

# YOM KIPPUR

## יִּפּוּר יוֹם

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**Today is Yom Kippur; it began last night and lasts ‘til this evening. It is the holiest day for the Jewish people and holds a lot of meaning for the Christian Church as well because it is a day that we, like the Jews, should spend as a complete rest examining our relationship with the Lord and seeking repentance from sins, especially against those who have wronged up personally. It was also a time marked by the giving of alms to the poor.**

**In reality, the whole 10 day period of Rosh Hashanah preceding Yom Kippur should be such a time of spiritual examination. In *Mysterious Secrets* I recommended that each Christian should “take a spiritual checkup” at least once a year—a time when you go away for a week or more and just spend time seeking the Lord. Rosh Hashanah is normally the time I will do that by spending it in a tent in the mountains.**

**We have become so *activity* minded and busy that we have difficulty hearing from the Lord. The reality is that it doesn’t do much good to pray if you are not able to hear the Lord’s response. Being activity minded and busy tends to dull your spiritual senses as well and when your spiritual senses are dull you will not be able to hear the *rhema* of the Lord. This can even cost you your life if you are not able to hear the warning of the Lord for a trap set by the enemy to kill you or a family member.**

**One of the biggest problems we’ve observed that Christians have which tends to prevent them from living the “abundant life” that Jesus said we should live is due to a lack of discipline. Listen, success in anything—whether your physical job, marriage, etc., or spiritual requires discipline. Nobody ever became a concert pianist without discipline. Likewise, nobody ever became proficient in the work place without discipline. Sure, you**

can skate by if you're smart but you will never be the *crème de la crème* in your profession without discipline. And if you study John 8 you will learn that Jesus defines His disciples as being those "who continue in my word." So if you don't spend a lot of time in the Word then, by definition, you aren't a disciple of Jesus. Doesn't mean you're not saved but it does mean that you will not know the truth and thus be free and that you will not live up to the potential that you were created for.

So you need a disciplined method of reading, meditating and studying the word as well as a disciplined method for prayer. Because most Christians neglect these they never develop their faith much—after all *where* does the Word say that faith comes from? When you are born again, the Holy Spirit deposits a small amount of the Fruit of the Spirit into your born-again spirit but it's up to you to grow the Fruit of the Spirit. Jesus said that with a small amount of faith—as small as a grain of mustard seed—you could move mountains. Just imagine what you can do if you develop your faith to the size of a beach ball or large mountain?

So we must remember always that Jesus said, "IF you continue (or abide) in my word, then ..." (John 8:32). That's a conditional statement and I've found that normally when God gives somebody a prophetic word today from a prophet it too will be conditional. We have a part to play and that is often not understood by baby and carnal Christians who want Jesus to just do everything. Too many today, especially the Balaam boys, picture Jesus as nothing more than a glorified bellhop at a five star luxury hotel who only exists to meet your every whim and need.

Consider the Word of the Lord in Exodus 14:15, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the sons of Israel to go forward?" Do you think God would have delivered them from Pharaoh's army if they had not moved forward into the Red Sea? That was faith wasn't it? What do you mean, move forward? There's nothing but the Red Sea in front of us, Lord do something!

Hebrews 6:12 says that "It is by faith and patience that we inherit the promises." It was a repeated lack of faith that kept 99.99% of Israel out of the Promised Land and a lack of faith will keep you out of your Promised Land as well. Doubt is the enemy of faith and if you don't increase your level of faith through the Word and daily practice then the enemy will surely rob you of your Promised Land blessings that the Lord has written down for you in His file folder with your name on it.

Remember, "We walk by faith; not by sight." And it requires patience to walk by faith because we want everything right now. But God doesn't work that way and neither does His Kingdom here on earth. And often it's because of timing issues. My wife and I just this week received a financial blessing that was 5X what was originally offered to us simply because we followed the Spirit and did what we thought the Lord wanted us to do instead

of what was expedient and would have freed us from an unpleasant situation. But the Lord wanted to accomplish some other things in the matter and we both felt it was the will of the Lord to turn down a financial blessing that we had been praying about for about a year.

And yet we made that decision as we always do—based on what we felt like was the will of the Lord. We didn't question Him about *why* He wanted us to turn it down but we felt like there were some injustices that needed to be corrected and that was more important to the Lord than the \$ we would have received. And both of us wanted what was pleasing to the Lord above anything else. This is the kind of attitude we must have about everything and every issue of life—what is pleasing to the Lord. This is the way the real Bride thinks—how to please her husband—rather than what would benefit her personally in the here and now.

Have you had a spiritual checkup recently? If not, then perhaps you should take this day of Yom Kippur to focus on your relationship with the King of Kings and what you can do to make it better. Remember, we are strangers and aliens here on this earth and the time of the Lord is drawing near. There were many this past month who said He was returning on September 23 for the rapture of the Church but of course that didn't happen and the reason it didn't happen is because it was contrary to the Word. I shared this fact with a few who wrote me asking about whether this was the date. The Lord is quite clear in His Word from the prophets—especially Daniel and Zechariah—the gospels, especially Matthew 24, Paul's words to the Thessalonians and Revelation about when this will take place.

These folks who predicted the rapture on September 23 were fixated on Revelation 12:1-3 when they should have focused on Revelation 5 and 6 where the time of the rapture is revealed and it's still at least a few years away because the tribulation period has not yet begun.

I want to encourage you today to use Yom Kippur as a day to focus on obeying Colossian 3:1, "If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that on earth." Then you will surely not miss the return of the Lord because you will be looking up each day waiting for His return yet still redeeming the time left on this earth by giving alms to the poor, casting out devils, healing the sick, raising the dead, and other things that the Lord sets in front of you to accomplish.

**Maranatha!**