

19 June 1993, Shabbat Morning Manasseh

Circumstances

When that last straw on the camel's back breaks it, that last circumstance reveals that you've been in the flesh all day. Circumstances — without circumstances that require our picking up our cross, there *is* no *following Him*. Here we are with the reality of the human condition around us all the time — failure, weakness — our own and that of others. And we really find out whether we love like He loved. He loved human beings. He loved *us*. And we ought to lay down our lives for each other.

We need to know what *shalom* is. The Holy Spirit's peace truly enters your heart. Every morning we put on the new man, so we have absolute peace. And then we go through the day with that peace. Everything comes to try to destroy that peace, but *we* are to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. This requirement is too much for a person without the Holy Spirit. It says to do this *with all humility* — because you love one another (Eph 4:2-3, Amplified). This is Jerusalem, the protection of peace. Wherever there is peace, the enemy is around trying to destroy it. He has to be rooted out. Are you being all patient? Eph 4:2,3 is the word. We have to maintain that peace.

Testing

It is amazing the testing that Bellows Falls is going through, but somehow it is still standing. It is like the flood waters and storms have been coming against it to test its foundation. It could also be a discipline, too. We all have to be tested, put through the beating, threshing and winnowing process where it is thrown up in the air and the wheat, the grain, comes right back down to the winnower's feet — the true, loyal, real wheat. Everything else (the chaff) blows away. But that is not enough yet. Then there is the sifting, and that is not enough either. Then they take the grain and put it in the vortex of the mill; and even if you try to keep from going down, you are *going* to go down to get ground up, even if it takes 1000 years. And you will be ground up and made into that loaf.

It turned out to be a slave pen there in Bellows Falls. Our Father is going to honor those who didn't throw up their hands and say, "Forget it." They didn't love the world. That's a quality of true grain — they never think about leaving one another. They manage to stay together. That's the Body of Messiah.

Desiring Spiritual Children

I've heard about Sarah, that before she had that baby, that every cell in her body wanted that baby. He was procreated, so when he was born, he was wanted. It's the same with us. The only way our Father can let us have spiritual children is if every cell in us wants them.

If you are here and want to be in Judah or California, it is not going to be a blessing. We have to want to be where we are, where it is our Father's will, then it can build up and be a blessing. There is no use praying for something you don't want. Sarah and Abraham wanted a child with every cell. You cannot really pray for something that you don't really want, because prayer means begging, pleading for something you want with all your heart. And only then will you get it. Just think how much the Spirit wants it. Like Romans 8 — our spirit has to be so connected to the Holy Spirit that we pray according to His will and if it is His will, it will be answered. But it has to be His will so that we are praying along *with* the Holy Spirit. Sometimes we pray for things the Holy Spirit is not putting on our hearts, but *we* want it. We must understand this — that we would desire spiritual children.

Living by Faith

How do we live? What do we live by? What do *you* live by? **Faith.** And faith comes by hearing the word. That is how we come to birth, and that is how we continue to live — by hearing. That is why it is so important how you hear. The Holy Spirit says, "*He who has ears, hear what the Spirit is saying to theedah.*" We are in the edah, so we should be able to hear what the Spirit is saying. What does it mean to *have* faith? What does *have* mean? It means that you possess it, you own it, it come to you and it is yours, it belongs to you. You live by that faith.

Borrowing

Don't borrow from the nations because of the endless possibility of circumstances in the community that might keep you from returning it — like you had to go out of town, something came up, etc. It would be irresponsible. When we borrow we are supposed to have responsibility to put back what we borrowed. When you borrow from each other, you are supposed to return it. But don't borrow from the nations. You might borrow something and say you are coming back tomorrow, and then they have to come and get it after a while, and they think a lot less of us. Let's be thoughtful and responsible.