

Yom Kippur 4

Afflicting our Souls

Love is the fruit of the spirit. The minute you know you are not producing love from your spirit, you have to rekindle your fire. Through the Spirit (the Holy Spirit), we produce the fruit of the spirit (our human spirit).

Patience and self-control really reveals our condition because we can hardly muster up these qualities in the flesh. If you find yourself not having patience and self-control, you have to go the throne of grace.

Lev 23:23-32 talks about Yom Kippur — the Day of Atonement. It talks about the *moeds* we are going to have some day, like the Feast of Trumpets (verse 23). You have ten days after that leading up to Yom Kippur (verse 27). That's when the high priest went into the most holy place to bring an offering for the inadvertent sins of the people — not for their deliberate sins, like Num 15:30-35.

You shall afflict your soul (Lev 23:27,29) — the Jews take it that you shouldn't eat or drink anything on that day.

In the ten days leading up to Yom Kippur, you shall really examine yourself and judge yourself. The shepherds help those who can't judge themselves properly. Maybe most people can judge themselves right and afflict their souls and see their inadvertence, the ways they are not really in communion with the Holy Spirit, the ways in which they don't produce the fruit of the spirit.

It's not just the fruit of the Holy Spirit bypassing our spirit. In that case, He would be a sorry savior — he would be just doing it without our own involvement — he would not be restoring us. 1 Cor 6:17 — Our spirit needs to become like His Spirit.

Gal 5:19-21 talks about the fruit of our own flesh and verses 22-23 talk about the fruit of our own spirit. The contrasting thing here is not the fruit of the flesh and the fruit of the Holy Spirit, but it's the fruit of the flesh and the fruit of the human spirit.

When He is separated from us, we start producing bad fruit. Then we have to go to the throne of grace and get reconnected.

There are ten days leading up to the Day of Atonement. In those days we have to be cleansed to make sure the nation is pure. It starts a new year — not the new *calendar* year, but a new *agricultural* year. It's not clear yet whether it's a day of complete fast; the Jews do that, but I don't know what Israel did.

Who is going to know if you are not afflicting your soul? Who is going to cut you off? Nobody might know if you are not afflicting your soul, but our Father knows. You may go around with a sad face. Well, that's probably an indication that you aren't afflicting your soul, because when you fast, you should anoint your face with oil (Mt 6:17,18). Heb 4:12 — the word of God restores us and heals us. Yesterday we had a meeting. It was a long meeting. We talked about a problem. But then somebody was reading 1 Pet 1:22. We have to love one another fervently from the heart. That was the answer. The word of God restores us and heals us.

We say we are forgiven, but did we judge ourselves right? On the tenth day we will be forgiven totally through our confession. So what if you don't humble yourself totally on that day, don't judge yourself right, don't afflict your soul? Well, there is something proud in you. There will be a holy congregation. I guess we'll get together on that day. There might be public confessions, forgiveness, reconciliation, restoration. Maybe we'll get together on a smaller scale, in the households and in the clans (Lev 23:27,29). Probably the elders, overseers, shepherds, those who watch over people's souls help them see what's in them, not criticizing them but helping them. It's a day you get your mind off the thing you are doing and get you mind on what's going on in you. Verse 32 — from sunset to sunset.

This is just a beginning so we can start thinking about the Day of Atonement. It certainly won't begin until the twelve tribes are established. We'll see many people come in at that time because we are pure and we can help those people to be restored. We have to be pure for this to come about; that's why whoever doesn't judge himself right will be cut off. Acts 3:23 and many other places talk about this.

We have the example of Achan in Josh 7. His sin defiled his household, then his clan, his tribe, even the whole nation. As a result, Israel was defeated by a small city right after they won a great big battle against the seemingly impregnable city of Jericho. Achan's sin had to be singled out and dealt with so that grace and victory could return again to Israel.

If we can't judge ourselves right, fear should come to us. We should go to our shepherd and be humble, not proud. We are preparing for a race. We are a holy people, a set apart people. We are becoming a bride for the Son of God, perfectly prepared (Col 1:22,23,28,29). This is going to be a cause of rejoicing because we are going to be able to afflict our souls so we can stand before Him one day in confidence (1 Jn 2:27-28). Heb 10:38-39 talks about the saving of our soul. He's got our spirit; He wants our soul.

The prophets have already said that many shall desert the standard in the last days. It's going to be a high standard. If we have vision for what we are being prepared for, of how much our Father loves us and for what He wants us to be — a fully prepared bride for His Son — we'll give ourselves to Him. Rev 19:7-8; Lk 1:17 — fully prepared.

We started talking a little bit this morning about what it means to humble or to afflict your soul. If someone doesn't do it, the next day, the day after Yom Kippur, he'll be cut off, dead, no revelation anymore. Even now every week when we enter into the breaking of bread, we examine ourselves. Also Ex 29:42 — every morning we come here judging ourselves, preparing ourselves. The Day of Atonement is going to make sure that nothing, not the least little thing that's not right in our lives, would be by-passed. We have the security of the minchah, the breaking of bread, and the Day of Atonement. This will assure that it's going to be a pure bride without spots and wrinkles.

There are two kinds of people and two kinds of children He is preparing — the ones who are naturally obedient and the ones who are obstinate. Lk 1:17 — You always will have both kinds of children and both kinds of people in the Body, and both will come to the attitude of the righteous.

Let's come together and give our bodies as a living sacrifice. Once you are cut off you are only a dead sacrifice. You can only produce the fruit of the spirit if you are a living sacrifice.

Shimon: I see that the day of atonement is a provision to deal with things that are more subtle in our life, things that we are not so much aware of when we prepare for the minchah and the breaking of bread. The Day of Atonement will assure that we don't carry these things around for years because there will be repentance and forgiveness and no place for bitterness to grow.

That's right. Heb 12:15. We don't sweep the dirt under the rug. You know what that means. You come into the room and it all looks nice and clean, just fine. But really the dirt is there. It's just covered over by the rug. Jms 5:20 — through the day of atonement He is saving our souls. Jms 1:21 — the implanted word will save our soul from death. Through the blood of Yahshua He redeemed us; now He wants to restore us. What He has done for us on the cross is already completed; now He is doing a work in us. The Holy Spirit is restoring us.

ha-Emeq: Just think how much grace will be poured out on the community the next day after the day of atonement. If everybody humbled himself, since He gives grace to the humble, abundant grace will be upon the whole community.