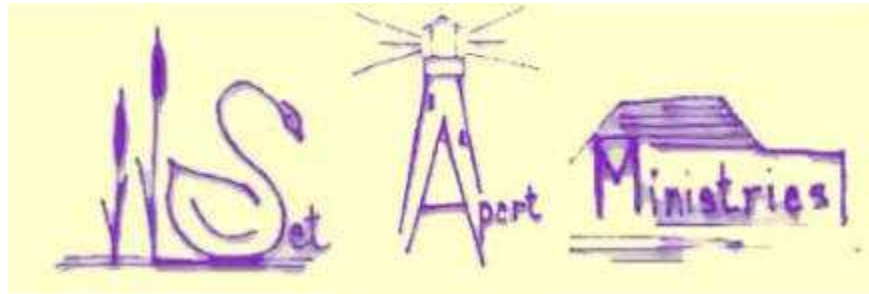


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Encouragement from S.A.M.

Shalom Barbara,

We have been discussing the impact of joy in our personal relationships with Messiah and with other people. We have also been addressing the concerns that arise as one makes the choice to leave behind the pagan aspects of our faith and move into the celebration of His *moedim*/appointed times. There is always more to say about both of these topics so we will come back to them again.

Today we present something of the practical and relational aspects of becoming more "set apart". If you weren't already aware, to be set apart is the definition of *kadosh* which has so often been translated as "holy". When I heard the word holy, I had some kind of vague notion of piety or religious behavior until I learned that the actual meaning is just the *process of being set apart for a specific purpose*. It is just as correct to say that the temple prostitutes of various religions were "holy" or "set apart" for a specific purpose as it is to say "holy" unto the Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The importance is not so much that something is set apart but more about what that something is set apart TO or FOR. It is shocking for us to hear "holy to satan" isn't it? Yet this is just as accurate a statement about those who look to the evil one as it is accurate to say "holy to YHWH" for those who look to our Elohim.

We continue to address more on joy in relationships as well as how maturity plays a factor in the satisfaction we find in life. You will find information later about our upcoming teleconference introduction on [Living from the Heart Jesus Gave You](#).

So, as we move into and through the upcoming holiday season, may it become more clear to you just who it is that YOU are "set apart" for. Our hope and prayer for you is that you will also experience the fullness of joy that is available to you in our

An Equipping Ministry

November 29, 2005

JOY!

Last time, we began talking about the role joy plays in our lives, in maturing and in faith.

Is joy lacking in your life? Here are some things to ponder:

- Are you able to think of some times when you were not happy but still experienced joy?
- What represents joy to you?
- What blocks you from experiencing joy?
- Who in your life brings you joy?
- How can you help to bring joy to others?

We are designed by YHWH to live life to the fullest when we receive and give in relationships. Through this process a community or family will flourish.

Messiah and through God-pleasing relationships with His people.

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Be ye "set apart" as I AM "set apart"!



Did you know that when Peter wrote:

- For it is written, "Be ye holy, because I am holy." 1 Peter 1: 16

that He was quoting *Moshe/Moses* from Leviticus 11: 45 ?

For I am the LORD who brought you up from the land of Egypt to be your God; thus you shall be holy, for I am holy."

This command is woven in and through much of YHWH's directions to His people. Yet, it is often confusing to us just what "being holy" looks like! Here in this passage from Leviticus, it is placed in the midst of the dietary laws, thus setting us apart by what we eat. Since so many have believed that these things were done away with we haven't often looked back to see the original context. (If this is still an area of indecision for you, you may want to check out the new book,

- [Holy Cow! God Cares about what we eat? by Hope Egan](#). Paul's letter to the Corinthians also confirmed that the Bride of Messiah must be holy as He is! *Come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and do not touch the unclean thing; and I will receive you and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, **perfecting holiness in the fear of God.** II Cor. 6: 17 - 7: 1 (Jubilee Bible)* Without holiness/set apartness, we will not see Him!

Unfortunately, it has become common place to think that we can never be "holy"--what some people have called worm theology?--so the call to obedience and to mature in the faith seems to get lost in the fog. If we do not believe that He is able to work in us to accomplish His purposes in setting us apart and preparing us for Himself, do we think that He is being cruel to set up a standard we could never reach? May it never be! It has become apparent to many through the years that we have lost out on much of our understanding of our faith.

Some people are better at giving than receiving joy and then there are those who never seem to get enough from others. An unbalanced community will be the result. We all need to receive joy and encouragement to fill up our "joy buckets" or we will burn out, suffer depression and exhaustion. Those who receive but never give will remain immature.

The joy center of the brain limits how much joy we can possess. It will also affect how much difficulty or trouble we are able to endure--to be able to function as a unified human being created in YHWH's image. This part of the brain, or the right orbital prefrontal cortex, is one part of the brain that can continue to develop throughout our lives. In the last several years much study has been done on how the brain is affected in different emotions and stimulation.

This joy center is the part of the brain that includes bonding and attaching. It is developed in response to stimulation. In the first six weeks, an infant responds to taste, smell and temperature. After six weeks, touch becomes important, which produces bonding along

Evangelical Christianity is now tragically below the New Testament standard. Worldliness is an accepted part of our way of life. Our religious mood is social instead of spiritual. We have lost the art of worship. We are not producing saints. Our models are successful businessmen, celebrated athletes and theatrical personalities. We carry on our religious activities after the methods of the modern advertiser. Our homes have been turned into theaters. Our literature is shallow and our hymnody borders on sacrilege. And scarcely anyone appears to care. From Of God and Men, 1960 by A.W.Tozer. Used by permission.

Although Dr. Tozer was not a part of the Messianic movement, like some others of an earlier day, it seems to us that He DID walk in knowledge of our Elohim, as much as has been allowed us during our exile (Lev. 26: 44- 45). In his book, The Divine Conquest, copyright 1950, page 100, he said. *The true Christian ideal is not to be happy but to be holy.* And in Born after Midnight, copyright 1959, page 18, he wrote: *Those first believers turned to Christ with the full understanding that they were espousing an unpopular cause that could cost them everything. They knew they would henceforth be members of a hated minority group with life and liberty always in jeopardy.* All quotes are used by permission of Christian Publications.

Being a part of a Christian church HAS often been seen as something different than other people in years past. I well recall a neighbor who was surprised that my mother took care of laundry for the church nursery. Astounded, the neighbor said, "I thought the pastor did all that." So, yes, people have not always understood what goes on among us "churched" people. I, Barb, also thought that I had become more "set apart" than I even intended when I began to learn about spiritual authority, especially as it pertains to helping people come out from occult lifestyles. It was not readily understood or accepted by my Lutheran church family! So, coming to a knowledge of His moedim/appointed times was still another part of behaving differently. Yet, as the late Dr. Francis Schaeffer is said to have observed, we can look to see what society is doing and within about 7 years the church will be doing the same. In other words, we have been assimilated far more than most of us realized until we came to a study of our Hebrew Roots and various pagan practices. At that point, we came face to face with a choice: would we follow tradition or would we honor YHWH's righteous teachings through our Messiah Yahshua? In other words, would we choose to honor Him and become more "set apart" from common use or other practices? If like me, you already thought you knew something about what it is to be set apart, you have learned even more now! It is also important to remember that there are many who are Believers in Messiah who may not yet have "heard the call", for whatever reason. We can still be faithful to what we understand and gracious toward them, praying always for the guidance of the *Ruach ha*

with gladness and joy. By three months, the visual circuits of the brain become more developed and babies will begin to look for the joy in the eyes of others. Finally, at 12 months the auditory sensors mature, but this right side of the brain is nonverbal. It responds to voice tone along with the visual cues of facial expressions.

When children grow up in an unstable environment, this part of the brain will not fully develop as it should. Throughout our lives there are opportunities for growth spurts in the joy center.

The joy center is part of the command hierarchy of the brain. It affects all areas of our bodies--the immune system, pain control, and serotonin levels, which can regulate depression, blood pressure, heart rate and also regulates our emotions.

A strong joy center gives us the capacity to act like ourselves in all situations. It will enable us to overcome fear, anger and fleshly drives. Not knowing how to get back to joy can cause people to avoid, wanting to punish others or the "it's your fault." It can cause people to side track to other

Kodesh/Holy Spirit as to when and whether or not to point out things we have learned. Ours is to be faithful to what we have been shown and to then allow Him to do His work in others at the right time for them. This often requires the development of our own patience and maturity as others may not observe the same restraint toward us!

Reactions to our accepting the call to become more fully "set apart" range from emotional to academic to theological as they attempt to call us back into the fold of traditional Christian practice. People often do not understand the promptings of the *Ruach ha Kodesh*/Holy Spirit as the reason for our changes! It is in no way intended that we are somehow superior to others yet they may often speak of feeling condemned by our words or actions. Know that no matter how tactfully something is said, others may STILL overreact. It may be a **reactivity** issue or it could just be a matter of conviction beginning. Again, we need to be strong in our Messiah, practicing our own spiritual disciplines so that He is free to work in us. If we stand on anything less than this personal relationship with YHWH through His Messiah, Yahshua, what would be our strength? He alone is our Rock, and the strong tower we can run to! Many Godly people of ages past, among them A.W. Tozer, Oswald Chambers and Madame Jeanne Guyone, would soundly confirm this too! So if we are to stand strong as we learn precept upon precept, line upon line, what it means to be "set apart" or holy to YHWH we will need to be well steeped in His Righteous Teachings! To guard His commands means to keep them in front of our eyes as we plan our days, to bear His standard of behavior in ourselves, no matter what others may say or expect. It is a far cry from the common teaching that God is there to serve us, when we come back to an understanding of His omnipotence and sovereignty! We are to be fully yielded to Him! In so doing, He lifts us up!

In answering a questionnaire about hosting an exchange student, the statement was made that the student would be expected to take part in your religious practice one hour a week. It was a vivid reminder that as we become more "set apart to YHWH", it is difficult not only for the world, but often also for the church to understand that our faith is no longer (if it ever was!) a matter of attending a church service one hour a week. It is the fabric of our lives! The very way in which we walk. It is not unusual for there to be a time period of a sort of isolation; old friends and family don't quite know what to do with us and we have yet to develop the heart connections with like minded people. Don't be surprised however, that when you find them, the relationships can develop quickly and deeply...because they, too, have a heart for Messiah and a

emotions, such as anger or sadness or simply a state of no joy. People will suffer months or years of depression.

Next time we will talk about ways to bond to begin building the joy strength in ourselves and others. Joy is CONTAGIOUS! Are there smells that bring joyous memories to you? Maybe the thought of your grandmother's cooking brings a satisfied sigh; a hug or a kiss can light up a bad day and return you to joy.

In order for people to heal emotionally, their joy strength must first be built up. Unfortunately, these are some of the most difficult people to deal with, but if they allow the joy of Y'shua to enter their hearts and minds, they can be restored.

For more information on healing and maturing, we again refer you to [C.A.R.E. Packaging](#) at 231-745-4950 for the *Life Model* Book and other books by E. James Wilder including *The Stages of a Man's Life* and *The Red Dragon Cast Down*, which specifically talks about people who have suffered extreme abuse and applying the principles of *The Life Model*.

hunger for His *Torah*/Righteous Teachings.

As we turn back to His calendar and begin to count time in His ways, we step back from the world's calendars. We begin to view Shabbat as the high point of our week! We look forward to the *Shabbaton*--additional Sabbath days often associated with the *moedim*-- and we see no burden in them! Our *Elohim* was gracious enough to recognize our need for rest and relaxation right within the context of His teachings about Himself as we observe His time table of life. Our family discovered fairly early on that the rhythm of keeping the *moedim* is really different from observing the secular and church calendars. We found it daunting and exhausting trying to observe both; which we did for a "season" during our own transition. We understand that as grafted in family members, we are privileged to walk out these living pictures of what happened the first time our Messiah dwelt among us as well as of what will happen when He returns. We discovered that, having His plan laid out for us, we really have no further need to add any kind of holidays associated with pagan practices. Because the pagan nature of what we have been doing has been so obscure, many people will look upon us as being the unusual ones so don't be surprised here either! Keep your eyes focused on what (and Who!) you are walking toward, not on what you are leaving behind. Don't be surprised if the first year of transition gives you that "fish out of water" feeling. New traditions DO bring new joys! Despite the isolation so many of us find when there is only a small local group, be assured that the *Ruach ha Kodesh* is indeed raising up people all over the world! Elijah didn't personally know any of those *Adonai* had reserved for Himself, and they numbered in the thousands! I don't think they knew each other, either.

Through the centuries, there have always been a people, a remnant of those who understood these things. Sometimes we can only find them by the records that indicate there were "heretics" who were hunted and killed (ie because they kept to "too many" of the old Jewish ways along with their faith in Messiah.) When we read of the Waldensians and the Albigensienes, we are reminded that our faith is indeed a radical one that requires commitment. Our Messiah really did mean it when He said that we are to seek Him first, above all else! This, of course, is not well received by those who either deny Him altogether or those who have their focus set on the more recent "fashionable" interpretations of God as the benevolent one who is too loving to ever hold any one accountable for their sin. With all the marketing and merchandising, our gaze has been directed to being "purpose driven", rather than Spirit led, but this is NOT consistent with His Word and the experience of His people through the ages.

In John 15:11, Y'shua states the reason for his teachings: *These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.* May the joy of Y'shua our Messiah strengthen you today!

Quick Links...

[Biblical Holidays](#)

["Is Christmas Christian?"
article by Michael
Schneider](#)

[First Year Torah
Observance Survey](#)

Join our mailing list!

He DOES direct us to lean into Him and not into our own understanding and to acknowledge Him in all of our ways.

Many of us Christians have become extremely skillful in arranging our lives so as to admit the truth of Christianity without being embarrassed by its implications. We arrange things so that we can get on well enough without divine aid, while at the same time ostensibly seeking it. We boast in the Lord but watch carefully that we never get caught depending on Him. From The Root of the Righteous, copyright 1955 by A.W.Tozer. Dr. Tozer also observed: "We are still living in a wicked and adulterous generation and I must confess that the Christians I meet who really amount to something for the Saviour are very much out of key and out of tune with their generations. from I Call it Heresy, copyright 1974. Again, quotes used with permission from Christian Publications. If he observed these things 30 years ago can you imagine his reaction if he saw the behavior of many of today's Believers?

So, as you move onward in your spiritual growth and desire to be obedient to our Elohim's Righteous Teachings, be prepared to be thought "odd" or "out of key" with other Believers. At some point we may be called to suffer physical persecution in His Name, as earlier generations have. In the end, what matters is our obedience to our Redeemer who alone judges the heart. He knows who we are and He knows where and when it will be for our good --and our family and friends good--to have the veil lifted. *Baruch haba b'shem Adonai!* Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of YHWH! *Yahshua,*/Jesus of Nazareth, our Salvation!

Teleconference Announcement:

Marilyn Guffey will be offering a FREE Introductory Telephone Conference class on Monday, December 12, at 7:00 p.m. CST. This class is based on the principles of the *Life Model: Living from the Heart Jesus Gave You* by *The Shepherd's House*.



Because of struggles or abuse throughout life, people may have gaps in their maturing process that interfere with their productivity and relationships. This isn't their fault and the good news is-- they're not stuck either!

Do you find yourself just "blowing up" for no reason, find it

hard to confront people or to "fit in" groups? Do you have constant struggles in your relationships or have you ever heard "Awwww, just GROW UP!?" This group may have some answers for you.

Some of the topics covered are:

- How brain function plays a part in maturing and healing
- How Joy plays an important role in maturity
- The Stages of Maturity, the important tasks of each stage and the problems that result from uncompleted tasks
- Love Bonds vs. Fear Bonds
- What people can do to help one another to mature

This will be an introductory group. The only cost to you is a long-distance phone call. If you choose, you may go on to a 10-week class which will be offered at the cost of \$20 per hour class, two times per month or \$40 per month. This class is confidential. It will be conducted on a first-name basis.

[Read more about Maturity....](#)

About Us

Barbara L. Klika, MSW, LCSW, Personal Life Coach is a licensed mental health professional and founder of Set Apart Ministries, Inc., in practice since 1983 with an abiding interest in working with attachment/bonding and maturity issues for individuals, couples, and groups. She has been a congregational leader for over 20 years in several areas, including Bible Study and vocal and handbell choir direction. She is also a certified Bethel Bible Study teacher who has



participated in serious study of the Word since 1993 through such organizations as Precepts Ministries and First Fruits of Zion. She has completed basic coaching training through MentorCoach, Inc. and will be continuing work toward an additional Masters degree in coaching. Barb has provided the clinical leadership in pursuing the Life Model group and individual teaching and processing emotional and maturity issues for the past 3 years. She offers her gifts of exhortation, discernment, intercession and prophecy to the Body of Messiah, both locally and in our extended community via telephone and the Internet.

Marilyn T. Guffey, lay counselor, Personal Life Coach. Marilyn had been a congregational leader in her home church for over 20 years, providing Bible study, worship opportunities and lay counseling for women in transition for most of that time. She has completed her basic coaching training through

MentorCoach, Inc. Marilyn has been the coleader in the provision of group and individual teaching and processing emotional and maturity issues for the past 3 years. Marilyn is a serious student of the Word and has participated in and provided many Bible study opportunities, most recently with First Fruits of Zion and numerous additional Messianic Torah study materials. She thrives on offering her gifts of mercy, discernment, encouragement, intercession and helps and has a strong desire to support the Body of Messiah in growing in maturity and faith, both locally and in our extended community via telephone and the Internet.

Board Member (VP) and support person Janell Schroeder, BBA works professionally as a computer reports specialist for a very large transportation company. She has been instrumental in the founding of Set Apart Ministries, functioning as a support person for people going through trauma recovery. She has attended numerous training experiences in this area and has participated in the Life Model program since its beginning. Janell is a certified Bethel Bible study teacher as well as a certified Precepts Bible Study teacher. She has also been in leadership in her previous congregation as a member of church council and in Adult and Child Education She is currently working on her Bachelors Degree in Messianic Studies and plans to complete a Masters Degree through the Messianic Bible Institute Yeshiva. She brings her spiritual gifts of teaching and helps to our home Set Apart Ministries Community.

Board Member, Secretary Treasurer: Robert Klika, BS Bob currently works professionally as a supervisor in the area of milk sanitation for the Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture. Bob has been a leader in previous congregations through service on church council as well as in men's ministries. He provides leadership in several areas of our home community, particularly in the areas of practical arrangements for gatherings, youth ministry and fun nights, and corporate prayer as well as keeping accounts and necessary organizational paper work. He completed his high school education in a Roman Catholic Seminary and has participated in Bible study since then through several studies, including the Bethel Bible Study series and Messianic Torah for the past 4 years through First Fruits of Zion and many additional supplemental materials. He offers his gifts of helps and administration in our home Set Apart Ministries community.

What do we do for the Holidays?

It's time once again to sign up for a teleconference in which people from around the country get together all at once by phone. It's fun and easy; a wonderful way to develop a network of support for those who feel geographically isolated in their Torah walk. We will plan to meet the first week in December at a time to be announced to those who registered for a one hour discussion on Decision Making During the Traditional Christian Holidays for Those New to a Torah Walk ("New" can mean your first year or even several years in if one is still struggling with how to manage it all)

To register, please contact us by our email or telephone as provided. We will let you know the telephone number and code to enter in to our discussion. We will give you guidelines for the procedures for this kind of call. We also use some visual cues and other ideas to help people connect in this way. It is amazing how much community can develop without physical contact. We

have found this to be the case during our coaching training, which was all by teleconference with people from around the country. Now we want to use this vehicle to encourage and support the Body of Messiah wherever they may be found during this "calling out" window of time.

email: info@setapartmingb.org

phone: 920 432-5002

web: <http://www.setapartmingb.org>

Please pass this newsletter on to those you know who are new to Walking in Torah and those in Messianic Community Leadership.

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