'Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.' Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV)

It is easy to get confused when it comes to faith, because it is something intangible; you cannot see it, feel it or touch it, yet it is the vital component of our life as a follower of Yeshua. For example, you are not *healed* by faith; you are healed by the grace of Yehovah, but you *receive* it by faith. The Scriptures say that 'it is by grace [Yehovah's remarkable compassion and favour drawing you to Yeshua] that you have been saved [actually delivered from judgment and given eternal life] through faith. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [not through your own effort], but it is the [undeserved, gracious] gift of Yehovah; not because of [your] works [nor your attempts to keep the Law], so that no one will [be able to] boast or take credit in any way [for his salvation]' (Ephesians 2:8-9 AMP). Salvation and healing are both gifts from Yehovah; there is nothing you can do to earn them. Over two thousand years ago, Yeshua was crucified for our sins at Calvary. When someone chooses to accept His salvation today, Yeshua does not need to die again; it is already done. We are told that 'we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Yeshua once for all' (Hebrews 10:10). By faith we receive what was done in the past. Salvation and healing are already ours, because the victory is the Lord's; we just need to enter into it by faith!

DAY 22 - KEEP SOWING THE SEED

'The sower sows the word.' Mark 4:14 (NKJV)

The parable of the Sower could be explained simply using the phrase 'Go, Sow, Grow and Mow.' When Yeshua told the story, He explained that the seed is the Word of Yehovah, but He does not say who the sower is! Perhaps it does not matter; the point is that someone had to GO and liberally sow the seed (the Word of Yehovah), all over the place! Their job was to SOW the seed everywhere, not just on the areas that looked good. Some seed fell on ground that was ready to receive it; it grew immediately and matured quickly. Other seed fell on ground that was not ready at the time, but the sower went on and continued their mission – sowing the good seed of the gospel. The sower knew the seed would take time to GROW so they continued to SOW! In time much of the seed took root and grew. By that time the sower had long since gone and another worker came to MOW and gather the harvest which that seed had produced. They had not sown it, watered or grown it, and yet they got to harvest it! Sometimes you may be blessed to reap the harvest that another has sown; other times it may feel as if every seed you drop is falling on hard, unyielding ground. But have faith; another may in time harvest what you have planted. So never give up sowing the Word of Yehovah, wherever you go; whatever the ground may look like!

DAY 23 - THE GOOD NEWS

'And this is eternal life, that they may know You..., and Yeshua whom You have sent.' John 17:3

The word 'know' implies a close, intimate and personal relationship, and this is what is on offer. The word 'gospel' means 'good news', yet many times, the emphasis of evangelism can be more along the lines of, 'get saved, go to heaven and live forever, because if you do not you will go to hell.' Now, while this is true, the gospel is that Yeshua has come to save people from their sins. If mankind will believe in Him, repent, and receive Him, they will be saved. This is surely good news! On one occasion, when the Israelites sinned, poisonous snakes were sent amongst them. When they repented, the Yehovah said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live." So, Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived' (Numbers 21:8-9 NKJV). In John's gospel – *his good news* – he likens Yeshua on the cross to this story of the Israelites being saved, saying 'as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life' (John 3:14-15 NKJV). If you sin, but repent, Yehovah will always provide a way out, a way to life and cleansing.

DAY 24 – DO NOT BE PUT OFF (1)

'...The Yehovah of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore, we His servants will arise and build...' Nehemiah 2:20

Yehovah planted the vision in the heart of Nehemiah to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. The officials there were 'deeply disturbed that a man had come to seek the well-being of the children of Israel' (Nehemiah 2:10 NKJV). They laughed at Nehemiah, despised him, and tried to scare him off, but Nehemiah knew that Yehovah would prosper His people, as they did His work. The people of Yehovah rose up, and each played their part, working on the wall. The officials were angry; they mocked the workers, and even conspired against them! Yet the work continued. The people were not oblivious to the threat and the opposition – so they watched and prayed. Half worked with a sword in their hand, and half watched for an attack, protecting those who were working on the wall. Everyone persisted until the vision was fulfilled. If the vision is from Yehovah, He will help it to succeed, despite the opposition you may face. If Yehovah has placed a vision on your heart, learn these lessons from Nehemiah: 1) *Join with Yehovah's people*: there are some things that you cannot accomplish alone. 2) *Hard work pays off*: the wall was not rebuilt by prayers alone, but by hard physical graft. They had to get their hands dirty, get stuck in, and really work! 3) *Do not ignore the enemy*: it is not wise to bury your head in the sand; be alert and aware of what the devil is doing. 4) *Do not fear the enemy*: Let some people be on guard and praying, while others labour. Both roles are of equal value and importance. Know that whatever is ordained by Yehovah is unstoppable!

DAY 25 – DO NOT BE PUT OFF (2)

‘And He said to them, “Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?”’ Luke 2:49 (NKJV)

When Yeshua came to earth, He knew who He was, and what Yehovah required of Him. He came to destroy the works of the devil, and to do the will of His Father. It was such a fundamental drive in His life that He told His disciples: ‘My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work’ (John 4:34 NKJV). It was as essential to Him as eating. He understood what Yehovah wanted Him to do – it was His calling and commission, which went above his human job of working in the family’s carpentry business. Both Nehemiah and Yeshua had a vision for their lives from Yehovah; yet not everyone saw or understood it. They both had opportunities to be discouraged but refused to take them. They kept their eyes on the goal, and on Yehovah. Yehovah has called and chosen each of us with a holy calling too. We all need to relate to the rest of Yeshua’s followers, and for our calling to be a part of the whole, not live as separate entities. But at the same time, we must realise that not everyone will always encourage us in what we are called to do. Your first calling is to walk in union with Yehovah. From that flows the desire to please Him, in whatever way you can. Every day make it your heart’s desire to love Him and to please Him, and then you too will always be looking after your Father’s business.

DAY 26 – DO NOT BE PUT OFF (3)

‘Take up the whole armour of Yehovah...’ Ephesians 6:13

Most of us will have heard or read about, the ‘armour of Yehovah’. There have been many books and talks, explaining the different parts of the armour, and encouraging believers to, above everything else, never be without their sword – the Scriptures; the Word of Yehovah. Yet somehow, the last section of the passage often gets forgotten about – the call to prayer. Prayer is a massively important part of your spiritual warfare. It is part of the armour that Yehovah has provided for your protection. It should never be considered as an afterthought or an optional extra – or something only intercessors and ‘prayer warriors’ do at 4am every morning! The devil would like you to forget that prayer is simply a two-way conversation between you and your heavenly Father. Satan does not want you to pray because he knows the Scriptures say that the gates of hell will not prevail against the Church of Yeshua – and that your times of meaningful conversation with your heavenly Father strengthens you to defeat his attacks upon you. You have great power in prayer, and therefore much responsibility to pray. Remember that when Nehemiah and his people were rebuilding the city wall, half of them worked while the other half watched their backs for possible attack. We should all also be praying for each other; ‘keeping one another’s backs’ spiritually covered in prayer. We have power in the name of Yeshua to intercede for each other, and to draw Yehovah’s protection around one another. Who could you pray for today?

DAY 27 - SURRENDER YOUR BODY (1)

'...Present your bodies a living sacrifice...' Romans 12:1 (NKJV)

Since becoming a follower of Yeshua, you are different, whether you feel like it or not! When you were born again, your body stayed the same; if you were short or tall, fat or thin, that did not change. Equally, your mind did not change; if you were academic, intelligent, creative or scientific, you stayed that way. It is your spirit that is recreated; made alive, and that part of you was perfected forever when you opened your heart and life to Yeshua. The Scriptures explain it like this: 'Therefore if anyone is in Yeshua [that is, grafted in, joined to Him by faith in Him as Saviour], he is a new creature [reborn and renewed by the Holy Spirit]; the old things [the previous moral and spiritual condition] have passed away. Behold, new things have come [because spiritual awakening brings a new life]' (2 Corinthians 5:17). If your body was physically sacrificed, you would not need to bother – you would be in heaven already. But, while your body is still alive, you need to present it daily as an offering to Yehovah, as an act of spiritual worship – despite it being a *physical* thing! There are many ways in which you can sacrifice to the Yehovah; maybe you have used your body for over-eating, drinking, taking drugs or perhaps been involved in sexual sin. Well, your body is now a temple of the Holy Spirit; the dwelling place of Yehovah, so offer your body as a living sacrifice to Him today by choosing to live as He would have you live!

DAY 28 - SURRENDER YOUR BODY (2)

'Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit... bought at a price; therefore, glorify Yehovah in your body and in your spirit, which are Yehovah's.' 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

We have a soul which houses our mind, intellect and emotions. We also need a temporary body while we are on the earth. As the Holy Spirit lives within us, as our comforter and guide, we no longer own our own body! There are some great advantages to not being the owner of the property, as whoever has responsibility for it may find that it is a costly matter. Yeshua, however, has paid for all the maintenance; for everything we will ever need, in advance, when He died on the cross. A new contract has been made available for all tenants to refer to. In it, they will find that it is not the responsibility of the tenant to do all the work themselves, but to notify the owner, and request any maintenance or repairs as needed. The storms of life may rock your house – your physical body - in different ways over the years of your life here, yet because you are no longer the owner, you are not alone. Yeshua Himself encourages us to rely on Him for all our needs: 'do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?' (Matthew 6: 25-26 NKJV). Remember to turn to, and rely on, Him!

DAY 29 - KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE

'Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.' James 2:17 (NKJV)

There is a tale about an old lady whose son emigrated to Australia, where he became very successful in business, and consequently, very wealthy. He would write home to his mother regularly, telling her all about it. She, in turn, would tell everyone she knew about how well her son was doing. Her friends all wondered why she lived in such poverty if her son was so rich. One day, one of her friends delicately asked if the son ever sent her anything with all the letters she had from him. She answered that he always sent her some nice pictures, which she stuck on her bedroom walls. The friend was taken upstairs to see what he had sent and was shocked to discover that thousands of pounds worth of Australian currency was hanging there as decorations! Needless to say, the notes were exchanged, and the 'poor' old lady became rich! Sometimes we too can be so like the old lady; we have received the Word of Yehovah, but for many reasons, fail to understand or know the value of it, and what it can actually do. It may be through ignorance, or neglect, but if we just leave Yehovah's gift to us, which is His Word, as mere decoration to our lives, we remain in spiritual poverty. The Scriptures explain how we must use what we have and act on what we know, for our faith to become 'fleshed out' and become real. Remember to exchange your words for acts of faith!

DAY 30 - WALK IN FREEDOM

'For the law of the Spirit of life in Yeshua has made me free from the law of sin and death.' Romans 8:2

In Romans 7, you can see the apostle Paul's obvious frustration with himself. With his mind, he serves Yehovah, and he desires to please Him, yet he lives in a body which still craves after sinful things. He feels torn in two as the opposing forces war and rage within him. Then in chapter eight, Paul starts by declaring that there is no more condemnation for anyone who now belongs to Yeshua, because all our debt and sin has already been paid for, so the devil has nothing to hold against us. This does not mean, Paul tells us, that we can do what we want without caring, because we will be forgiven anyway – that attitude ridicules all that Yeshua went through to buy our freedom from condemnation, guilt, and death. He says instead, 'Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law' (Galatians 5:16-18 NKJV). If you walk in line with Yehovah, and His will, your desires will align themselves with His too. And if you do slip or fall, you are not under the law; you are still a child of Yehovah, you are still in Him, so get back up and carry on again!

DAY 31 - SURVIVING THE STORMS

‘Trust in the Lord with all your heart...In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.’ Proverbs 3: 5-6 (NKJV)

When learning to fly an aeroplane, pilots need to pass various tests to move on to the next level of proficiency, and there are particular instructions that they must remember when flying into a storm: 1) *Calm down*; firstly, try to remain calm; no good can come from panicking. 2) *Check the instruments*; what are they telling the pilot about his speed, the height and direction he is going in? 3) *Communicate*; with air traffic control, who will give clear instructions about what to do next. 4) *Comply*; with the instructions that are given. 5) *Climb*; lastly, and most importantly, the pilot should climb above the storm. If the pilot follows all these steps, he will be able to land the plane safely, and celebrate his safe return to earth! These five steps for pilots mirror those you need to take in your life. Whenever you encounter one of life’s storms, while it may be your instinctive reaction to panic, you must calm down. Breathe, take a moment to focus, and check that you are heading in the direction that Yehovah has previously instructed you through His Word. You must remember to communicate – both with Him, and with trusted friends, who can give you clear guidance as to how to get through this situation. Of course, after seeking advice, you need to comply with those instructions. Spiritually then, you can ‘climb’ above the emotional strain, fear and panic, by praising and worshipping Yehovah. When you land safely remember to celebrate, for it is Yehovah who has delivered you and brought you home safely.

DAY 32 - WHO YOU REALLY ARE

'For I say...to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly.' Romans 12:3 (NKJV)

For many believers, their problems come from a lack of knowing their true identity. If you know who you are, now that you are born again, you will understand that you have been made anew through the life of Yeshua Himself within you. However, if your thinking is not aligned with Yehovah's truth, then you may perhaps have an exaggerated or inflated idea of yourself – or even totally the opposite! You may feel that you are worthless, even though the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, has said that He has come to live inside you. Do not think too highly of yourself, or too low of yourself, but think soberly or, as the dictionary defines sober, 'free from exaggeration, not intoxicated'. People who are intoxicated often think they are invincible; that they can do far more than they actually can safely or realistically. Alternatively, they may be easily depressed, thinking they are beyond hope. Now that you have put your trust and hope in Him, now that you are 'in Yeshua', what is the "Yehovahly" perspective? While it is good to recognise that you are an 'earthen vessel', for everyday household use, remember also, that you have invaluable treasure living within you – the Holy Spirit Himself. Yehovah has set you apart and wants to use you for His glory. It is so important to Him, that Yeshua covered the cost of bringing you into that relationship, through His death, burial and resurrection. View yourself realistically – a sinner, saved by grace, and born again into a new life and identity; a child of Yehovah, a saint, a righteous member of Yehovah's family!

DAY 33 - TIME FOR A CLEAR OUT!

'...John saw Yeshua coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of Jehovah who takes away the sin of the world!"' John 1:29

In Old Testament times, sacrifices were made on a regular basis. Once a year, the High Priest entered the 'Holy of Holies', to seek Yehovah's forgiveness for the sins of the people. This only provided a temporary solution because the blood of sacrificial animals could only *cover* sin. It was not until Yeshua became the ultimate sacrifice through His death, that sin could be not only covered, but *removed* entirely. Yet we still fall and sin. 1 John 1:9 NKJV says, 'If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness'. This is the reason it is important to keep short accounts with your heavenly Father, confessing your sins, your weaknesses, faults and failures, not trying to cover them up. Rather than hiding them where you think no one can see, bring them to His attention, so that He can take them away, freeing you from guilt and condemnation. Even as a follower of Yeshua, you need a regular clear out of the rubbish which builds up in your life, before it begins to stink. If the rubbish of sin and failure has been building up within your heart or mind, it is time you had a clear out. It may be that the pile is so big that you need a mature friend or pastor to help you 'come clean'. If that is the case, then confide in a trusted friend. Do not leave it so long that it needs to be cleared out by the truck load!

DAY 34 - CHOOSE YOUR DIRECTION

'...Lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us ...'
Hebrews 12:1 (NKJV)

Have you ever been over an obstacle course as a child, or run in a sack race at a school sports day? It is difficult to run at all, let alone run fast, when you are hampered by things that are holding you back. Here are some guidelines to help with running the race and winning the prize at the finish line of life. 1) *Do not fall out over things that are inconsequential or unimportant.* 2) *Be diligent to fulfil Yehovah's call on your life; be a worker not a shirker!* 3) *Avoid gossip and unproductive chatter that profits nobody.* 4) *Separate yourself from evil things and from old habits.* 5) *Strive to be a person who honours Yehovah by obeying His instructions and commands.* 6) *Flee youthful lusts – the desires that take you away from the purpose of Yehovah for your life, and into sin.* 7) *Pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace.* Be active, not passive! You are counselled to *flee*, to run way from, youthful lusts. This includes more than just sexual immorality. It also means selfish ambition, the seeking of power and position, and being self-centred. Remember to *pursue*, to chase after, a right-standing relationship with Yehovah; to live in faith, and in peace, with a heart of love and a clear conscience before both Yehovah and people. You can only pursue one thing at a time. You cannot run in opposite directions at the same time. You cannot pursue selfish ambition and self-interest at the same time as pursuing the things of Yehovah. They are in opposite directions. Choose to go Yehovah's way, the narrow way which leads to life; not your own way, which leads to destruction.

DAY 35 - BEING A WITNESS (1)

'...You shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.' Acts 1:8 (NKJV)

A witness is someone who has seen, heard, experienced or knows something, because they were present when it happened, to the point that they can testify in a court of law as to the truthfulness and accuracy of what they are saying. As a follower of Yeshua, you have experienced the transformation that He has made in your life. The natural response is that you want to tell others so that they can experience the same. You would want to tell your friends about your new car, or a fantastic deal you got on something that you had been waiting years to buy. Although we are told to continue gathering together to encourage one another and learn more about the Lord, equally you are not meant to just *stay* on your knees, or in your church pews. Yeshua commanded, '*go* into all the world and preach the Gospel' (Mark 16:15 NKJV). That means going outside the four walls of the church building! Pastors and ministers are meant to equip believers to do the work of the ministry – outside of the church. One pastor said, 'we want to be successful in our scatterings (our going out), as well as in our gatherings (our coming in)'. You are called to be salt and light in the world. Salt will have no benefit if it stays in the shaker; the light will not impact the darkness if it stays hidden under a pot. You will only show that you are different from those who *do not* follow Yeshua, if you allow them to see Yeshua within you as you live amongst them. Become His witness, illustrating the gospel with your own life.

DAY 36 - BEING A WITNESS (2)

**'You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men.' 2
Corinthians 3:2 (NKJV)**

Apparently, the most effective period of time for telling others what Yeshua has done in one of His followers' lives, is in the first two years following their own encounter with Him. Why is that? Often it is because when you are first born again, you are so filled with excitement and enthusiasm that you want to tell anyone and everyone about Him! Unfortunately, it is often not long before people seem to get taken up with church activities, a new group of friends and a social life that is church centred rather than the more varied one of before. That is not a bad thing necessarily, but if your former friends and acquaintances only see you heading off to some church event, saying you have no time to be with them, it does not leave any room for them to see the changes that Yeshua has made in your life. If you have been a follower of Yeshua for some time, there are some questions that it may be worth asking yourself. How many people outside of your church-based friends do you know, and see regularly? When you meet them, do you act normally, or are you so super-spiritual that they do not want to hang around you anymore? Are you a poor witness of the change you say that Yeshua has made in your life? For instance, do you still moan and complain all the time, or are you constantly falling out with, and gossiping about others? Remember, you are the only disciple of Yeshua that some people will ever meet; you are the only Scriptures some people will ever read – so make sure they read a true representation of who Yeshua really is.

DAY 37 - FISHERS OF MEN

'Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men".'
Matthew 4:19

Several of the disciples were fishermen, so they understood what Yeshua meant by saying that He was going to train them to 'catch people' and to invite them into the Kingdom of Yehovah. This does not mean to trick people, but to invite them. Fishermen actively look for the best places and times to go fishing, and then cast their nets or lines. They do not just sit on the riverbank or in a boat, waiting for fish to jump out of the water! Yeshua commanded His followers to *go* into all the world and preach the gospel. This means being active, not just waiting for people to 'accidentally' come into the church building! Make the most of every opportunity to be a witness to the difference which Yeshua has made in your life. A changed life is the 'bait' people will see and will want to know more about. Yehovah will use you to reach people in your everyday environments, your neighbours and work colleagues, people in your local shops and businesses. You are made, called and intended to live your normal, everyday life in connection with others, not isolated from them. Each believer has a different lifestyle and social circle, so being a witness will be different for everyone. You cannot expect every follower of Yeshua to look and sound the same, so equally you cannot just use one way of witnessing, because people respond to different things, in different ways. Do not give the impression that they must look, sound, or be like you to enter the Kingdom! And remember, Yeshua told you to be a fisher of men, but it is *His* job to clean them up – not yours!

DAY 38 - HAVING A VISION (1)

'Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keeps the law, happy is he.' Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)

It is important to have a vision of what you are called to do. You need to have a goal, something to aim towards. Imagine a game of football. While it may be enjoyable to have a 'kick-around', unless you are aiming to score a goal, you will just be 'killing time' if all you do is pass the ball between you. Having a goal in life will keep you on track, on the right road, going in the right direction towards the end result you are striving for. Having a vision is like having a sat-nav in the car; providing you with constant instruction, guidance and direction, taking you from where you are currently, to where you want to be. If you have no vision of where you are aiming for, do not be surprised if you just drive around in circles. Vision is motivating, so even when you are tired and the journey is hard, you will keep going. Vision stirs up passion and desire in you, so that you can enjoy the journey, and feel a sense of achievement when you get there. Ask Yehovah for a personal vision for your life. It will usually, if not always, be connected to the talents and abilities, passions and desires, that Yehovah has put within you. What do you enjoy, what are you enthusiastic about? Without a clear vision of where you are going, how you are going to get there, and what should you be doing on the way? Otherwise you will perish, just like fruit becomes unproductive and starts to rot if picked but left unused. Do not let your life stagnate while you wander in circles!

DAY 39 - HAVING A VISION (2)

'Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keeps the law, happy is he.' Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)

Here are some guidelines to bear in mind when it comes to having a Yehovah-given vision: 1) *You will not always have a clear vision of everything the Lord is calling you to, nor every detail of the road ahead.* 2) *You may have 'blind spots' so it is always wise to discuss your vision with trusted mentors to get advice and input.* 3) *You will never have a vision to do something for Yehovah that does not fit in unity with the rest of Yehovah's people.* 4) *It will always be time specific.* 5) *You will have a significant period (and it may be permanent) when you must submit your vision and calling to the bigger picture Yehovah has given another person.* Christopher Columbus is known as the person who discovered America – but it would not have been the first time he sailed in a boat, let alone a ship. There will have been years in which he learned to sail and submitted to more experienced and more senior leadership before he got his own 'command'. Even then, when you are able to go ahead with your own vision, you still need to submit to those who can speak into your life, so you are not a lone ship. Joshua was apprenticed by Moses, Elisha by Elijah, and Timothy by Paul, before Yehovah gave them freedom to move fully into their own ministry and calling. Nehemiah had the vision to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, but many others worked with him in order to fulfil it. Whatever your vision, submit it to Yehovah - and others.

DAY 40 - YOU HAVE A PART TO PLAY.

'There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.' 1 Corinthians 12:4-5 (NKJV)

The Scriptures say that the Church is made up of many members, with differing purposes and abilities. One part of the body cannot say it is the most important part, with no need for the others. The eye cannot do the work of the ear, the ear cannot do the work of the hand; all parts need each other. All are necessary and have a specific use and purpose. In the same way, a workman is equipped with a wide range of tools, each designed and purposed to fulfil a particular function. A hammer is best suited to knock a nail into a piece of wood; a screwdriver will not do it anywhere near as well. A screwdriver will be ideal to screw two pieces of wood together, but only if it is the correct size and type. Wire cutters will never do as good a job as a wood chisel if you need to make a tongue and groove joint in those pieces of wood. A pair of pliers will never work in the place of a tape measure. Each person is set in place in the Body of Christ, exactly where the Lord wants them to be, where they can be the most effective and useful in building the Kingdom alongside their co-workers in the Church. Where do you fit into this? Your responsibility is to find your purpose, calling, gifts and abilities, and to see where you fit best into the plans and purposes of Yehovah. Find out where you can function most effectively for Him. What areas can you serve in your local church and community? You are a vital part!

DAY 41 - DEMONSTRATING LOVE

'...she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head.' Luke 7:44 (NKJV)

There are a number of occasions in the gospels when women washed the feet of Yeshua, and during the Last Supper, Yeshua Himself washed the feet of all twelve of his disciples. He washed the feet of those disciples who, soon afterwards, ran away and left Him; the feet of 'doubting Thomas', and Simon Peter, who then denied that he even knew Yeshua. Yeshua also washed the feet of Judas, who left the room immediately to betray Him for thirty pieces of silver. There are some lessons that can be learned from the various accounts of foot-washing: 1) *Each was done as an outward expression of an inward love, humility and service.* 2) *Each was an incredibly extravagant expression of that love.* 3) *Each cost something; it was expensive financially, emotionally and sometimes, both.* 4) *Each demonstrated an internal, personal experience of Yehovah.* 5) *Each occasion made the foot-washer vulnerable to criticism, but they counted the cost and did it anyway.* 6) *Each was exceptional; was far beyond what could have been expected of them.* 7) *Each showed that the person was prepared to do something beyond the confines of the status quo; they were prepared to go out of their way to express their love for someone.* Yeshua challenged His disciples, saying 'If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.' (John 13:14 NKJV). Are you willing to wash the feet of those around you, of other believers in your church? Are you prepared to love extravagantly, expensively, excessively? Are you prepared to pay a cost; to serve and love others and follow the example of Yeshua?

DAY 42 - CONTINUE IN HIM

‘As you therefore have received Yeshua the Lord, so walk in Him, ^{rooted} and built up in Him and established in the faith...’ Colossians 2:6-7

When you were born again, it was because you were convicted of your sin, and convinced of your inability to do anything to change yourself. To be born again you had to see that the only way to enter into a right relationship with Yehovah was through His son, Yeshua. You had to rely totally on Him for everything; you had no ability to do anything yourself to please Yehovah. The Scriptures explain that you must continue to walk the rest of your life with that knowledge in mind. You came into a relationship with Yehovah because of His grace and mercy! Even the faith by which you believed was given to you by Yehovah Himself! In the same way, you must continue to live and walk every day in the knowledge that your hope and standing in Yehovah continues to be because of that grace – not through works – so that no one can boast. Having established that, Yehovah wants you to know that you are accepted because of Yeshua – not because of anything you have done, or could do, to earn His love. He wants you to walk in confidence before Him, knowing that His strength, and His power are always available to you and in all circumstances. Through Him, you can live a victorious, glorious life; He gives you all you need; faith, grace, acceptance and right-standing with Yehovah. The verse does not end there, but continues ‘abounding with thanksgiving’ – so give thanks to Him who gives you all things!

DAY 43 - LIVE WELL

'I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.' 2 Timothy 4:7 (NKJV)

It is believed that Paul the Apostle wrote these words shortly before he was executed by the Romans because of his faith in Yeshua. He had endured being shipwrecked, spending nights adrift in the sea, being beaten, stoned and much more. However, he acknowledged in what would be almost his final words, that he had fought a good fight – he had not hidden away and kept his mouth shut; he had continued to fulfil his ministry and calling. He finished the course that Yehovah had laid out and planned for his life, even when there must have been times that it seemed like the worst obstacle course you could imagine. Still he kept his faith in Yeshua right till the end. The saying goes that if you have not found something worth dying for, you have not yet found your reason for living. When you do find it, rather than drifting through life, you will find that like a footballer in the World Cup final, you want to keep going, keep on pushing towards the goal until the final whistle sounds; until the trumpet sounds and Yeshua returns. If you die before Yeshua returns, what will your epitaph be? You do not want a gravestone that says, 'He never did anything wrong, but then again he never did anything at all'! Live your life in such a way that when you have gone, like Paul, the final words about your life could read, 'He never gave up; he fought a good fight, he finished the course; he kept the faith'.

DAY 44 - YOU ARE PART OF AN ARMY

'You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Yeshua.'

2 Timothy 2:3

Believers are likened to many things throughout the New Testament: athletes, servants, workers, friends, and the bride of Yeshua, to name but a few. Even though the book of Ephesians is often quoted in relation to putting on the armour of Yehovah, strangely the Church rarely talks about being soldiers. Being a soldier suggests that Yeshua's followers are part of an army; part of a well-trained, well equipped team of fighting men and women, whose sole purpose is to work together to defeat the enemy. The desire of the enemy is to steal from, kill and destroy all believers. In order to defeat an enemy who is bent on your destruction, you need to be part of a disciplined and united fighting force, recognising and submitting to the authority of those who have been equipped and empowered to lead in battle. This group of soldiers can be likened to a well-oiled engine that drives a car from one end of the country to the other. The engine is only part of the car; in fact, it is not even seen when it does its job efficiently. The shape and colour of the bodywork gets all the attention, as people see it moving, seemingly without effort, along the highways. However, it is the pistons, the spark plugs, the prop-shaft, the cooling system, as well as scores of other parts working together in harmony, that propel the wheels along the road from A to B. Whichever illustration you find most helpful, think about the need to work not only efficiently but also in harmony with others, so that the battle will be won, and that the destination you are aiming for will be reached.

DAY 45 - MADE FOR INTIMACY

'And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, "This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel...".'
Numbers 6:22-24 (NKJV)

It has always been Yehovah's desire and plan that every man and woman, boy and girl, should live in a close, personal, intimate, one-to-one relationship with Him. Since creating Adam and Eve, He has sought that relationship with every person that has ever lived. Adam walked and fellowshiped with Yehovah in the cool of the evening, yet when he sinned it severed the daily fellowship that he had enjoyed with his creator. Ever since then, Yehovah has worked towards restoring that connection between Him and His creation, going so far as to send Yeshua to die on the cross, to take away the sin and condemnation that separated all of mankind from Him. Genesis 4:16 (NKJV) says that Cain 'went out from the presence of the Lord'. That phrase in itself shows that Cain was accustomed to being *in* the presence of Yehovah for him to be able to go out from it. Even during the Israelites period of wandering in the desert, Yehovah's desire was to speak directly to His people, but out of fear they removed themselves from His presence. In fact, the children of Israel told Moses that they wanted Yehovah to speak to *him*, instead of directly to *them*. Yehovah's desire is still to speak with *you*, as His child. The Scriptures say that His sheep hear and know His voice. Do you listen to the voice of your Shepherd, and obey Him? Or do you, like the Israelites, want someone else to hear from Him for you? People in Church can preach, teach, exhort and guide you, but this does not cancel out your privilege and responsibility to hear directly from your heavenly Father too.

DAY 46 - DAVID'S RECIPE

'Do not fret because of evildoers...' Psalm 37:1 (NKJV)

As you read Psalm 37, remember that it is written by David, a man who knew both the highs and lows of life. Although he was anointed while still a young man, to be the king of Israel, it was many long, hard years before this came about. During that time he, no doubt, spent many lonely days and nights on his own, looking after sheep on some dark, cold, damp hillside. He slew the bear and lion which came to steal his father's flock, before slaying Goliath, the giant Philistine. Even then, Saul, the David was anointed to succeed, tried to kill him. Even David's followers spoke of stoning him for something that was not his fault. Despite having his faults and failings, and being far from perfect, Yehovah described him as a man after His own heart. Have you ever wondered why? David acknowledged that any strength he had was from Yehovah alone – not from himself. He was quick to repent and quick to thank, praise and worship Yehovah for His unfailing love and mercy. In Psalm 37 you can read David's recipe for not only survival, but triumph: 1) *Do not fret or worry.* 2) *Trust in the Lord.* 3) *Delight yourself in Him.* 4) *Commit your way to Him.* 5) *Rest in the Lord.* 6) *Cease from anger.* 7) *Be meek.* 8) *Depart from evil and do good.* 9) *Wait on the Lord.* If you take the ingredients from this recipe, you too can learn to triumph in life, regardless of the problems or difficulties you may encounter. Be quick to repent and quick to praise!

DAY 47 - What Would Yeshua Do?

'Whoever does Yehovah's will is My brother...' Mark 3:35

Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, 'Being a Christian (a follower of Yeshua) is less about cautiously avoiding sin than courageously and actively doing Yehovah's will.' One problem with many of Yeshua's followers today seems to be the fervent and strong desire to *not* do some things, because they have been told they should not do them. People end up concentrating so hard on *not* doing the 'thou shalt not's' that they do not have time or energy to do the 'thou shall's'! The term 'Christian' (a follower of Yeshua) is meant to denote a follower of Yeshua; that is someone who follows Him where He goes, does what He does and says what He says. The heart of a follower of Yeshua should be someone who asks, 'What Would Yeshua Do?' If you live by that principle, then your life will be a natural outflow of a heart that seeks to please Yehovah. The motivation for this should come from a deep desire to bring Him pleasure, rather than fear. Ask yourself, what would Yeshua do if He was in your situation right now? How would He speak to that person who aggravates and annoys you? How would He react to the person everyone else judges and hates? As Bonhoeffer suggested, rather than trying to avoid sin, and therefore focussing on it, turn your attention to the Yehovah instead, and to seeking His will. Resolve to do what *Yeshua* would do in your situation; where you live or work, in your family and your relationships. Determine today to make an eternal impact for the glory of Yehovah.

DAY 48 - THE AROMA OF YESHUA

'...Spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere...'

2 Corinthians 2:14 NIV

Everyone has at some point, met or walked past someone and been impacted by their smell. It might be the pungent smell of sweat, alcohol, food, or stale body odour; or it could be the aroma of an expensive perfume or aftershave. The latter attracts us while the former repels us. The latter may make you want to stop and ask what perfume the person is wearing. Hopefully, in the case of the former, instead of telling the person how bad they smell, you might simply make a hasty departure to somewhere more bearable. If you have been to the gym or have been playing a physically demanding sport, then the likelihood is that *you* were the one that smelled and repelled others! You tend to pick up the scent of what you have been involved in. In the same way, if you have been spending time in the presence of Yehovah, you start to notice, and be attracted to the pleasant aroma of Yeshua. When you have been with Him for some time, you will emerge from His presence with His aroma around you. You will then carry that with you in a way that is noticed by others. What aroma are you spreading? How is this aroma being released through you and impacting others? Remember, the secret of 'smelling like Yeshua,' means living in His presence, because you can only live out, and give, what you have personally got. Live from the throne room outwards, and let the world smell the presence of Yeshua; spread the aroma of Yeshua today.

DAY 49 - LIFE LESSONS

'Yehovah... knows the secrets of the heart...' Psalm 44:21

One of the most essential lessons to learn in life is that everything is built on relationships. You will have heard the phrase, 'it is not *what* you know, but *who* you know that matters.' Often that is true, with job vacancies being filled before an advertisement appears, simply because someone in the company has a friend or a relative who are suitably qualified, well-positioned, or well-known enough, that they are tipped for the job before anyone else is even considered. That can be very encouraging or discouraging depending upon whether you are the person being offered the job or not! Another important lesson to learn is that no one is an island; everyone needs relationships with others to be able to flourish in life. Some of those relationships will be on an acquaintance level, some more of a friendship, and a few, which you could probably count on one hand, are close and intimate connections, with people who you can truly share your heart with. However, the deepest relationship that you could ever have is with Yehovah, your Heavenly Father, and Yeshua, His Son. This relationship should surpass all others! Yet some people fear intimacy with Yehovah, because getting close to Him means changes happen in your life! There are no hidden secrets with Him; He knows your deepest hopes and dreams, but also your fears, your faults and your failings. And yet He loves you anyway. How intimate is your relationship with Yehovah? Do you know Him, and do you allow Him to really know you? Are you allowing Him to change you? Choose to make yourself vulnerable to Him today.

DAY 50 - A LIFE OF SIGNIFICANCE

'...A treasure in heaven...will never fail...' Luke 12:33 NIV

Someone once said, 'We desire to be successful till we are about forty, then we desire significance.' Sadly, however, many people learn the hard lesson; success is very fleeting. You are only as successful as the last sale achieved, meal cooked, item produced, or sermon preached!

Significance, on the other hand, builds something that can impact far beyond your immediate circle, and can leave a legacy that will outlive you. Significance is accessible to, and attainable by, every person regardless of age. It firstly takes a decision, and from then on, a mindset. 'But' you ask, 'how significant is significance, if everyone can achieve it? If everyone can do it, does it not become less significant?' No! Consider this; the gospel message is open to *all*. Those who accept Yeshua receive all the benefits of salvation; those who do not accept do not receive. But there is enough grace, mercy, peace, indeed salvation, to go around. The same is true of significance; for choosing to make a difference in this life, you can positively impact not only the world around you, but also the lives of others, for eternity. What difference have you made? Ultimately, that is something only Yehovah can judge, but if your life has been spent on becoming successful, rich or important, the chances are you will achieve little of eternal worth. There was a rich man in the Scriptures who kept building bigger barns to store his wealth. Yeshua called him a fool because he had built up treasure for himself but was not rich in Yehovah. Where is your significance found today?

DAY 51 - WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

'...dwells ... in the secret place of the Most High...' Psalm 91:1 NKJV

Where you live makes a difference to your life. People strive to live in the best part of town or lament the fact that they were born 'on the wrong side of the tracks.' Often when people hear where you were born, grew up, or live currently, they stereotype or judge you accordingly. The scriptures speak of the place where you can *choose* to live; to dwell in 'the secret place of the Most High', resting in a deep and meaningful relationship with Yehovah, your Father. If you choose to live there, the promise is that you will 'abide under the shadow of the Almighty.' The Scriptures frequently mention Yehovah's desire to protect you 'under His wings', the wings of a mother hen, or a mighty eagle. Where do you choose to live, to dwell, to rest? Where do you go when you are confronted with the emotional stresses, pressures and problems of life, when sometimes even your physical home is not a refuge? The only truly safe place is in the arms of the Father. Find refuge in Yehovah, the rock and fortress, where no enemy can defeat you, where your future is secure and certain. Pray with the psalmist, 'be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go; give the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress' (Psalm 71:3 NIV). Where is your daily place of rest? Where do you run to when all else fails but Yehovah Himself? Are you abiding under the shadow of the Almighty? Make the secret place your dwelling place today.

DAY 52 - GREAT LOVE

'Have mercy on me, Yehovah...' Psalm 51:1

The Scriptures say that Yehovah considered David 'a man after my own heart [who] will do everything I want him to do' (Acts 13:22 NIV). It is interesting, perhaps surprising, that Yehovah would say this about a man who failed dismally on several occasions – not just having an affair with a married woman, but also getting her pregnant and then arranging to have her husband killed so that he could marry her and not be caught out. However, although David made huge mistakes and terrible choices with drastic consequences, when he was confronted by a prophet, he repented, confessing, 'I have sinned against the Lord' (2 Samuel 12:13 NIV). Can you say the same when you have been convicted by the Holy Spirit? David experienced the forgiveness and love of Yehovah, and often proclaimed His mercy. David's beginnings were humble; an unimportant shepherd boy; the bottom of the social scale. However, when David worked in the palace, even the King of Israel recognised that he carried a gift and anointing from Yehovah. David's passionate love and gratitude to Yehovah's heart of grace and mercy brought out His creative gifting, and many of the scriptures that you read, or even sing today, were the expressions of His heart after Yehovah's. As you follow the path that Yehovah has ordained for you, you too, will experience His faithfulness, love and mercy. Stay soft-hearted to Yehovah and be quick to repent when you sin; His mercies are new every morning. Allow your love and gratitude to Him to find expression throughout the rest of your life.

DAY 53 - LOVING OTHERS

'For Yehovah so loved the world...' John 3:16

As Billy Kennedy, Leader of the Pioneer Network once said, 'Our goal, as Yehovah's people, is not to fill our buildings, but to transform our towns and cities.' That is a great challenge, not only to church pastors and leaders but to each individual follower of Yeshua. What is the true motivation of your heart as you talk to others about your faith? Is the intent to recruit people to your cause; to invite or entice people to join your church, like you would a social club or sports team? Or are you so thrilled with the close and intimate relationship that you have with Yehovah that you want to tell everyone that the same fellowship is available to them too? Yehovah loves each member of the human race so much, that He sent his only Son, Yeshua, to die on the cross for their salvation. When you understand His passion for His creation, a similar love for them starts to rise in you. You will long to tell them of the love and mercy of Yehovah, and of His desire to be in relationship with them. You are a servant of Yeshua, working to build His Kingdom in the lives of those He loves, transforming not only their lives, but also impacting the communities in which they live. Are you an agent of the Good News of the Gospel or merely a promotor of a better lifestyle? Reflect on the goodness of Yehovah towards you and try to grasp the love He has for others. This will bring a fresh beauty to your witness, to others in the community.

DAY 54 - BODY LANGUAGE

'...imitate their faith...' Hebrews 13:7 NIV

Someone once said that “people tend to put on the image of the person or ‘being’ they behold and worship.” Generally, people tend to pick up the traits of those who have a strong influence on them, regardless of whether it is in a positive or negative way. If someone you admire happens to have many positive and admirable attributes there is a tendency for you to emulate them in those areas. Equally, you need to recognise that they are not perfect, and must make a conscious effort not to pick up their negative areas. The same thing happens with body language; there is a tendency for a person to mirror, or reflect back what they subconsciously see others doing to them. If a person folds their arms when talking to someone, it is said that this depicts a closed, defensive approach from that person towards the other. Without even realising it, your instinctive reaction will be to mirror the posture, so you therefore reflect back that same folded arms and defensive attitude. How do you view Yehovah, and His approach to you? The truth is that He stands with His arms open and outstretched towards you. Your whole outlook changes when you recognise and receive Yehovah’s open-hearted, open-handed, arms-wide-open approach to you. When you see and feel His love and generosity, His receptivity and kindness, His grace and forgiveness towards you, how can you not reflect that same love and commitment back to Him? As you mirror His stance towards you, you will also start to reflect His characteristics in your relationships with those around you! What are you reflecting today?

DAY 55 - ABIDE IN ME

'Remain in Me, as I also remain in you...' John 15:4 NIV

Yeshua left the throne room of Heaven because He wanted more than anything else to bring *you* back to it, to live in His presence for ever. As the old hymn says, 'He left the splendour of Heaven, knowing His destiny was a lonely hill called Golgotha where He laid down His life for me'. In return, He looks for a similar abandonment of all that you count worthy of clinging on to, to live in His presence. You are not going to live a fault-free, sinless life, but nevertheless, above all else, seek a life of intimacy with Yehovah. Seek to live in, and know, the Word of Yehovah. Strive to talk to Him continually; desire to push into His presence. Taste and see that the Lord is good. Have you heard the saying, 'Yehovah is good all the time, and all the time, Yehovah is good'? Lasting and meaningful peace, joy and contentment are only found in Yehovah's presence, so when you are aware of Him, be still, so that you can know and experience that He is truly Who He says He is. Learn to stay in Yehovah's presence, delighting in Him, remaining in Him, abiding in Him, because that is the only way that you can bear fruit. He promised that He would never leave you or forsake you; that He is ever faithful and ever present with you, and in you. Heaven and earth may pass away, but His Word will never pass away, so you can be confident that He will never break that promise.

DAY 56 - MADE FOR THE HEIGHTS

'...They will soar on wings like eagles...' Isaiah 40:31 NIV

An eagle once landed in a farmer's field with its wing injured. Seeing that it was unable to fly, the farmer carried it to his farmyard and housed it alongside his turkeys. After some weeks, the eagle's wing was fully healed, so the farmer separated it from the turkeys and perched it on a nearby fence. The eagle sat there for a while, then eventually dropped to the floor, waddled over to the turkey pen, and waited till the farmer allowed it back inside with the turkeys. The farmer took the eagle to a nearby hill; but the eagle just flapped its wings. Early one morning he, once again, took the eagle to the top of the highest hill. As they arrived, three eagles appeared in the sky, high above them. The farmer looked at the eagle in his arms and said to it, 'You were not meant to scratch in the dirt, you were made to soar!' He turned the eagle so it could see the others high above them and threw the bird heavenward as hard as he could. The eagle flapped its wings, and then started to rise, higher and higher, until it joined the others soaring upwards, so high that they could barely be seen with the naked eye. The Lord has promised that if you wait on Him, you will soar up on wings like an eagle. You were made for something greater than scratching around in the dust and dirt of this world. Today, catch a vision of the heights Yehovah has called you to, and rise like an eagle to reach all He has called you to be.

DAY 57 - SO SMALL BUT SO SIGNIFICANT!

'...the moon and the stars which you have set in place.' Psalm 8:3 NIV

If you have ever been to the top of a hill and looked down into the valley, you will know how small the people below you appear to be. If you have ever been in an aeroplane, people on the ground disappear with only fields, rivers, major roads and cities being distinguishable. Now imagine you are an astronaut, soaring thousands of miles above planet earth. Only countries and continents are visible to the naked eye. Over seven billion individual people inhabit planet earth, each believing that they are the master of their own little universe, and that the world revolves around them. Viewing each of those 'masters of the universe' from a hill, a plane, or even a spacecraft, puts their empires into perspective. And yet Yehovah, the maker of heaven and earth, who spoke the world into being, and whom Solomon said was so big and mighty that the heavens could not contain Him – *that same* Yehovah – has chosen to set His love and affection on *you*, as an individual. See yourself from His perspective; imagine Him singling *you* out personally from His throne in heaven. It is as if Yehovah is looking at you through a zoom lens more powerful than any man-made telescope, zooming in, past all the stars in the galaxy, the planets in our solar system, the continents and countries, towns and villages, until He sees *you*! He chooses to rest His gaze, and His love, on *you*. Think about that great measure of His love, mercy and grace towards you today!

DAY 58 - Walk the talk.

James 1:22-25 “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”

The story is told of a seminary lecturer who set his students a task - with a tight deadline. To teach them to “be instant in and out of season” when it came to being prepared to preach at short notice, they were to write a sermon outline about “The Good Samaritan”, and bring it to him in his office within the next 15 minutes. He then left the room for his office in another building. The students all worked hard, writing their sermon plans, all seemingly making the point that it was the Samaritan who was considered a neighbour, the hero of the story, to the man who had fallen among thieves. Having such a tight deadline increased the pressure on each of the students but, one by one, they finished the task and from the room, heading for the lecturer’s office. On the way they each encountered a homeless man sleeping in the doorway of the lecturer’s office block, but they managed to ignore and step over him to reach their goal, some with only seconds to spare. Each student left his notes with the lecturer’s secretary and left the building, once again stepping over the man on the steps below. Unfortunately, unbeknown to any of them, the “homeless man” they had all stepped over was the lecturer in disguise. The following morning, when they arrived in the classroom, they were taught a very important lesson. Not only were they all required to hear and the words of Yehovah and, indeed, to be able and ready to share their faith with others, they - and we - are all responsible to put what we read and say we receive into practice. Each of us must walk the walk as well as talk the talk.

DAY 59 - Standing in Yehovah's strength

Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Yeshua who strengthens me."

Life's challenges come in different shapes and sizes. And what is a challenge, or a mountain, to one person may be an insignificant molehill to another. We have all met people who can make a mountain out of a molehill, but is it not refreshing to come across someone who seems to conquer a mountain so easily as if it were a molehill?

Imagine looking through a pair of binoculars. Looking through one way appears to magnify what we are looking at. It makes the object we are viewing seem so much closer and so much bigger. Turning them around the other way appears to shrink the same object, makes it seem so small, distant and insignificant. And yet what we are looking at stays the same size regardless of how we look at it. It all comes down to our perspective. Throughout the letters he wrote, Paul the Apostle tells us of the trials he endured for the sake of the gospel. He was beaten with rods, imprisoned, shipwrecked, bitten by a snake and even stoned - and yet he said he could do ALL things, not in his own strength and ability, but through Yeshua who strengthened him. What situations are you facing today? Do they seem insurmountable, too big for you to handle? Maybe they are, if you tackle these problems and challenges in your own strength and ability. But if you draw upon His grace, the enabling power of Yehovah, you too can be more than a conqueror through the Holy Spirit within you.

DAY 60 - Stay alert.

1 Peter 5:8 "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour."

Imagine living at the foot of a mountain, at the edge of a beautiful, quiet river. It is an idyllic setting; quiet, peaceful and relaxing. How wonderful it would be to retreat there, to relax and recuperate after a stressful day at work. There is a time - as we read in Psalm 23 - to lay down in green pastures, by still waters. We all need times when we come aside and rest a while, like Yeshua did with His disciples. There is a time for recuperating from the strains and pressures, the battles we all face daily - and it is wonderful to stop and recharge our batteries. Mike, a soldier told the story of how he and the reconnaissance group he was in progressing through enemy occupied territory. After resting for a few minutes, the group leader signalled it was time to continue, but Mike was so comfortable he decided to stay a while longer, closing his eyes and almost falling asleep as the rest of the group disappeared from view. That was when Mike came to his senses, realising he was now at his most vulnerable, alone and no longer in communication with his mutually protective colleagues. He was at the mercy of the enemy who were all around, seeking to kill him. The reality of his situation shook him to his senses. He caught up quickly with his team and they continued the journey together. Be aware that your enemy, the devil, prowls around - seeking whom he may devour. Your strength and ability to defeat him comes from your being alert, staying in submission to and in contact with Yehovah, your "commander" and in close fellowship with those he has teamed you up with.

DAY 61 - NOW faith

Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

The term "NOW faith" indicates a present tense believing that what Yehovah has promised is going to happen. It is not a passive kind of faith. It takes hold of the promises of Yehovah and begins to see, to envisage, to "envision" (see ahead of the promised thing coming into physical manifestation), and to call and talk about those things that are not yet physically seen as though they were seen - simply because if Yehovah said it, we choose to believe it - and that settles it. Because we accept that what Yehovah has said and promised will come to pass, we begin to see the fulfilment of His promise in the physical world we live in. If He has promised He will provide our daily bread, our physical needs being met, a relationship to be mended, a problem to be solved, a loved one coming to faith, we begin to paint a picture in our minds of what that will be like when the promise appears in the flesh.

Faith sees as actual fact the thing that has not yet appeared to the natural senses. Hope is believing despite the evidence saying what you are believing for does not and cannot exist - then watching as the evidence appears in the natural realm. "NOW faith" will not only keep you sane and emotionally stable while you wait for the physical manifestation to appear, but it will also keep you in close contact with your Heavenly Father, because while the physical evidence is still "on its way" you stay close to the One who promised, waiting for Him to bring it to pass.

DAY 62 - Moving on.

Philippians 3:13 “this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before.”

Rather than wallowing in the guilt of our past faults and failures, each of us needs to move on. It is not smart to sit alongside the prodigal son in the pig pen of life. Like him, we must come to our senses, get up and come home to Father. The saying goes that the definition of insanity is to continue doing the things you have always done and expect a different result. If you continue to do the things you have always done, you will continue to get the same results you have always got. To continue moving forward you must: 1. Be unwilling to stay in a negative, status-quo situation. 2. Avoid living in the past. 3. Never rest in the present. Always be willing to learn and to grow. 4. Be delivered from your past.

Learn from these examples: 1. David - He was discounted, attacked by Saul, battled against personal sin and failure - but was still spoken of as a man after Yehovah's own heart. 2. Children of Israel - they were in slavery in Egypt and even rebelled in the wilderness but still went into and possessed the promised land. 3. Joseph. He was sold into slavery, imprisoned and forgotten, but overcame the temptation to wallow in self-pity and resentment, and ended up as Prime Minister and feeding both the Egyptians and Israelites during the famine. 4. Paul had to forget his past guilt, grief and grudges, resist pity-party opportunities in order to write over 50% of the New Testament. 5. Be devoted to a purpose. If you are discouraged, tired or not where you are supposed to be - press on, press in. Press through!

DAY 63 - Come boldly to your Heavenly Father.

Psalm 23:6 "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over."

Here we have an amazing example of the mercy and grace of Yehovah. Yehovah knew David's faults and failings, and yet this scripture says He prepared a feast in honour of David, setting him at the head of the table, poured him a glass of wine so full it overflowed. What an amazing picture of Yehovah's mercy and grace towards him. Mercy means that Yehovah does not give us the punishment we deserve for our sins. Grace means He give us all the goodness, blessing and riches we do not deserve. Truly grace is Yehovah's riches at Yeshua's expense." Many of us know how easily we can fall into sin. And yet we can sing songs with such lines as "Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before your throne." Imagine those times when we have sinned - and we feel so vile and dirty. If Yehovah viewed us in the same way we sometimes view ourselves, we would shrivel up and die of shame. And so we see it is only because of Yehovah's "outrageous grace" towards us that we can continue to stand and to walk out our life as Yeshua's disciples - through His enabling grace. His love and grace towards us are bigger and deeper than any of us have ever imagined. Every religion will give you rules and a moral code to live by - but only the gospel of Yeshua will give you mercy and grace - because of His Father's heart towards us. Yehovah's grace qualifies the disqualified. That is why, after His resurrection, Yeshua said "Go tell the disciples AND tell Peter." If you are feeling beaten down and disqualified today - come boldly to the throne of grace and obtain mercy from your loving, Heavenly Father.

DAY 64 - Come apart – before you come apart!

Mark 6:31 "And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat."

It has been said we need to "come apart" before we really do "come apart." Life has always been "busy", it has always been full, and yet we try to fit 30 hours of living into a 24-hour day. Before all our modern conveniences, like washing machines, driers, electric and gas cookers, microwave ovens, etc., it seems people had a more leisurely pace of life. The only difference between now and then is that some of the things we fill our days with are different from what they filled theirs with! Yeshua Himself had demands made upon Him, His time and availability. The only way even the creator of the universe survived the rigours of such a lifestyle was He disciplined Himself to come apart to be alone with His Father. He trained His disciples to do the same. Think about it; even before Yeshua's earthly ministry began, He was "led of the Spirit into the wilderness." (Luke 4:1). We know it was there, while he fasted for 40 days, He was tempted by the devil, but have you ever wondered how and from where He received the strength and wisdom to overcome those temptations? Taking time out - like in a game of American football - can give us time to rest from the onslaught of a tough and determined opponent for a few, vital moments, to refocus and to gather strength for the next phase of "the game." Yeshua took time out: 1. Before directional decisions needed to be made. 2. Before and after periods of testing and pressure - to get a fresh perspective. 3. When He was going to teach and equip the disciples. If the King of Kings and Lord of Lords needed to take "time out", what makes you think you do not?"

DAY 65 - Be “the catcher in the rye.”

Joel 3:14 “...multitudes in the valley of decision.”

In the classic novel, *Catcher in the Rye*, by J.D.Salinger, Wilhelm Stekel is quoted as saying, "The mark of the immature man is that he wants to die nobly for a cause, while the mark of the mature man is that he wants to live humbly for one" Salinger goes on to say later in the book, "I keep picturing all these kids playing some game in this big field of rye...Thousands of little kids, and nobody's around...except me...I'm standing on the edge of some crazy cliff...I have to catch everybody if they start to go over the cliff...I'd just be the catcher in the rye... I know it's crazy, but that's the only thing I'd really like to be."

Even when a person is a follower of Yeshua, it is astounding to see how some appear to be drifting through life, whiling away their time, their energy, their talents and their resources, living for their own pleasure, seemingly without a care in the world, nor any goals to be achieved, victories won, milestones passed or any sense of the vastness of eternity. We pass this way but once – rubbing shoulders with thousands upon thousands who are rushing headlong towards an eternity without Yehovah – while we spend our waking hours building sandcastles on the beach of life as the tide advances upon them. Not so the likes of CT Studd, who said “Some want to live within the sound of church or chapel bell; I want to run a rescue shop, within a yard of hell.” It seems, like “the catcher in the rye”, he saw his life’s commission was to stand where the “multitudes in the valley of decision” (Joel 3:14) were passing.

DAY 66 - Possess all Yehovah has promised you.

Numbers 13:30 “And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, ‘Let us go up at once, and possess it, for we are well able to overcome it’.”

After 400 years enslaved in Egypt there was, no doubt, a longing in the hearts of the Children of Israel for freedom, not only from slavery, but freedom to love and serve Yehovah in the way He had commanded them. Until Moses began leading them towards the Promised Land they had focused on the vision. Now they had to put into practice the vision they previously saw only in theory. Despite their new-found freedom, they complained, they rebelled against both Moses and Yehovah who was guiding them by the daytime cloud and night-time pillar of fire.

Yehovah’s promise was that they would possess a land flowing with milk and honey. That was what He was leading them towards. As they approached the Promised Land, Moses sent out 12 men to spy out the land. Ten returned with a negative report, seeing only the problems ahead. Only two, who saw the same "evidence" as the ten, came back saying "We can go in and possess all that Yehovah has promised us. Your perspective will dictate whether or not you can and will be able to possess what Yehovah has promised you. So, what do you see? Do you see and believe that Yehovah will accomplish all He promised you? Do you view Yehovah's promise as the title deeds to all He has spoken to you about - or do you see it as a mere "wish list"?

Faith perceives as actual fact the thing Yehovah has promised - as if it were already in your possession in the physical realm. Sight is the function of your eyes, but vision is the function of your heart. You need to keep your eye of faith on the promise till you see the fulfilment of the vision.

DAY 67 - Forsake all and follow Him.

1 Peter 4:17 "...judgement must begin at the house of Yehovah..."

Renewal is when those who have not previously loved and followed Yeshua are made anew. Revival is when those who were previously alive and vibrant in their relationship with Him have become worn down, worn out, weary and near death. Revival must come first to the Church before those outside see that the Church has something worth their attention.

Revival happens when a person realises they are near death and need to be revived. It is accompanied by a conviction that things must change, that they need help to save them from dying. The difference between conviction and condemnation is that true conviction calls out for Yehovah's help – while condemnation causes a person to run from Him. Condemnation makes us run from His presence because of what WE have done - but when the Holy Spirit convicts us, He convinces us that there is a place of safety and right-standing with Yehovah if we run into His presence – rather than from it - because of what HE has done for us. When we truly see the love that Yehovah demonstrated towards us in the death of His Son on the cross, there is only one appropriate response to the cross - and that is our full surrender to Him. When Yehovah revives His Church, the crowds will gather to see what is happening, His people will crave and hunger after the Word of Yehovah, which cleanses the hearts of men and women and they will be compelled to spread the good news far and wide. When the Church is revived, people obey the Lord, there ceases to be compromise with the world, people confess openly their need of Yeshua, they receive a personal call from Yehovah to do all that He commands, and they commit to forsaking all to follow Him.

DAY 68 - Five pointers for your time with Yehovah.

Psalm 100:4 “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him and bless His name.”

The times a follower of Yeshua spends alone with Yehovah is often called a “Quiet Time.” This well describes the time each of us need to build into our daily lives, when we come away from the busyness of life, our hectic schedules and demands upon our time, in order to still our hearts and minds so we can hear from and speak with Yeshua, our Saviour.

Here are a few guidelines that may help to make this time enjoyable and productive:

Go in relationally, because you want to, not because you must.

Be open and honest. Give your attention to Yehovah, speak to Him and be open to hear and receive from Him. Let Him discipline and disciple you, using both the rod and staff (Psalm 23).

Be transparent and vulnerable – open your heart and mind for Him to speak unreservedly to you.

Make the Word of Yehovah the backbone of your encounter with Him. It is mostly through the Scriptures that He will speak to you.

Pray. Enter His presence with confidence, with thanksgiving, with gratitude and with praise.

Write down what Yehovah speaks into your life, the things you believe Yehovah is saying to you and the promises He is giving you. Remember the vision is often for a future date – and it is wise to write it down so that you can read it often – and run with faith towards His promises being fulfilled. (Habakkuk 2:2-3) Be honest and truthful; include the things you needed to put right with Yehovah as well as His promises for the future.

Enjoy the encounter with your Heavenly Father. After all, you will spend eternity in His presence.

DAY 69 - I am what He says I am....

Philemon 6 “...the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Yeshua.”

There are churches where the pastor asks everyone to hold their Scriptures in the air and declare; “This are my Scriptures. I am what they say I am, I have what they say I have, I can do what they say I can do.” It is easy for us as followers of Yeshua to believe and confess that Yehovah is omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent. And He is. Yehovah calls Himself the “I AM”, He says He IS..., He says He HAS, He says He WILL....

In comparison, we are not, we have not and we can-not.... Indeed, like Paul the Apostle said of himself, in ourselves, in our natural selves, there is no good thing. However, because we have accepted that the death, burial and resurrection of Yeshua was sufficient to bring us into a right-standing relationship with Yehovah, the righteousness, wisdom and sanctification of Yeshua Himself was paid into our “spiritual bank account”, showing our balance as being “in credit” – not through our works, but His.

Yehovah chose and appointed each of us to fulfil His call upon our lives before we had done anything. His acceptance of us was not conditional on our achievements or accomplishments, but solely because of Yeshua. And yet while we readily accept and believe what Yehovah says about Himself, we struggle to accept and believe what He says about US. Yehovah says you are: His masterpiece, His Workmanship, established in the faith, sealed with His promise, redeemed, a new creation and righteous. It is time to live the life He has called you to, declaring “I am what He says I am, I have what He says I have - and I can do what He says I can do.”

DAY 70 - Four Benefits of believing in Yeshua.

Psalm 68:19 “Blessed be the Lord, who daily loads us with benefits.”

As a follower of Yeshua, the Lord has poured a multitude of benefits into our lives. The song goes “Count your blessings, name them one by one. And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.” Here are just a few of them. 1. Everything you have ever done wrong has been forgiven. Hebrews 8:12 says Yehovah will “be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.” That is not because Yehovah has absentmindedly forgotten your wrongdoing, but because your sin, past, present and future, has been nailed to the cross when Yeshua died on your behalf, Yehovah chooses to not remember them anymore. 2. You have come into a personal relationship with Yehovah. Because the death, burial and resurrection of Yeshua has made righteous all those who trust in Him, you can have boldness to approach your Heavenly Father. 3. You learn Yehovah’s purpose for your life. It has been said the two most important days in a person’s life is one, when they were born and two, when they find out why. 4. You get Yehovah’s strength for daily living. Life can be tough. Each of us face trials, obstacles, heartaches and losses, but the strength Yehovah gives you empowers you to live a victorious life – if you live it “by the faith of the Son of Yehovah, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20). 5. You are guaranteed eternal life. Not only are you guaranteed the presence of Yehovah to accompany you every day of your natural life, Yeshua has gone to prepare a place for you in Heaven and will come again to take you there to spend eternity with Him. Now that is something to rejoice about.

DAY 71 - Building cathedrals or sandcastles

Matthew 7:26 “...a foolish man...built his house upon the sand.”

The Scriptures warn us not to build castles on the sand because, when the tide comes in, all we have built will be washed away by the waves. One of life's toughest lessons is seeing much of what we have spent our lives building rusted, derelict, demolished and cleared so that someone else can build their dream in its place. Our challenge is to find something that will survive the passage of time, long after we are gone. It is important to find Yehovah's plan and purpose for our lives, give ourselves to it – and leave a legacy, the evidence of which will continue long after we have gone. Next time you pass a building site, consider those who spend their days labouring on it. How many labourers are truly passionate about creating what the architect envisioned? Some may be simply laying bricks to earn a wage packet at the end of the week or month. Some may even have a more long-term view. They set out each day to build a wall or put in a number of windows or doors. Others, however, are building with a long-term vision. Not only are they laying bricks or building walls they see they are building a cathedral. Those builders know they may not even be around when the vision is fulfilled, but they have caught the vision that one day thousands of men and women will stand and worship the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords in this place. What are you labouring upon? Building, sandcastles, laying bricks, building walls, or building a place of praise and worship to Yehovah?

DAY 72 - Covenant Promises

Psalm 56:9 "When I cry unto thee, then shall my enemies turn back; this I know; Yehovah is for me."

King David, like so many others, had a stark reminder of his frailty and tendency to sin. And yet, the Scriptures describe him as a man after Yehovah's own heart. Before he had a personal encounter with Yehovah on the road to Damascus, the Apostle Paul, who wrote over half of our New Testament, stood-by and guarded the coats of those who stoned Stephen to death. Even after his conversion he admitted that in his natural self was "no good thing." Throughout scripture we have countless examples of weak men and women who, in many respects, let Yehovah down and were poor examples of holiness and righteousness. Any yet, Yehovah did not send bolts of lightning to kill them in an instant. Why not? Because even when we do not believe, when we do not live as we should live, *He* stays faithful, because He is true to the covenant He made towards those whom He has accepted by grace, His totally unmerited favour. Yeshua said He would never leave us, nor forsake us. He has said He will abide with and in us and He is true to His word. If He were to treat us as we would if we were in His place, we would not last one day, but thankfully Yehovah did not and does not discard the weak and sinful, because He found a way to make us righteous and for each of us to begin anew. His covenant with man was designed to make strong someone who was weak, through their covenant relationship with He who is stronger than we could ever be. In your times of weakness, remember "His strength is made perfect in your weakness." For "when you are weak, then you are strong."

DAY 73 - Point the world to Yeshua.

John 3:30 “He must increase, I must decrease.”

“John the Baptist” was his name, “John the Baptist” was his job description, and “John the Baptist” was his reputation. Everyone would have heard of the man who dressed in a camel skin coat and a leather girdle and ate locusts and wild honey. People came from far and wide to hear him preach and to be baptised by him. Yet John knew his real purpose in life was to prepare the way of the Lord, to point to the one whom, as he said himself, was greater than him and whose shoes he was not even worthy to unloose. At the start of Yeshua’s earthly ministry, John immediately pointed Him out, honouring Him as the one that would take away the sin of the world. We can learn so much from John’s example. Instead of building and basking in our reputations, let us exalt and enthrone Him in our hearts and lives. The Scriptures say Yehovah has given Him a name above all other names and that at the name of Yeshua every knee will bow. We can live that out by lifting up His name above all other names, situations, weaknesses and limitations. Whatever the names of the sicknesses, diseases or negative things that battle against us, the name of Yeshua is over and above that name. Recognise and honour His name – and demand all those other names bow and submit to His Lordship. In Old Testament times the priest would lift an offering above their heads, waving them before the Lord. Take up those things that declare themselves to be more powerful than the name of the Lord, lift them up as a sacrifice to the Lord, declaring that they are under His feet, authority and Lordship.

DAY 74 - Desires only Yehovah can fulfil.

Philippians 3:8 "I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Yeshua, my Lord; for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Yeshua."

Imagine having a jigsaw puzzle you have worked on for weeks. It is finally complete, apart from one single piece right in the middle. You check in the box, you check around the floor, under the table and everywhere you can imagine that one piece could have vanished to. Only that one, rightly shaped and correctly coloured piece will fit. Nothing else will take its place and complete the picture. You may have heard the old saying that "there is a Yehovah-shaped blank in the heart of every man and woman, which only Yehovah can fill." Our lives could easily be described as a jigsaw puzzle, made up of almost countless, different shaped instances, relationships, challenges, and so on. We spend many years piecing together all these factors; our jobs, our pastimes, the friendships we build, even the problems, heartaches and griefs we battle through and overcome. And it is easy to think that the sum of these makes our life what they are. That has a measure of truth – and yet it is still not the full picture. Inside the heart of every man, woman, boy or girl, there are blank spaces that only Yehovah Himself can fill. Let us look at just a few. Total security, unquestioning and unshakeable love, full acceptance, a real sense of adventure, unending excitement, total and continuous provision, not only happiness but an inexplicable and unceasing joy. Only Yehovah can fill that blank within your life. Whatever it is you know is missing, His promise to you is "I am that I am."

DAY 75 - Make your time count.

Psalm 90:12 “Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”

When we are (or were) young it was easy to think that life dragged at an amazingly slow pace. We often seemed to almost wish our lives away when that special day we were waiting for, be it when we are going on holiday, having a special trip somewhere or meeting a friend we had not seen for several months or even years, appeared to be so far away and so slow in arriving. Someone once said the older we get, the faster time goes. As a follower of Yeshua, it is wise for us to know that the Scriptures talk of our earthly lives being around 70 years long – possibly even 80 – and occasionally some people even live to be older still. But let us imagine your life is represented by a 70-centimetre-long piece of string. Around 25 centimetres will be spent asleep, 30 centimetres at work – or traveling to and coming back from work. 10 centimetres will be spent relaxing after those long-days at work, eating or going on holiday to rest, recuperate and recover – ready for another few months of work before the next holiday. Bearing in mind anything thing else you want or would like to do, that leaves just 5 centimetres of that 70 to spend. Anybody in their right mind would say to spend those 5 centimetres worth of life wisely. How much more important, in fact vital is it that we use the first 65 wisely – building something that is bigger than ourselves, something that will remain when we are no longer here – and something that will bring praise and honour to our Heavenly Father. Be wise how you use whatever length of time Yehovah has given you.

DAY 76 - You are incredibly valuable to your Heavenly Father.

Luke 12:6-7 "Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before Yehovah? But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows."

There are just a few times when the Scriptures talk about sparrows. Psalm 84 talks about how, as even the sparrow has found a nest to make its home, so the psalmist has found his dwelling place in the house of Yehovah. In Psalm 102 he says that despite feeling like a single, lone sparrow on the roof of a house, Yehovah remains the same, remembering and staying faithful to His people for all generations. Matthew 10 speaks about 2 sparrows costing a farthing - and Luke 12 speaks of there being a special offer price of 5 sparrows being sold for 2 farthings. You get the impression from these passages that sparrows are so numerous they are almost worthless to mankind. You could wonder why sparrows are used as the comparison till you realise that they are so commonplace no one even notices them. That is not like when we see a beautifully coloured, red-breasted robin or another even more exotic bird. Even seeing two robins in our garden gets our attention - but Yehovah values a single sparrow so much He notices when one single sparrow somewhere in the world falls to the ground.

So, what can you learn from this? Both Matthew 10 and Luke 12 tell us that Almighty Yehovah notices when one of those, seemingly worthless sparrows, falls to the ground. Yehovah loves His creation so much He even sees when a seemingly insignificant, "10 a penny" sparrow dies..., even if no one else on earth even notices. And Yeshua says in these passages that you are of far more value to Him than many of the sparrows His Heavenly Father cares so much for.

DAY 77 - Getting Egypt out of the Israelites.

Romans 12:1-2 “ present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto Yehovah....and..... be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

The saying goes, “You can take the Israelites out of Egypt - but it can take 40 years to take Egypt out of the heart of the Israelites.” How true that is, in each of our lives. Our born-again experience happens in an instant, when we accept the offer of salvation and forgiveness from our Heavenly Father, all because Yeshua took the punishment for our sins and shortcomings upon Himself. And yet the Scriptures tell us we are to “work out our own salvation with fear and trembling.” (Philippians 2:12). Someone once said, “salvation is free, but discipleship will cost you everything” and how true that is. Working out and walking out the life of a follower of Yeshua in the day to day takes a daily offering of ourselves as a living sacrifice upon the altar of the Lord. One could also say that we present ourselves on the “alter” of the Lord – as well as the altar – because it is only as He alters and changes us that we grow and mature in our faith and in our daily walk with Him. Like another railway track running parallel to that of offering ourselves daily as a living sacrifice, runs one of renewing our minds. We may sometimes ask ourselves, “What Would Yeshua Do”, but what about asking, “What Would Yeshua Think” or, more accurately, “HOW Would Yeshua Think?” That can only be answered as we learn to renew our minds and “have the mind of Yeshua” (1 Corinthians 2:16). That scripture tells us we already HAVE the mind of Yeshua, but to benefit from that, we need to allow that Yeshua-like mind to be preeminent and dominant over our own natural mindset.

DAY 78 - Yehovah can make you anew.

Romans 6:4 "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Yeshua was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

"A Leopard cannot change its spots, but a caterpillar can change into a butterfly", a saying attributed to Angel Holscher Hatfield, reminds us of how we can be so judgmental of others whose behaviour we witness – especially when we see no change, or what we would deem as improvement over time. We can so easily become cynical, particularly when it comes to others. Of course, we do not tend to be as demanding, unforgiving and lacking in grace towards ourselves as we are towards others, because we love to give ourselves margin for error, the benefit of the doubt and room for growth.

It is true that, in finality, only Yehovah can transform a life from abject depravity and degradation to one of holiness, honesty and hope – and it is only through our personal acceptance of His offer of forgiveness that we can enter into a new and redeemed life and lifestyle. Our natural strength and resolve will not change "our spots," but we can accept and expect the life-transforming power of the Holy Spirit to make us anew. We can, like the caterpillar, enter into a newness of life - when we accept that Yeshua is the only one who can change us and make us something we can never make ourselves.

The story is told of the caterpillar who, seeing the butterfly fluttering above him, turned to his fellow caterpillars and said, "You will never get me up in one of those." Yet our destiny is to become all that Yehovah has created us to be – but it can only happen when allow the Holy Spirit to transform us into the image and likeness of Yeshua.

DAY 79 - Something to chew over...

2 Timothy 2:6 “...the husbandman must be first partaker of the fruits.”

Many of us have heard someone say that after spending two or three hours in the kitchen, preparing a meal for the whole family, the person who has prepared it no longer feels hungry enough to eat it themselves. That is not usually because they have actually eaten “their share” of the meal in advance, but it may just feel that way, simply because they have enjoyed the preparation process and picking at or sampling the various components as they cooked them.

The temptation for those of us who preach, teach or speak to others is that we can all too easily become lecturers, providers, servers of others – and forget that we too must eat, chew over, digest and benefit from the messages we have prepared. In fact, the Scriptures say, “the husbandman must be first partaker of the fruits.” If we are going to “dish it out” to others, not only can and should we, but we must also accept and receive the Word of Yehovah as being first applicable to and needful by ourselves. A commonly used term in some circles these days is “I am not claiming, I am aiming.” Paul the Apostle said he did not consider himself to have already attained, achieved and reached his goal, or any perceived pinnacle of success or status, but he was still pressing forward, desiring to learn, comprehend and understand more, and to know Yeshua more in the intimacy of relationship he knew that Yehovah had called him to enjoy.

Never forget that each of us must first learn and put into practice what we expect others to hear and receive from us. We must be the first recipients of the Word we preach – in order for our own lives to be fruitful to the glory of Yehovah.

DAY 80 - Straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel.

Matthew 23:24 “Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.”

They bought two very sharp kitchen knives, which came in strong, rigid plastic packaging, designed to ensure their safe transportation from shop to home. Reaching home both husband and wife cut into the plastic packages to “free” the knives they had purchased ready for use, taking care not to touch the blades as they did so. Unfortunately, in their efforts to avoid the knife edge, both of them cut themselves on the plastic surrounding the product itself.

The story reminds us of the humorous analogy which Yeshua used when He rebuked the hypocrisy of the Scribes and Pharisees - whom He said strained at a gnat stuck in their throats whilst, at the same time, swallowing a whole camel. This is a great example of how we can be so legalistic in the way we judge and expect far more of others, demanding a much higher level of holiness and righteousness from them, straining not to accept the slightest flaw or failing in their lives. And we do so whilst, at the same time, we forgive and excuse what can often be a much bigger degree of failure and lack of right living in ourselves.

The Scriptures tell us not to judge one another, nor offer to take out a speck of dust from someone else’s eye, whilst we have a beam of wood lodged in our own. In fact, we are warned not to judge lest we ourselves are judged because the level of condemnation we heap upon others will be heaped, in turn, on us. We ought to be as gracious and forgiving towards one another as we would like our Heavenly Father to be towards us. There is a challenge for each of us today.

DAY 81 - They shall mount up with wings.

Isaiah 40:31 “But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

Have you ever seen a pigeon take off from a tree or a roof top - and watched how there appears to be an instinctive, frantic flapping of its wings; it even sounds like they are slapping against one another above and below its body? By way of comparison, if you have ever seen an eagle take off from a tree or rock face, you will see it may flap its wings just once or twice, and sometimes not at all, before it begins to glide through the air, using the air currents and wind to lift it higher and higher.

After a while you will notice the eagle has ascended above every other “lesser” breeds which flounder below it, whilst using and relying on a source of power and strength beyond and outside of itself. The Scriptures tell us that “they that wait upon the Lord will renew their strength, they will mount up with wings like eagles..., (not pigeons!), they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint.”

If we spend time in the Lord’s presence, centring our attention and desire upon Him, His strength will be transferred and gifted to and imparted into us. We will be endued with power from on high - causing us to no longer need to flap frantically through life, but to be able to live victoriously in and through Him. We will fly above the circumstances of life rather than battling through them. Learn to spend time in His presence and draw from Him all you need to take you to the next level in life.

DAY 82 - Prodigals: Part 1. The Prodigal Son

Luke 15:11 “And he said, A certain man had two sons.”

Yeshua told the story of a man who had two sons. The youngest decided he wanted to go his own way, leave home and live his life as he saw best; but to do so he needed the finances only his father possessed. Not content to wait until his father died and left him a share of the inheritance, he asked for his portion while his father was still alive. Within days he had gathered everything he owned and left home. After spending all he had on riotous and extravagant living, he was left destitute. Rather than returning to his family, he hired himself out to a stranger who put him to work feeding pigs, something totally against the culture of a young Jewish man. Not only that, he was so desperate, he would gladly have even eaten the pig's food.

Eventually he came to his senses, realising even his father's servants were better off than him and, with that, he turned homewards. As he came closer, his father saw him and came running to welcome him home. He hugged and kissed him, commanded the servants to bring him the best robe in the house, shoes for his feet, a ring for his finger and the fattened calf to be prepared for them to celebrate. He planned to rejoice that the son who was as dead, was now alive, well and back where he belonged.

One reason Yeshua told this story was to let every “prodigal” know that no matter where you have been, no matter what you have done, it is time to come home. Your Heavenly Father is waiting to welcome you home - with arms open wide.

DAY 83 - Prodigals: Part 2. The Elder Brother.

Luke 15:11 “And he said, A certain man had two sons.”

When Yeshua told what we refer to as the story of the prodigal son, the primary reason for Him doing so was to answer the criticisms and accusations of the Scribes and Pharisees. In Luke 15 we read that the Scribes and Pharisees murmured against Him, because He received sinners and even ate with them.

To answer their judgemental hearts, He told them about the sheep which wandered off, getting itself lost. The shepherd left the 99 remaining sheep safely in the wilderness while he went and found the lost one. Upon returning he called his friends and neighbours to rejoice with him. Next, he told of a woman with 10 pieces of silver who, upon losing one, searched until she found it. She too called on everyone to rejoice with her over the one silver piece she had found again.

After saying “there is joy in the presence of the angels of Yehovah over one sinner that repents”, he told the story of the son who took his portion of his father’s legacy and went away, wasting it on riotous living. Coming to his senses and returning home, truly repentant, his father accepted him back, clothed him, shod him, and put a ring on his finger.

The elder son though refused to rejoice that his renegade brother had returned. That unforgiving, judgemental attitude towards those who come afresh to faith, or return to walk with Yehovah, was what Yeshua was addressing.

Do you rejoice with your Heavenly Father and the angels of heaven over one sinner who repents, or do you refuse to welcome them as quickly and gladly as He does?

DAY 84 - Built upon the corner stone.

Ephesians 2:19-20 “...Ye...are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Yeshua himself being the chief corner stone.”

In building terms, the cornerstone, also known as the foundation stone or setting stone, is the first stone set in the construction of a masonry foundation. All other stones are placed in reference – or relationship - to this one, thus determining the position of the entire structure.

When we build our lives upon Yeshua, keeping Him as foundational and central to all we are and do, we give Him first place in our hearts and lives. From that starting point we find all we need is built upon Him and our relationship to Him. He Himself provides direction for our lives and future development. He provides strength to our souls, structure to all we do, to all we are and He Himself is the blueprint for how our lives are meant to grow.

Yeshua told us not to build our lives upon the sand for, when we do, and the storms of life come - as they surely will - all we have spent so much time and effort building will fall and come to nothing. But when we build our lives upon a rock, upon who Yeshua is, the Son of Yehovah, the creator of the universe, the very Word of Yehovah made flesh - we build upon something, indeed someone, Who is immovable, steadfast and sure. When the storms of life come, we will stand firm and strong in Him. He is, and will always be, all we need, not only to survive but to thrive and grow to the full measure of all He has designed and purposed for us to be.

DAY 85 - Right ways up!!!

Acts 17:6 “These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also.”

In the three years that the disciples followed Yeshua throughout His time of ministry in the land of Israel, they often floundered along, living one day at a time, often impulsive, presumptuous and, one could say, acting like downright failures. Perhaps they could best be described as volatile and impetuous teenage apprentices to the greatest Master Teacher who ever lived. Think about it, Yeshua often challenged them as to where their faith was. Peter could swing into angry outbursts. Thomas doubted, Judas betrayed Him – and in the end, they all forsook Him and fled.

But as He was about to ascend into to heaven Yeshua told them to wait in Jerusalem until they were filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit Whom, He said, would live with them and in them.

Over the next four weeks, why not read a chapter of the Acts of the Apostles each day - and just see how these same disciples turned from, at times, inept, ineffective amateurs into men who would, like Peter on the Day of Pentecost, preach and lead 3000 people to become followers of Yeshua. They did this at great risk to their own lives, and were, in the process, transformed into a group of men would be recognised as having turned the world upside down - once they were filled with the Holy Spirit. Compare the “before and after” impact the Holy Spirit had upon their lives and ministries.

If the Holy Spirit could transform those men into people who would turn the world “upside down” or, indeed, right side up, just imagine what Yehovah can accomplish in this world when we too are filled with and empowered by that same Holy Spirit.

DAY 86 - Mind the gap!!

Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Yeshua who strengthens me.”

Many of us have heard the announcement when boarding a train “Mind the gap between the train and the platform.” We will all have seen signs saying, “Please mind the step.” Both are very useful warnings to have, as they remind us to be careful as we move from one place to another, so that we do not trip and injure ourselves.

Often in life there are hazards to be aware of when we move from one place to another and this means we step forward with both eyes open, rather than shut, whilst continuing to move forward in faith. Yehovah told Moses and Joshua He had given them every place their foot trod upon. (Joshua 1:3). Similarly, Yehovah said that as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant rested in the River Jordan He would stop the waters flowing so that the Israelites could cross over on dry land. (Joshua 3:13-17). And that is just what happened.

When Peter said to Yeshua “If it is you, tell me to come and walk to you on the water”, Yeshua said “Come.” (Matthew 14:28-29). But for Peter to walk on the water he had to step out of the boat. In all these cases there was a “gap” or a “step” where faith was necessary for those involved to move forward. Moses, Joshua, the priests and Peter, all had to believe the Lord would honour His promise to “come through” and not let them down when they moved forward at His command. The same applies to you. Those things which Yehovah is calling you to step into will only be accomplished if you choose to accept His promise and step out in faith. You will only be able to walk on the water if you step out of the boat!

DAY 87 - Step out in faith.

Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

When standing at the underground station waiting for a train to arrive, you are relying upon and entrusting your life to a train driver you have probably never met before and will probably never actually meet personally, to take you into a dark tunnel - believing that he or she will take you safely to a destination you may never have been to before, nor know much, if anything, about. And yet you go, believing the destination will be worth the effort of the journey.

You could describe that as “Hope.” Hope that what you are stepping out in faith to journey into does in fact exist - and that it will be a better place than the one you are leaving - even though it has not yet been revealed to your natural senses. The journey from “here” to “there” could be described as a journey of faith. On the way there things may seem dark and yet you continue to trust the driver you have never met to take you safely to your final destination.

From the moment you stepped into the train you continued in faith, believing you will see the light at the end of the tunnel and arrive safely at a destination which far surpasses where you were when you began your journey. Unlike the train driver whom we have never met – but trust, we know our Heavenly Father loves us passionately and unconditionally, and we know He will take us safely into all He has promised us. To enter something or somewhere better than you are in now, you must step out and begin a journey of faith, trusting the Master will take and accompany you there.

DAY 88 - Re-stored, re-stocked, re-plenished, re-newed.

Psalm 23:2-3 “He makes me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside still waters. He restorers my soul.”

The saying goes that more battles are fought in the confines of the human soul than have ever been fought on the battlefields of this world. When the struggles of this life take their toll upon our hearts, minds and souls, we can be left drained, depleted, discouraged and desolate. Often we are so low we find it impossible to recover through our own self-effort, with the aid of self-help books or through worldly methods like meditation, exercise, holidays or through untold numbers of philosophies.

But when Yehovah is all you have left, you will discover Yehovah is all you need. When you are so low, and you cannot even see how even Yehovah Himself can repair the breaches in your heart, that is when Yehovah moves in and brings a remedy only He can bring.

Many times He will set you apart from the natural props and supports you would normally look to for assistance. Then He will make you lie down in green pastures, by still waters, away from activity, occupation, involvement and the things which so easily fill up and dominate your time and attention. Then, when you realise no one else is around to import and impart into us, He restores your soul. When you realise you are totally empty you will understand your deep need to be re-stored, re-stocked, re-plenished and completely re-newed.

Imagine being stranded down a deep well, hanging on to the very end of a rope. You have reached the end of all natural hope of survival. When you let go of the rope - calling out the name of Yeshua, you will realise underneath are His everlasting arms and He will catch you.

DAY 89 - Watch out for trip hazards.

Hebrews 12:1 “Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily besets us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.”

When runners or joggers go out for a training run there are some things they must learn to do and some not to do. One of those is being aware of cars and other vehicles - to watch carefully where they run so they do not get knocked down and seriously injured or killed. They must watch the road beneath their feet to avoid uneven surfaces, rocks or stones on which they could easily trip, and slippery materials like banana skins, ice or snow. Such things can easily result in injuries, sprained or broken ankles, or far worse if they fall badly enough or into the path of oncoming vehicles. Runners get accustomed to watching the road ahead, the traffic and the road surface all at the same time and hence they usually arrive safely at their destinations.

Some athletes train or race with others who are running at approximately the same pace, but they soon learn to run their own race. Those with them may breathe loudly and at a different rate than them; their stride may be longer or shorter, so runners learn to block out the sound of others' footsteps or loud breathing.

The writer of the book of Hebrews warns us to watch out for the hazards of sin which so easily beset and trip us up. We are encouraged to run with patience the “race” set before us, looking into Yeshua, Who not only started us off on this journey, but will be waiting for us as we cross the finishing line at the end of our lives. Run your life's race looking unto Yeshua. Keep your eyes on Him and watch out for the things that can so easily trip you up and cause you to fall into sin.

DAY 90 - The government is on HIS shoulders.

Isaiah 9:6 “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, almighty Yehovah, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

In these stressful and turbulent times, it is easy to become frustrated and angry at everything and everybody. We find ourselves looking for someone to blame, someone to take our anger out on, be it a friend or family member, someone in the supermarket or a car driver who inconveniences us on the road. Sometimes we concentrate all our frustrations upon someone we see as in an official position, a doctor, council official, or a local or national politician – or even one from another country.

We can so easily blame them for all we see as wrong in this world. In the cold light of day, when we have had chance to sit and reason it through, we can, strangely enough, either conclude how illogical that is - or conclude it is totally logically to blame them for whatever it is we are fuming over. And yet scripture tells us, “the government will be upon HIS shoulders.” That is Yeshua, the prophet Isaiah is talking about. He rules on earth as He rules in Heaven. (Luke 11:2). He is governing what happens on this earth and in this life. He is never taken by surprise, nor taken aback by things that happen. Providing we live in submission to Him, His authority and Lordship in our lives, He will handle anything and everything that comes against us. The government is and will always be upon His shoulders. When we recognise and acknowledge that, we can truly see Him as our Wonderful Counsellor; He is the Almighty Yehovah, and He is and will be to us personally, the Prince of Peace, who brings a consistent state of peace into our hearts and lives. Let Him sit on the throne of your heart, governing your heart and life today.

