

“Don’t Let Your Heart Become Bitter”

Today I want to talk about your heart! It’s important that we guard our hearts with diligence for out of the heart flows the issues of life! Don’t let your heart become Jaded! Don’t allow yourself to become bitter towards Yah, or towards people. We are supposed to love Yah with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. And we are supposed to love people in the same way that we love ourselves!

**Bitterness = H4846 – Venom of a serpent
G4088- poison, to cut, to prick, producing bitter fruit**

Don’t let your hurts turn into anger and cause you to harden your heart against Yah and people. Don’t let your heart become calloused, causing a degeneration of your virtues, taking away from your goodwill toward people. Don’t have malice or evil motive towards others. Don’t be vicious or lewd, or try to vindicate yourself. Don’t look to get even or make people pay.

Have no guile towards others, no deceit, no trickery! Show kindness to people, even when they don’t deserve it! Show mercy when they don’t expect it. Be humble, gentle, kind, loving. Don’t stop caring for people, and ministering to the needs of others! It’s the kindness of Yah that leads people to repentance!

Pray for your enemies! Bless and Curse not!

Ephesians 4:1-3; 29-32 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Messiah’s sake hath forgiven you.

1 Peter 2:1-31 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile,

and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Kindness of the Lord.

Heb 12:14,15 Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble *you*, and thereby many be defiled;

Psalm 34:13-22

Psa 34:13 Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.

Psa 34:14 Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

Psa 34:15 The eyes of the LORD *are* upon the righteous, and his ears *are open* unto their cry.

Psa 34:16 The face of the LORD *is* against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

Psa 34:17 *The righteous* cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.

Psa 34:18 The LORD *is* nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

Psa 34:19 Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

Psa 34:20 He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.

Psa 34:21 Evil shall slay the wicked: and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate.

Psa 34:22 The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.

Lets face it! It is very easy to become bitter in this life. Lets not allow the enemy to steal our joyfulness in the Lord!

How can we guard our hearts? Keys to guarding your heart:

Psalm 119:10,11

Psa 119:10 With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.

Psa 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Hebrews 4:12

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Ephesians 5:26, 27

Eph 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

Eph 5:27 That he might present it to himself a glorious congregation, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

As we read and obey the Word of Yah, we will grow in the process of sanctification and be cleansed from the many things that want to grip our heart and destroy it. The Word of Yah acts as a cleansing agent for us when we obey it! The Word of Yah helps to guard your heart against the onslaught the devil brings against you.

Even though it may seem as a certain person is your foe, it's important to remember that we wage war not against flesh and blood; but against principalities and powers of darkness, against rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

The weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.

It's not by might, nor by power, but by the Spirit of Yah!

Prayer is a weapon, quoting scripture is a weapon, worshipping Yah is a weapon- all these things help to guard against bitterness creeping into your heart along with other things that can defile you and hurt you like bad attitudes, depression, or evil motive, or giving into temptations.

Another weapon we have to guard our heart with is the joy of the Lord!

Let your heart be filled with the joy of the Lord!

Nehemiah 8:10 The joy of the Lord is our strength!

Habakkuk 3:18,19 Hab 3:18 Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

Hab 3:19 The LORD God *is* my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' *feet*, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places.

Hebrews 12:2 Yeshua endured the cross because of the joy set before him!

Our Joy isn't centered on our circumstances or people, but rather on the hope of spending eternity with Yah!

John 16:33 Yeshua said we would have tribulations in this world, but to take courage, be of good cheer, have joy for he has overcome the world.

Psa 51:10-13 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me *with thy* free spirit. *Then* will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

It's hard to teach people Yah's ways when it's all gloom and doom! It's hard to convince people to follow Yah's instructions when you are jaded and bitter; but when you are filled with joy the truth becomes irresistible because they want what you have and joy is contagious!

Lets look at the life of Joseph! If anyone had a reason to be bitter it was Joseph! Betrayed by his family, cut off from the people of Yah, and probably didn't have the opportunity to obey Yah by keeping Shabbat and the annual Feasts of Yah, and many other commandments. By himself in anguish, hurt, pain, caused by the betrayal of his family, and slavery, and prison. It would have been easy for Joseph to become bitter against people and against Yah!

But Joseph overcame his circumstances. Joseph overcame whatever feelings I'm sure he initially had towards his brothers. Joseph overcame temptation, imprisonment, slavery, and bitterness.

I like what Joseph named his children: **Genesis 41:51,52**

Manasseh= For Yah has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's household.

Ephraim= For Yah has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction.

When he revealed to his brothers who he was after all the circumstances he endured - he said, **“Genesis 45:5-8 Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life. For these two years *hath* the famine *been* in the land: and yet *there are* five years, in the which *there shall* neither be earing nor harvest. And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now *it was* not you *that* sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.”**

Do we have this same resolve in us? Have we made up our minds that we should endure for the joy set before us? Or have we allowed ourselves to become jaded? Are we harvesting bitterness in our hearts? Maybe we are bitter against Yah, because we want to keep the traditions of men that are rooted in paganism because they hold sentimental value to us. Have we become bitter against people because they don't treat us the way we think they should? Whatever the case may be, whatever the issues in your heart are. Lets take some time to ask the Father to forgive us and ask him to **restore joy unto us.**

Father please remove bitterness from us, cleanse us from our sins so that we may be filled with joy and your Spirit; that we might teach transgressors your ways, and that their souls would be converted unto you!