Chapter 17

BENCHMARKS

There are at least three benchmarks confirm with certainty what Yahweh is calling individual saints to contribute to expression of the Nature, Presence and Power of Yahshua to edify the Church and impact the world. Every saint has a fundamental spiritual right to be taught and helped to apprehend these truths:

1. The Fatherhood of Yahweh based on adoption into His family the Blood sacrifice of Yahshua, Jesus at the Cross.

2. The reality that as His Own children in the earth realm, we have His DNA. This DNA has caused a real transition from the kingdom of darkness (the world) controlled by Satan to the Kingdom of Yahshua.

3. As citizens of His Kingdom, we are seated in heavenly places with Yahshua and He dwells in our hearts by Holy Spirit. Collectively, we are His Church or people called out of the world.

4. Individually, we are vested with unique spiritually DNA designed to make us vessels through which Holy Spirit releases specific graces and abilities that edify and bless others as well as impact the world with the nature, presence and power of Yahshua our King. In this way, the world is forcefully reminded that He is indeed Who the Word says He Is: Incarnation of Elohim in the earth Who manifests everywhere by Holy Spirit working in and through His spiritual Body. Their individual role as His witnesses is thus validated by this

super natural capacity. Getting engaged in sharing His life is no longer a struggle but the 'normal' course of life.

5. To understand their DNA and specific assignments, individual saints need to invest in knowing how to discern the voice of Yahweh and how He leads them particularly. This way, their sense of uniqueness is evident. In the previous chapters, we examine the 8 properties of spiritual DNA and the 13 ways to hear His voice and discern His will.

THE THREE BENCHMARKS

No matter manifestation of a unique spiritual DNA which suggests a particular assignment(s) or what a saint perceives as a specific call of Yahweh to be used as a vessel to do in the earth realm, it is important to apply the three benchmarks of the Kingdom so that there can be full assurance of being in the center of the will of Elohim without any shadow of doubt .

We are charged by our King, Yahshua in Matthew 6:33 to seek first the Kingdom and its righteousness. Scripture must be compared with scripture to receive full light. The follow up question then should be: since the full Kingdom will be manifested as a physical reality with the Second Coming of Yahshua, what are properties of the spiritual Kingdom that we are to experience on this side of eternity which distinguishes us from those outside of Him? The answer is found in fourteenth chapter of the epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Romans:

> *For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.*
>
> *—Romans 14:17*

*Commentary: Clearly, it is stated that these three properties make up the spiritual Kingdom: Righteousness, Peace and Joy in the Holy Ghost! For this reason, Paul, by the Spirit admonishes all saints to refocus their energies in general life and ministry towards only things which have those properties:

> *For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men. Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.*
>
> *—Romans 14:18-19*

We are to apply these properties as benchmarks for cross checking all things we think, say and do in the Kingdom. Relative to whatever our spiritual DNA suggests or any way we believe we heard the voice of Yahweh or knew His will, concerning an area of ministry or Divine purpose, it is safe to use these three properties as final benchmarks of whether we have heard correctly.

1. Righteousness

This simply means right sanding with the Father on the merit of what Yahshua accomplished at the Cross. Righteousness makes the conscience of a saint come alive from its previous dead state.

> *And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:*
>
> *—Ephesians 2: 1- 6*

Once our spirit man comes alive at the new birth experience, our conscience is quickened to discern right from wrong.

> *The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord, searching all the inward parts of the belly.*
>
> *—Proverbs 20:27*

Once you have a sense of right standing with Yahweh concerning what you perceive as His call upon your life and your conscience is positive or good, it is a green light pointing to the reality that you are in His will on the area of service. In the same way, though a particular sphere of ministry may seem attractive or even productive (from a physical or financial point of view), if the conscience of a saint feels violated or agitated, that is an amber light signifying Holy Spirit's disapproval or displeasure.

In a classic sense, anyone who is truly saved should be able to discern that any method of ministry which produces babes who end up as clients of the minister ever needing the skimmed milk of the word to barely stay afloat is out of the will of Yahweh for they are being programmed to be ever learning but never able to attaining to maturity in Yahshua. A heart that is inclined to righteousness will not engage in ministry that produces orphans, unwilling slaves or strangers to Yahweh. The only excuse anyone can give for getting it wrong is ignorance. It is therefore dangerous when ministers close their minds from receiving further light in the Word through other vessels and digging their roots deep down into old, stale revelation they acquired in Bible college or when they were babes in denominations.

2. Peace

An enduring gift and grace that Yahshua, Jesus offers all saints is Peace/Shalom. This is a sense of wellness within the spirit and soul realms, notwithstanding what is experienced in the environment.

> *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*
>
> *—John 14:27*

> *These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*
>
> *—John 16:33*

Once you have the peace of Elohim which passes all understanding concerning any assignment you sense that Holy Spirit is leading you into, that is another solid green light signifying that you can proceed. The promise of the Father is to keep in peace those whose minds are stayed on Him (not their ambitions or carnal desires).

> *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.*
>
> *—Isaiah 26:3*

That is why our hearts and minds should dwell in the default setting that the new birth experience brings in order to fulfil Divine Purpose for which we were redeemed rather than being filled with raw ambitions, desires and worldly perspectives of success. If we give heed to this principle, our hearts will be so grateful for redemption that the peace of Yahweh in Yahshua will dwell in our hearts. When it is so, we find it easier to hear from Holy Spirit concerning the mind of our Father:

> *Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these*

things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

—Philippians 4:4-9

In the same way, if you lose this precious peace as you are beginning or continuing in a course of ministry, it is a real red light signifying that He is not with you. If anxiety and fear build up and apprehension persists, it is best to halt and pray earnestly and if necessary add fasting until you hear clearly whether to proceed, retrace your steps or totally get out of that ministry or assignment. To ignore the benchmark of peace is to walk away from the protective covering of Yahshua who promised to be with His Own always. Just as Isaiah 26:3 asserts that Elohim keeps in perfect peace those whose minds are stayed on Him, if it is stayed on material things to gain or engagement in ministry out of competition, strife and other carnal purposes, there may be no peace in the heart.

3. Joy

Unbelievers rely on acquisition of materialistic possessions and money to be happy from an "outside in" paradigm of happiness. On the other hand, the joy of the Lord, which flows from Holy Spirit into their spirit-man is the strength of His saints.

Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the Lord is your strength.

—Nehemiah 8:10

The Kingdom is wired so that saints are to derive not just their validity but also satisfaction from their identity in Yahshua. As a people who know the end from the beginning, they are able to pass through strong head winds of crises, misunderstanding, reproaches and even lack or martyrdom, resting

in His Grace and filled with the joy which flows from the depth of their spirit-man and soul as a fruit of Holy Spirit:

> *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*
>
> *—Galatians 5:22-23*

It is with joy that we draw from the wells of salvation.

> *Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.*
>
> *—Isaiah 12:3*

Once you find a well spring of joy fill your heart whether your circumstances appear bright or dark, you can boldly step forward, offering your neck to the yoke of Yahshua, knowing assuredly that He will never leave you or forsake you. His abiding Presence is a basis of security as we undertake the Great Commission, in the words of Yahshua our King:

> *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*
>
> *—Matthew 28:18-20*

> *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*
>
> *—Matthew 11:28-30*

> *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.*
>
> *—Hebrews 13:5-6*

But if upon contemplating an assignment or walking in one, you have no joy, it is an amber light requiring that you pause. If your heart and mind is flat, drab, devoid of joy, a real red light is up, requiring that you desist from walking that way.

Any activity that is done outside of the remit of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost in the heart of saints is "Christian religion" of rituals and dead works in manifestation. When saints are filled with anger, offence, bitterness, complaints, murmuring, back biting and yet "serving," they are behaving as strangers and orphans in the Household of Yahweh. When people seek material blessings as primary motive of being in ministry or desire to be prominent and popular, they end up chasing for what will make them happy. In the process, they cast aside the divine principle and pattern and begin to "serve Him" with the wrong spirit and pattern. This negative trend is no longer confined to the realms of orthodoxy but now sadly a prevalent feature of Pentecostal, Charismatic and the pseudo-kingdom gospel (See Colossians 2: 16-23.)

It is time to restore the correct order. Life in the earth realm is not about who we want to be and what we desire to do. Life and ministry is rather of emulating Yahshua to be vessels through which the divine purpose of Yahweh is manifested in the earth realm. Once we incline our hearts rightly, He will guide us into His perfect will and there will be no occasion to beat about the bush.

> *For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men. Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.*
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