



## NET-WORKING

*Bringing in the Kingdom  
Catch*

*by Matt German*

Networking. That's one of those words that we hear thrown around quite a bit these days. People use it in reference to finding the right "connections" in business and in social situations. Often it seems like the focus is on what a person can get out of that "connection" – the end-product – rather than on the relationship itself. Sadly, that concept has even become common-place within the *ekklesia*. As believers we must ensure that we don't fall prey to that mindset.

It is essential in the day and hour in which we live to recognize the Body of Messiah for what it is – and what it isn't. There is a great disparity between what it is and what it is called to be. People today – especially in our western culture – often don't know how to relate to each other. It makes it very hard to achieve unity and teamwork if people can't even relate on a practical level. Unity is about much more than simple doctrinal agreement. It starts with a shared understanding of our common calling... and our diversity of gifting and individual calling. It means putting the good of the Body ahead of our own needs, wants, and desires.

The apostle Paul, writing to the assembly at Ephesus, exhorted believers there to "endeavor (be eager) to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:3). Likewise, he instructed Timothy to "pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace with those who call on Yahweh out of a pure heart" (2 Tim. 2:22). Clearly, Paul recognized that relationships within the Body take diligent pursuit and focused effort. We must endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit; we must pursue love with others.

Yahweh is looking for a people who understand their calling... and their placement. Our placement – the place that Yahweh has set and assigned us by the Spirit – is as important to our success as our individual callings. If we aren't properly positioned according to His will, we cannot fulfill our calling. Too many believers haven't been taught the importance of position and instead choose the "gypsy" lifestyle, never establishing real and living relationship with others in the Body. In order for the Body to become all that it is meant to be, we all

must recognize our place as well as our part. Yahweh desires a people who will pursue relationship with each other. Doctrine can be learned, but real and living relationship takes time, effort, commitment, patience, and love. The fallacy is that relationship within the Body will just "happen", but like anything else of Kingdom value, it must be pursued.

Just a few verses later in his letter to the Ephesians, Paul spoke of the perfected Body: "all the body fitly framed and knit together through that which every joint supplies, according to the working in measure of each individual part, makes the body increase to the building up of itself in love." (Eph. 4:16).

Several years ago while I was praying, Yahweh showed me an image of a net. The remarkable thing about it was that, where each strand crossed and tied into another, there was a glowing, golden weld. I quickly understood what He was showing me – our relationships within the Body are like that net and each relationship must be "welded" in order for it to remain intact and strong. Then He immediately took me to one of our Messiah's earliest encounters with His new disciples.

At Lake Gennesaret Yahshua encountered a multitude and He took the opportunity to minister to them. Peter and his companions, fishermen, had spent the entire night out on the lake but hadn't caught anything. They were in the process of washing their nets:

**Luke 5:4-11** "He entered into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. He sat down and taught the multitudes out of the boat. When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep, and let down your nets for a catch.' Simon answered Him, 'Master, we worked all night, and took nothing; but at Your word I will let down the net.' When they had done this, they caught a great multitude of fish, and their net was breaking. They beckoned to their partners in the other boat, that they should come and help them. They came, and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But Simon Peter, when he saw it, fell down at Yahshua's knees, saying, 'Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, Master.' For he was amazed, and all who were with him, at the catch of fish which they had caught; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Yahshua said to Simon, 'Don't be afraid. From now on you will catch men alive.' When they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him."

There are several key points we can glean from this encounter: first, notice Peter's willingness to act upon Yahshua's

instruction – “at Your word (*rhema*) I will let down the net.” Like Peter we need to act on the *rhema* – the proceeding word – of Yahshua. Too many believers try to function without the proceeding word and end up frustrated and empty-handed. However, we need to go beyond what Peter did; Yahshua instructed him to let down their **nets**, but Peter and his friends only let down a single net. That was why Peter fell down at Yahshua’s knees and acknowledged his sinfulness – he believed Yahshua... sort of. He and the others were amazed at the great catch of fish. He was willing to be obedient at a certain level, but he didn’t really expect much of a catch.

Also notice that when Peter and his friends first let down their net, “they caught a great multitude of fish, and their net was breaking.” Such was their catch that they had to enlist the help of their partners in the other boat. The prophetic significance of this is that in order to bring in the end-time harvest we must partner together! We must find those who are partners in the faith. They might be “in the other boat” doctrinally, but they’re out there on the water with us, seeking to do the Master’s will. They, too, were willing to “launch out into the deep” at the *rhema* word of Yahshua.

We must also ensure our nets are clean and without defect, for every relationship will be tested, and the “great catch” will test our connection to each other – how closely we are knit together. Only truly strong connections will endure the testing.

From this day forward let’s consider “networking” from a Kingdom perspective and ask ourselves “is our net working?” If it’s not then we need to ask ourselves why.

### The Declaration Principle

*“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness – that to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.” ~ excerpt from Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776.*

How important were the words in this brief document? They were pretty important – for they set in motion a series of events leading to the birth of a nation. That new nation, in turn, would spearhead the industrial revolution and bring unprecedented prosperity and freedom to a large part of the world. However, this did not happen without a fight. In fact, the men who

signed the Declaration of Independence KNEW there would be a fight, that there would not be just one battle, but many, and that they could very well be signing their own death warrants. And the whole process started with **words**.

The nation of Israel was birthed in a similar fashion. In fact, Moses issued a verbal “declaration of independence” to Pharaoh:

**Exod. 5:1-3** “And afterwards Moses and Aaron came, and said to Pharaoh, In this manner says Yahweh, the Elohim (eh-low-HEEM, ‘God’) of Israel, Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness. And Pharaoh said, Who is Yahweh, that I should listen to His voice to let Israel go? I know not Yahweh, and moreover I will not let Israel go. And they said, The Elohim of the Hebrews has met with us: let us go, we pray you, three days’ journey into the wilderness, and sacrifice to Yahweh our Elohim, lest He fall upon us with pestilence, or with the sword.”

These two examples illustrate the “declaration principle”: **Proclaim, Pursue, Possess**. Without proclamation (or “declaration”), there is no pursuit; without pursuit, there can be no taking possession. Interestingly, Moses and the ancient Israelites modeled what modern engineers refer to as a “feedback loop”: after each plague from Yahweh, Moses went back to Pharaoh and re-declared the Word of Yahweh to him. When the proclamation and pursuit did not bring about the desired result, the process was repeated. This was a case of “Proclaim – Pursue – Proclaim – Pursue ... Possess!” As an anointed man of Yahweh, Moses had the tenacity to continue to proclaim the Word of Yahweh over the situation and pursue the ultimate objective until it came to pass.

The Scriptures make clear that our words are vitally important:

**Prov. 18:21** “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and they that love it shall eat the fruit of it.”

**Prov. 15:4** “A gentle tongue is a tree of life.”

We’re all familiar with the account in Numbers 13 of the twelve Israelites sent by Moses to spy out the Promised Land. The Israelites were fresh out of Egypt, liberated from bondage with awesome signs and wonders done through Yahweh’s mighty Hand and outstretched Arm. Yet when these twelve men returned from spying out the Promised Land, ten of them gave an evil report. Apparently recognizing the danger of their words to the destiny of his people, Caleb tried to stifle their declaration of unbelief:

**Num. 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. But the men that went up with him said, We

are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we. And they brought up an evil report..."

Ultimately, the doubters won out. Words of faith were undone by words of fear and doubt.

Forty years later, after most of that faithless generation had died off, Joshua prepared to lead the children of Israel into the Promised Land. Their first test was the battle of Jericho, and Yahweh gave him specific instructions to relay to the people. As he delivered these instructions, however, notice what Joshua added:

**Josh. 6:10** "And Joshua commanded the people, saying, You shall not shout, nor let your voice be heard, neither shall any word come out of your mouth, until the day I tell you to shout; then you shall shout."

He had obviously learned the lesson from their experience 40 years earlier, when the people had uttered unbelief and disqualified themselves for the promises of Yahweh. He was bound and determined that it wasn't going to happen a second time! He was not going to allow them to talk themselves out of their destiny again! As a result of his wisdom and steadfastness, coupled with Yahweh's promise, they recorded an overwhelming victory and began to possess their inheritance. It all started with one man's understanding of the declaration principle.

In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul exhorted Timothy to apply the same basic principle to his calling:

**2 Tim. 1:6, 1 Tim. 4:14** "I put you in remembrance that you stir up the gift of Yahweh, which in is you through the laying on of my hands... Neglect not the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery."

Paul was telling Timothy to remind himself – to re-proclaim to himself – the prophetic bestowal he had received, then to pursue his calling and thus fulfill his Yahweh-ordained destiny.

Proclaim – pursue – possess: whether for an individual or a nation, that is the essence of the declaration principle. If you truly want to see victory in your life, your walk, your marriage, your children, your neighborhood, your nation ... apply the declaration principle. **Proclaim** Yahweh's promises over your situation, then **pursue** them until you **possess** them. And it wouldn't hurt to saturate the whole process with prayer.

### Dealing with Disappointment

DISAPPOINT: 1) To fail to satisfy the hope, desire, or expect-

ation of. 2) To frustrate or thwart.

Each of us has experienced disappointment in our lives. We've been disappointed by situations that didn't go the way we expected them to go and people who didn't respond the way we hoped they would. Most of us have probably even been disappointed by Yahweh when He didn't answer a prayer in the way we thought He should. But we need to put things in perspective by realizing that Yahweh Himself has experienced more disappointment than all of humanity put together. Each and every human being – from Adam on down – has disappointed Him:

**Rom. 3:23** "for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory (they've failed to satisfy the hope, desire, and expectation) of Yahweh."

Did Yahweh give up on humanity because of that? On the contrary, He responded by sending His Son so that we might become His glory in the earth.

Yahshua, too, experienced disappointment on a level we can only imagine. "He was despised and rejected of men, and acquainted with grief" (Isa. 53:3). Even His 12 disciples all walked away from Him after He'd invested Himself in their lives for 3½ years. By the world's reckoning, He had every right to give up on them after they "disappointed" Him. But He didn't. Instead, He received them back with open arms, strengthened them and encouraged them, and sent them about His Father's business. Should we do any less?

As long as we are physical beings living in a carnal world, we will continue to experience disappointment – from family, from friends, and even from brothers and sisters in Messiah. But what really matters is how we respond. What do we do when we've poured our life into another person's and done our best to be a blessing to them, only to have them disappoint us? Do we give up on that person? Or do we remind ourselves that each of us still disappoints the Father on occasion, even after He's poured His life into us and blessed us above anything we can ask or think? Yahweh will never give up on us; can we give up on those we call "brother" or "sister"?

Disappointment is an enemy – an enemy to us as individuals and to us as a Body. And it's an enemy that must be put under our feet.

**Psa 119:116** "Uphold (establish) me according to Your word (*imráh*), that I may live (revive, quicken). Let me not be ashamed (disappointed) of my hope (expectation)."

I make this declaration today – the purpose of Yahweh for this House will not be disappointed, thwarted, or frustrated. Losing or falling short isn't an option. I bless you in Yahshua's Name.

### Recent Sermons

- What's Under Your Breastplate (06/12/10)
- The Glory of His Kingdom (06/05/10)
- Tithes & Firstfruits (04/03/10 and 05/22/10)
- Yahweh's Got You Covered (05/08/10)

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