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Still Seeking a Spirit Sign?



By Daniel Juster

Congregations that maturely invite and allow the Holy Spirit to act, also show greater power in evangelism and motivating people to give their all to the Kingdom of God.

I have been observing this now for over 40 years. This was so true in the days when I pastored. However, most congregations that say they believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit have little in the way of showing the Spirit.

There are too many reasons why we have so few manifestations of the Spirit, but I will list some here:

1. Leaders are afraid that if they open their congregations to member participation that things will get out of hand. It will embarrass visitors. Better to have an attractive and ordered gathering.
2. Leaders have not been trained to govern services that are open to the manifestations of the Spirit. This ability is caught more than taught. They need to sit under others who are doing this well to have confidence that they can do it.
3. Leaders have bought-in to the seeker-sensitive errors and depend on social-psychological methods to draw people. In truth, it is the Spirit who draws and knows how best to bring a reality which brings people to really confront the truth.
4. Leaders have not raised up a core of mature people who can prophesy with accuracy and good impact. Good prophecy opens up a community and is a key gift to desire (1 Corinthians 14).
5. Leaders have not understood that home gatherings are the places where a 1 Corinthians 12-14 type of meeting can take place so that all can participate, and then those who are mature can be released into the larger meetings.

6. Leaders are afraid to upset people by denying them the microphone. If only vetted people can speak, then others will be offended. So, it is thought best that no one speak from the congregation. This is a great mistake.

7. Leaders have allowed unstable and rebellious people to publicly speak and minister. Having brought shame and tension, now the leader decides it is best to not allow spontaneous participation.

8. Leaders fear it will take too much time.

9. Finally, leaders have not led their congregations to seek the Lord with prayer that they might be given the grace of His manifest presence.

It has been amazing to me to see congregations that grew and prospered with a commitment to showing the Spirit, later pull back and become completely controlled. Can the Spirit speak, act and re-direct? Is He also Lord? Allowing and welcoming the Spirit and his manifestations is a foundational value in Tikkun. It is a key to seeing more people healed, delivered, encouraged and drawn to the Gospel.

I have found that the Holy Spirit has to be invited and welcomed to come in a tangible way. John Wimber was right in saying, **“Holy Spirit come.”** I am sure you can think of many more factors. We read in 1 Corinthians that **“Jews seek a sign.”** I have found the reality of the Spirit revealed has been a key in Jewish people coming to know Yeshua. Members of congregations where the Spirit moves learn confidence that the Spirit will work through them in the marketplace and wherever they share with people who do not know Yeshua.

It Takes a Grandmother



By Leon Mazin

This is a story about two students who are learning at our Messianic music and art school, "Rainbow of Sounds," and their grandmother. They are siblings, ten and thirteen years old, both here in Israel.

It so happened, by the Lord's guidance, that one of our team members met their grandmother at the beach. When the grandmother heard of the music and art school run by Return to Zion Ministry, the grandmother expressed the desire to visit so that the teachers could listen to her grandchildren and evaluate their musical abilities.

It turned out that they are very talented, and ever since then they have been taking lessons at our school - each one on two instruments. We were able to loan them two violins; however, finding a piano that they could use was much more complicated. These bright, talented kids have been receiving lessons for a year and a half already, but they have not had the chance to purchase a piano or violin for themselves. The most inspiring thing is that they are not losing heart or interest despite these challenges. On the contrary, they are practicing and preparing for concerts, even if they must train at home using a piano keyboard printed out on paper!

As with many others, the lack of finances and other issues make it difficult for these two young students to reach their full potential musically and otherwise. Yet regardless of their challenges they come eagerly to the music school for their lessons and at the conclusion of their lesson they each thank their teacher. *Their dedication is so great that they do not allow themselves to eat until they have finished practicing, feeling that if they do not complete their practice, they do not deserve a meal.*



Their musical and artistic progress is not a priority for their mother who is parenting them without a partner. The grandmother sacrificially pays the subsidized tuition for her beloved grandchildren with the attitude that "every shekel adds up." She also participates in each of the children's group music lessons and even sings in the children's choir! The teachers and students are now used to her presence. Her aspiration towards creativity and art, even at an advanced age is an admirable and inspiring example for all the students at our school.

We are taking on the challenge of expressing God's love to these talented, underprivileged children of Israel and others like them, by developing their musical abilities, discipline and confidence. Your prayers together with a monthly gift of \$150 will sponsor a child at our school - enabling him or her to mature and grow in their giftings and equip them with skills that will enrich their future here in Israel.

We are grateful for your partnership.



Pictures of God's Faithfulness



By Hannah Tekle

Summer 2021, we hoped, would be the summer that everything went back to normal. When we returned to having services in person at the congregational building in mid-May, we naively imagined that life would soon go back to the way it was before.

Currently, rising numbers of Covid-19 cases in Israel have brought many social restrictions back. To cope with them until the situation is stabilized, we moved our annual congregational field trip to Hurshat Tal (literally translated “the dew grove”) up to the beginning of August and decided on a two week hiatus from services to follow.

Swimming in the freezing cold water that comes down from Mt. Hermon (Psalm 133:3) was refreshing to body and soul. Seeing the deer that came seeking the cool waters too, brought to life the verse, “As a deer pants for streams of water, so my heart pants for you” (Psalm 42:1).

In addition to that, the children’s camp we hold every summer, which was cancelled last summer, went through many adaptations this summer. It was cancelled, un-cancelled, re-cancelled, and then we began working on an alternative - a day camp. This alternative also went through the fire. Plan A - four days, 40 kids. Plan B - four days, 20 kids. Plan C - 2 days, 20 kids. Needless to say, all the adults and kids were worn out from hoping, being disappointed and hoping again.

To our delight, “Plan C” was a beautiful success! Two days of outside fun in the hot Israeli sun! Despite all the frustration, discouragement, and changed plans, God faithfully granted us wonderful times of fellowship, food, water games, classic camp silliness and Bible lessons. As we went from activity to activity, the children’s eyes were full of delight and it was wonderful to see them tasting of God’s goodness and faithfulness.

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.”

(Hebrews 10:23)



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Will We Stone Those Sent to Us?



By Guy Cohen

God sent Elijah the prophet to Israel, but King Ahab and his pagan queen killed the other prophets of God and honored the idol *Baal*. The “prophets of Baal” felt protected, became brazen and continued to present a false view of the divine.

This was the atmosphere in which Elijah lived!

Elijah confronted the idolaters and gained a fiery victory high up on Mt. Carmel. After proving who the one true God is, he must have thought *“This was the moment for which I was sent! Surely now they will all repent!”* However, they did not, and instead Queen Jezebel succeeded in putting fear and doubt into Elijah. He feared for his life as a prophet of God and fled to the desert. There he found himself in a cave complaining to God about his isolation - rejected by the nation to which he had been sent.

“I have been very zealous for the LORD of hosts, for the sons of Israel have forsaken your covenant. They have destroyed Your altars and killed Your prophets by the sword; and I alone remain and they seek my life to take it.” (1 Kings 19:10)

There by the cave, the Lord revealed himself to Elijah in a still, small voice. God encouraged him and then sent him back into the *fray* to anoint three people: Hazael as king over Syria; Jehu as king over Israel; and Elisha as *prophetic* voice in his own place (1 Kings 19:15-18). (Sadly, even though these two new kings were both anointed by the prophet to rule, neither Hazael nor Jehu ended up living according to God's instructions.)

What about governmental leadership and the prophetic voice of today?

We the disciples of Yeshua are anticipating His return as King of Kings and Prince of Peace - the only perfect and righteous leader possible. Let's remember the words of our Lord in Matthew 23:37-39. As the Rejected One sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, He must have identified with Elijah:

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together ... but you were not willing!”

- Where is the voice of the prophetic today?
- How will we discern the ones whom God has sent, and listen to the prophetic voices they provide?
- Will we be willing to accept the ones whom God sends to us or will we “stone” them and be attracted to “prophetic” voices God did not send?

Is the Earth Vomiting?



By Asher Intrater

It seems like nature is going crazy: unusually hot weather, floods, fires, viruses... and on and on. What is happening? Is this a compilation of fossil fuel burning and other human pollution? Certainly. But there is something deeper.

These natural problems are the result of human selfishness. After several thousand years of selfishness, the Earth just can't take it anymore.

This selfishness is of the human soul: and there is something even deeper than that. It has to do with the spirit. It is a spiritual sickness, called sin. Sin is the ultimate source.

God created the world to be sensitive: sensitive to words, to human beings, to authority, to sin and righteousness (Genesis 1:3, 26-28; 3:17). When humans behave righteously, the earth is blessed. When we behave sinfully, the earth is cursed.

In a poignant parable, the Torah speaks of the land/earth "vomiting" out those who dwell in it.

"...and the land is defiled, and I visit her iniquity upon her; and the land vomits out her inhabitants." (Leviticus 18:25)

"Lest the land vomit you out also when you defile it, as it vomited out the nations that were before you." (Leviticus 18:28)

"And you shall keep all my commandments and all my judgments, and do them; that the land not vomit you out." (Leviticus 20:22)

In context this is speaking of the Israelites inhabiting the land of Canaan. However, the principle is relevant to all people in all lands. It would not be an exaggeration to say that the earth is nauseous. It is nauseous from human beings, nauseous from our sins and selfishness.

During the Corona lockdowns, it seemed that the Sea of Galilee was very happy, or at least relieved. There was so much less litter, garbage and pollution. The beaches were clean; the surrounding plant life was healthier than ever.

Perhaps this is a time for everyone, from every walk of life, to take a pause. A worldwide crisis is giving us a worldwide opportunity. In response to this crisis, let's not look to an extreme political agenda and start accusing one another again.

May everyone look at his own heart. Let's humble ourselves from our pride, greed, lust and ugliness. Let's ask forgiveness from God who created this beautiful earth.

Did you know that the Bible says God will punish those who destroy the natural creation? That should put the fear of God in us.

"And the nations were wrathful; and your wrath has come; and the time to judge the dead and give reward to your servants the prophets and to the saints and to those who fear your name, small and great; and to destroy *those who destroy the earth.*" (Revelation 11:18)

The environmental crisis should cause us all to repent; to be disgusted with our own selfishness, rebellion and disobedience. May this be a season of worldwide, true, heart-felt soul-searching and humility!

As we approach the Day of Trumpets and the Day of Atonement, let's turn to God and seek His face. He promised that He will hear from heaven and heal the land (2 Chronicles 7:14).

Praise Report



By Rachel Netanel

We recently received a wonderful testimony from our ministry partners, Gilad and Rachel from Ein Karem.

We have such good news to share with you!

I have been teaching my niece about the Lord since 2004. We held home groups in her house, and I spent many hours answering her numerous questions. Recently I saw that she was finally grasping the difference between religion and faith.

After praying, I sensed it was time for someone with more authority to talk with her. I asked Pastor Asher Intrater to do so. After three hours of explanations, he told her that she needed to become a disciple of Yeshua and be baptized. As many of you know, for a Jew, the ceremony of baptism is a huge step and many are afraid of making this commitment and of the persecution that could follow. I opened up a WhatsApp group where she could talk to other believers and Asher sent her more written material. She really loves Asher, and his humility opened the door to her heart to take this huge step. When he asked her if she was ready to be baptized, she said “Absolutely!”

A date was set and arrangements made for the water immersion to be in our garden in Ein Karem, the town where it is thought John the Baptist grew up (very fitting!). Years ago, I led an Arab man to the Lord and he built us a little pool so that he could be baptized in it. The Lord has used this pool many times, but this was by far the most special.

My niece wanted to invite everyone - all of her unbelieving family and friends. When the big day finally arrived, I was surprised and delighted that almost everyone came – her husband, children, many friends and my sister with her husband who came with his “oud” instrument to play music.

Asher taught and performed the ceremony, but what touched me most was how her husband and children all held her hand as she went into the water. The baptism itself was so powerful and emotional. First, my niece started to cry; then her husband was crying as well as her children and others. She said that, in her whole life, she had never experienced “holiness” like this before. It was better than giving birth to her children. This was a spiritual experience that no one will ever forget, whether they are believers or not. We were all touched by the Holy Spirit.

Now my niece cannot stop talking about Yeshua to everyone. I heard her telling people that the religious Jews have not been telling us the truth. How can they not see what is written in the Bible about Yeshua? Later that day, she began to share with her husband about Matthew 5 and how Yeshua taught the people to pray to the Father. This is a stumbling block for many Jews since they think we only pray to Yeshua instead of God. It is difficult to explain that Yeshua is not separate from God.

Yet, when you see Yeshua you see God. In Isaiah 9:6 it is written, **“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, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace”** He had to be born and all of His five names are names of God.





LEPERS



I AM WITH
ISRAEL

Tiferet Yeshua Congregation is reaching out to the “lepers” of Israeli society. My good friend Moti (Mordechai) Cohen leads this ministry to the “least of these” in the streets of Tel Aviv. While ministering, we meet wounded, hungry, crying, desperate people - the rejected and invisible outcasts of Israeli society. We believe with all our hearts that God wants to reveal Himself to these people and show them how much He loves them.

As we make the rounds in the streets distributing food, we share God’s love and sometimes meet people with serious bodily wounds - caused by violence and even rat bites. We carry a first aid kit, and often disinfect and bandage their injuries. Sometimes the wounds are so deep that we offer to call for an ambulance, but most of the street dwellers refuse. Since they are addicted to drugs, they would not be able to go without drugs while getting the necessary medical treatment. That’s how deep the addiction goes - they will risk their lives for their next fix.

A few weeks ago, we met Andrei. He had a broken nose and gruesome cuts on his face after being violently attacked. Years before, he had immigrated from Russia, studied Arabic and served as an IDF commander in an undercover unit. Now Andrei lives on the streets! He tried several times to break his drug habit, and we pray that soon he will have the strength to succeed. When we applied the disinfectant to his nose, Andre bit his shirt because the pain was immense. He already knows the gospel, and again we reminded him that God loves him very much. He sat with us and then agreed for us to order an ambulance. Many of these homeless once contributed to the country, and today are rejected and “invisible.” But God still sees them.

The **Feed Tel Aviv** ministry has grown and is now preparing 1400 servings of food every month. We cook six times a week and work together with rehab centers and other Messianic ministries. Before Covid-19, we used to receive leftover food from hotels and catering services. Lockdowns caused most of these businesses to close. The very fact that we ourselves now

cook the food and are not dependent on any external kitchen gives the homeless confidence that they can rely on us, even while lockdowns are in effect. We are in personal contact with dozens of people each week.

- Our immediate goals are to:
- Buy winter gear like coats, gloves and sleeping bags.
- Buy more first aid equipment
- Continue to cook healthy, fresh food for the homeless
- And of course, continue to share the hope we all have in Messiah Yeshua.

We are so grateful to everyone who contributes and helps us in this important ministry to the people of Israel on the streets of Tel Aviv.

Please consider a gift of \$40, \$80 or even \$120 to help Moti and our team show Yeshua’s love to the least of these. This is one of those instances where a small gift could literally save a life. If they don’t get help, many of these outcasts will die on the streets. Your gift could help get someone get into a Messianic rehab center and then find Yeshua! What a joy to partner with you for the most vulnerable in Tel Aviv.

I love hearing how Moti and his team simply won’t give up! Let’s stand with them and give them the support they need. Just go to reviveisrael.org/lepers and say, I AM WITH ISRAEL!

Ron Cantor
Director, #IamwithIsrael
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COMING SOON



A new sound is rising from Zion.

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!

Psalm 147:12

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