

Sabbath Eve, July 28, 1994 Boston  
The Community of Disciples

The whole New Testament is written to bring about community. We know community is Edah in Hebrew. It is love that makes community. Love brings community into being. The only way community is possible is through obedience to His word. John 13:34 is the only possibility that we would love one another, that we would be included in that vine. He became a man, but He never severed His relationship with love. He produced love. Then He told His disciples to go out and make what? Love. They were to cause it, construct it — to cause love to be built.

The only way His church can come about is through disciples. It is impossible to obey the word of God without living in community. We know we are in that restoration — restoring all things. He wants to bring man back to His image — that is restoration. We've fallen away and we hardly resemble human beings anymore. When men finally take the mark of the beast himself, it is as far away from God's image as they can go. It will be as if Satan was their creator, not the God of heaven.

Salvation is coming back out of the world, it is being rescued. We have to come out of the world and all those evil influences that make us like the devil. Restoration is seen in John 13:34; we are being restored. It's as if you made something and gave it everything you had — and then something happened to it and you lost it — and then a long time passed, a long, long time, and then you saw it again. Something has happened to it — it's changed, and it's not like it was when you first made it — it's not the same anymore, it is so tarnished and full of crud — but you say, "I made it! It's mine! I've got to rescue it. I've got to restore it!" You see it the way it first was.

We've got to come back to the original condition we were made in. It's wonderful to once again be restored to the image of God. The Sabbath is being restored — it is being re-written on our hearts. It is amazing that it could be, it was the commandment that had been taken the furthest away from us.

We are commanded to make disciples of all nations. If you make something it means you put effort and energy into it. To make is to bring about. We are learning to be like Him, and to

make disciples who walk and talk like Him. We stumble like our children do (as we fall, we grow), but like them, we get up and go on, and like them we grow up into the image of our abba.

Restoration is being brought back to the original state of being. He wants to make our nature His nature, so that we're compatible. Yahshua was a human being. He was made in God's image. He became a man. He's the mediator between God and man. You've got to know Him to become like Him. We're loving as He loved. If we don't love as He loved, we are not His disciples. But it says we're to love as He loved. How can we do it? He can't expect us to love as He loved unless He pours out His love into our hearts. But He can't do that unless we make the decision to be a follower of Yahshua. Who do you most want to be like? Yahshua — He's our hero. He's the one we most want to be like. Let's give our lives to Him now. We can hold up our hands and say, "I surrender." Whenever anyone wants to follow Yahshua they need to hold up their hands and say, "I surrender." He's the coming King, isn't He?

*We lifted up our sacrifice.*

Lo-Nekar — This week I heard the evil one is trying to destroy all the ways back to God, and I realized something about restoration. We're being brought back to the absolute truth. If you ask people in the world today, "What is truth?" Most people don't know. They would say there are no absolutes, but our Father is restoring us and showing us what the truth is. One of the worst things you can do is turn a road sign the opposite way. Everybody looks at it and goes in absolutely the wrong direction. It is just like what happened to the Sabbath. It was a sign for God's people, but man changed it and put it on the 1st day instead of the 7th day. But our Father showed us that wasn't right. So now we are on the right road again. And He is leading us further and further into the truth. I'm thankful that we're being brought back and restored to the absolute truth.

Racham — We are at rest — there is peace here between brothers. We know we have problems, but we have peace because we know He's going to restore us — we believe He's going to restore us.