

WORDS OF WISDOM.

Chapter Nine.

From the Desk of Rabbi Yochanan Hammond, Ph.D.

uitam@unitedintorah.org

Engaging in certain behaviours can cause unimaginable damage and pain to individuals, families, communities and even countries. It is a very fortunate person who has not been in a situation that has caused some discomfort to themselves or others. While many of these damaging behaviours are a result of rebellion and self gratification, a number actually result from people convinced they are doing the “correct thing”. There was a time not so long ago that the medical fraternity encouraged smoking to help calm nerves. They were either acting on false information or lack of good information. History abounds with sad and unfortunate stories and events as a result of people trying to do the right thing. There are dangers with an attitude that insists one is “doing the right thing” no matter what evidence is presented to the contrary.

“Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts.” Proverbs 21:2 [KJV]

Too often we are ruled by our pride and find ourselves unable or unwilling to change our attitudes and behaviours. The world is full of people and institutions that justify damaging behaviours and ideas. Often these justifications come on the back of promised money or prestige. I don't believe it is an overstatement to say that the present generation is infected with this damaging behaviour. The following quote explains this with stunning accuracy.

“There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness. There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up.” Proverbs 30:12-13 [KJV]

If these words were describing the “pagan” nations then we would not be so alarmed, but unfortunately these words are focused on the behaviour of

Israel. We who are supposed to be a light to the nations find ourselves doing what is right in our own eyes and rejecting what would be right in the eyes of HaShem. We deceive ourselves and foolishly believe we can walk our own walk and talk our own talk. Somehow we must change and bring many of our habits and behaviours into alignment with the Torah and instructions of HaShem. It is not unreasonable to state that in and of ourselves we have nothing “pure” to offer. The further the human race drifts from the Torah the greater the pollution of our souls.

“God’s power has given us everything we need for life and godliness, through our knowing the One who called us to his own glory and goodness. By these he has given us valuable and superlatively great promises, so that through them you might come to share in God’s nature and escape the corruption which evil desires have brought into the world. For this very reason, try your hardest to furnish your faith with goodness, goodness with knowledge, knowledge with self-control, self-control with perseverance, perseverance with godliness, godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if you have these qualities in abundance, they keep you from being barren and unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah. Indeed, whoever lacks them is blind, so short sighted that he forgets that his past sins have been washed away. Therefore, brothers, try even harder to make your being called and chosen a certainty. For if you keep doing this, you will never stumble. Thus you will be generously supplied with everything you need to enter the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Deliverer, Yeshua the Messiah.” 2Peter 3-11 [CJB]

Optimum health for our souls comes from knowing our Heavenly Father’s Torah, which leads us directly to HaMoshiach Yeshua. Healthy souls translate to healthy bodies and minds. Without the Torah and HaMoshiach we are caught in a web of sin and darkness. Unfortunately the greater percentage of our people no longer recognise sin for what it is and thus reject both HaMoshiach and the Torah and therefore HaShem.

We are in desperate need of physicians and shepherds who are willing to dispense the medication of HaMoshiach and Torah. If these “medications” are administered and taken correctly then we will witness a dramatic change in our destructive behaviours. It is only when we are saturated in

the “nature” of HaShem that we will be capable, willing and eager to distance ourselves from the destructive elements found in our present world. Let us encourage one another to pursue the goodness and godliness of HaShem. This will build up our faith and importantly our faithfulness to HaShem.

I am persuaded that HaShem is waiting ever so patiently to help us build the biblical nation of Israel. He has all the “materials” we need, but we insist on trying to use our own materials and architectural plans. This will never work and results in not only sloppy workmanship but risky and harmful behaviours. A popular band [Peter, Paul and Mary] or as we may say Kepha, Sha’ul and Miriam, wrote a song “Where Have All The Flowers Gone”, with the following lyrics: “**When will they ever learn**”. It is not improbable that HaShem is asking the same question of us. These lyrics surely head a question we should be addressing. After thousands of years of rebellion and wandering we must be entering a time when we are prepared to learn, listen and change our behaviours and attitudes. We can only pray this be the case.

May the grace, love and wisdom of HaShem and Yeshua HaMoshiach be with you!