



HE'S ALIVE!

'Why Do You Seek the Living Among the Dead?'

by Matt German

Lk. 24:1-12 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they and some others came to the tomb, bringing the spices which they had prepared. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb. ³ They entered in, and didn't find the Master Yahshua's body. ⁴ It happened, while they were greatly perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling clothing. ⁵ Becoming terrified, they bowed their faces down to the earth. They said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" ⁶ He isn't here, but is risen. Remember what He told you when He was still in Galilee, ⁷ saying that the Son of Man must be delivered up into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again?" ⁸ They remembered His words, ⁹ returned from the tomb, and told all these things to the eleven, and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now they were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James. The other women with them told these things to the apostles. ¹¹ These words seemed to them to be nonsense, and they didn't believe them. ¹² But Peter got up and ran to the tomb. Stooping and looking in, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he departed to his home, wondering what had happened.

Yahshua's disciples spent 3½ years with Him and witnessed miracle after miracle. Yet even after He'd specifically told them He would rise from the dead, they still didn't believe it. The ladies came to the tomb first, found the stone rolled away, and entered in. They expected to find His body but instead found an empty tomb – and they were "greatly perplexed". Even Peter, when he had checked out the tomb for himself, went away "wondering what had happened."

"Why do you seek the living among the dead?" This is as valid a question today as it was then. Although modern-day believers recognize that Yahshua was raised from the dead, too few actually live like it.

Too, as creatures of habit, we tend to look for life in the wrong places and wrong things; most people look for life in the denomination or religious structure in which they were raised. Yet the only true spiritual life we will ever find is in Yahshua

Himself.

On a practical level, we need to understand that, just as the women's report seemed like nonsense to the apostles, so our words will seem like foolishness to carnal-minded people around us.

There are actually 3 distinct attitudes or perspectives among professing believers:

- those who act like Yahshua is still up on that tree
- those who act like He's still in the tomb (they might profess that He arose again, but their lives don't reflect that reality)
- those who understand not only that He came down from that tree, was buried and then resurrected, but that He is alive in THEM

"Why do you seek the living among the dead?" He's not dead anymore! Do we act like He's still dead or like He is truly alive forevermore in US?

John 6:53-54 Yahshua therefore said to them, "Most assuredly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you don't have life in yourselves. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

Do we act like we have life in ourselves? The life that we do have, is it of ourselves or is it from Him? Are we still trying to live our own life and do things our own way? The truth is that we have no true life in ourselves – the life that we do have is fleeting. True, eternal life is only found in the blood of the Messiah. "The life is in the Blood!"

Rom. 6:3-13 Or are you ignorant that all we who were baptized into Messiah Yahshua were baptized into His death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with Him through baptism into death, that like as the Messiah was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we might also walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, we will also be in the likeness of His resurrection; ⁶ knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be in bondage to sin. ⁷ For he who has died has been freed from sin. ⁸ But if we died with Messiah, we believe that we will also live with Him; ⁹ knowing that Messiah, being raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no more has dominion over Him! ¹⁰ For the death that He died, He died to sin one time; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹ Thus consider yourselves also to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Messiah Yahshua our Lord. ¹² Therefore don't let sin reign in

your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. ¹³ Neither present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God, as alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

“As Messiah was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we might walk in newness of life” (v4). This is a here-and-now promise for the people of Yahweh; we are to walk in newness of life because Messiah was raised from the dead. We don’t do it in our own strength but rather through the glory of Yahweh. “If we have become united with Him in His death, we will also be in the likeness of His resurrection” (v5). To the degree that we’ve been united with Him in His death, so we will be like Him in His resurrection! If we’re not walking in the full power of His resurrection, it’s because we have not been truly and fully united with Him in His death.

Rom. 14:7-9 None of us lives to himself, and none dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Master. Or if we die, we die to the Master. If therefore we live or die, we are the Master’s. For to this end Messiah died, rose, and lived again, that He might be Master of both the dead and the living.

When Yahshua died, He really died! When He arose from the dead, He really arose from the dead! And He’s done all the dying He’s going to do!

Rev. 1:10-18 I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, like a trumpet ¹¹ saying, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last. What you see, write in a book and send to the seven assemblies which are in Asia: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.” ¹² I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. Having turned, I saw seven golden lampstands. ¹³ And among the lampstands was one like a Son of man, clothed with a robe reaching down to His feet, and with a golden sash around His chest. ¹⁴ His head and His hair were white as white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire. ¹⁵ His feet were like burnished brass, as if it had been refined in a furnace. His voice was like the voice of many waters. ¹⁶ He had seven stars in His right hand. Out of His mouth proceeded a sharp two-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining at its brightest. ¹⁷ When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. He laid His right hand on me, saying, “Don’t be afraid. I am the first and the last, ¹⁸ and the Living one. I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and Hades.”

He’s alive forevermore! As believers, according to Scripture we died with Him, so that we might live with Him – NOW... TODAY... and FOREVERMORE!

John 10:10 “The thief only comes to steal, kill, and

destroy. I came that they may have^{G2192} life, and may have it abundantly.”

^{G2192} *ekh*’-o = to hold or possess

Yahshua came so that we might have – hold and possess – abundant life. Yet too few believers recognize that fact, much less actually hold and possess abundant life. This life comes by the Spirit.

John 6:63 “It is the Spirit that gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are Spirit and are life.”

Rom 8:9-11 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if it is so that the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if any man doesn’t have the Spirit of Messiah, he is not His. ¹⁰ If Messiah is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the spirit is alive because of righteousness. ¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised up Yahshua from the dead dwells in you, He who raised up Messiah Yahshua from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

Again, this is a promise for today, not for a time in the distant future. If we have His Spirit dwelling in us, then it will produce the same life in us today as it did in Him! If it could raise Yahshua from the dead, it can certainly give life to our ‘mortal bodies’!

Deut. 30:19-20 I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse: therefore choose life, that you may live, you and your seed; ²⁰ to love Yahweh your Elohim, to obey His voice, and to cleave to Him; for He is your life, and the length of your days; that you may dwell in the land which Yahweh swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

We have a choice. We can choose life and blessing or death and cursing. Our Messiah died but was raised from the dead. He’s ALIVE – are you?

Joined at the Heart

Yahshua, our Messiah, stated emphatically that the entire law (Torah) is founded upon two basic commandments: love Yahweh with all of your heart, soul, mind, and strength; and love your neighbor as yourself. (Mt. 22:37-39, Mark 12:30-33). For the purposes of this article I want to talk about the latter.

Love isn’t really love if it isn’t expressed. We know Yahweh so loved that He gave (John 3:16). We also know that we show our love for Him by keeping His commandments (1 Jo. 2:3-5, 5:3). Similarly, we love our neighbor as ourselves by giving of

ourselves. It's not a one-time act but a continual process; it means building relationships with each other.

Strong relationships don't just "happen" – they require work, and that's something that most people are NOT taught growing up. That is one of the key reasons why so many marriages end in divorce. Too many people enter into marriage with the notion that it will just sustain itself, that it won't require any real effort on the part of either husband or wife. This misconception, in turn, is born out of a lack of understanding of covenant relationship.

Yahweh has called us into covenant with Him through His Son, Yahshua, but He has also called us into covenant with each other. The Scriptures say that we are to be joined to one another, knit together into one Body (Eph. 4:16). That's not some weak, casual way of relating. We are not – or should not be – casual strangers who just see each other once a week on Sabbath, then go our separate ways the rest of the week. Nor are we members of some religious or social organization – rather, we are interconnected parts of a living Organism, an organic Body, joined at the heart to each other.

Relationship is born out of fellowship. In fact, without fellowship there IS no relationship. That is true of our relationship with Yahweh and Yahshua; it is also true of our relationships with each other. We must actively SEEK opportunities for fellowship with each other. With everyone's lives as busy as they are, true, strong covenant relationships will happen in no other way. Make no mistake – this will require effort, commitment, perseverance, and sacrifice.

I once heard an evangelist talking about traveling to a remote area of Africa to preach. He said that heavy rains were pouring down and that, after reaching a certain point, he and his host had to leave their four-wheel drive vehicle and walk the rest of the way on foot due to the rough terrain. He was certain that they would get to the appointed spot and find no one there. He was astounded to discover a crowd numbering in the thousands patiently awaiting him; they'd been there, standing in the open air, rain, and mud, for HOURS.

To me, that puts things in perspective: for those of us blessed to have other like-minded believers in relatively close proximity, we really have no excuse for NOT fellowshipping one with another.

Consider this quote from business advisor and author Art Turock: "There's a difference between interest and commitment. When you're interested in doing something, you do it only when circumstance permits. When you're committed to something, you accept no excuses, only results."

Our relationships with one another must be cultivated, and

they must be cultivated deliberately. One of the crucial elements of relationship-building is the one that few seem able to provide: time. I once heard a pastor state it this way: "Time is the commodity of relationships." That's absolutely true. If we are unwilling to invest or sow time into our relationships, we shouldn't expect a healthy harvest in that field.

The Scriptures tell us that love is the bond of perfection (Col. 3:14) – it is the super-glue that holds the Body together. Yahshua said that others would know us by our love for one another (John 13:34-35). In his epistle to the Romans, Paul echoed this sentiment when he said that we are to be "kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another (Rom. 12:10). We honor one another by putting each other's needs ahead of our own. That is sacrificial love.

None of us is perfect yet. That being the case, we've got to learn to receive others where they're at. There is a Hasidic proverb that states "One who looks for a friend without faults will have none." Yahshua didn't require perfection when He called His disciples. Yes, He expected them to grow in knowledge and obedience as they matured in their relationship with Him, but even after building covenant relationships with many of them over the course of three and a half years, one of them still betrayed Him and the others all abandoned Him. Peter, one of the great apostles of the 1st century Body of believers, denied Yahshua three times on the night He was betrayed. Yet our Messiah still had the love in His heart to forgive him – and restore him. Should we do any less in our relationships with one another?

We need to remind ourselves on a daily basis of just how gracious and merciful our heavenly Father is. And we need to remind ourselves that He is calling us to exhibit His character in our relationships with one another. Each of us falls short on a daily basis in our relationship with Him; yet when we repent and determine to do better, He – in His incredible lovingkindness – wipes the slate clean and welcomes us back with open arms. Do we do the same with our brother or sister, those who we feel have wronged us?

The true test of a relationship is how one responds in the face of adversity. Proverbs 17:17 says "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity." A true friend is one who "sticks closer than a brother." (Pro. 18:24)

"Beloved, if Yahweh so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man has seen Elohim at any time. If we love one another, Elohim dwells in us, and His love is perfected in us." (1 Jo. 4:11-12)

Let us strive for that perfect love – let us be joined at the heart one to another.

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- Spiritual Improvisation (5/14/11)
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Yahweh's Feast Calendar – 2011

We understand that people have different understandings of Yahweh's calendar. These are the feast dates for 2011 as observed by Lion of Judah Family Worship Center:

Passover*	Apr. 17 th (Sun.)
Days of Unleavened Bread	Apr. 18 th – 24 th (Mon. – Sun.)
Pentecost	June 12 th (Sun.)
Trumpets	Sep. 28 th (Wed.)
Day of Atonement	Oct. 7 th (Fri.)
Feast of Tabernacles	Oct. 12 th – 18 th (Wed. – Tue.)
Last Great Day	October 19 th (Wed.)

** observed the evening before*

Bear in mind that the Biblical day begins at sunset the night before.

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