

**Zahakiel:** It's time to begin. I'll ask Pastor to offer an opening prayer.

**Pastor Chick:** Dear Father in heaven. We come before your Presence with praise and Thanksgiving seeking a fresh baptism of Your Holy Spirit. Thank You for the blessings You have in store for us this hour. In Yahshua's holy name, Amen.

**Zahakiel:** Amen.

**Lucan:** Amen

**Elyna1:** Amen.

**Gloria:** Amen.

**Adriel7777:** Amen

**Barb:** Amen

**daphna:** Amen

**Ruthline:** Amen

**Zahakiel:** Happy Sabbath to everyone. Tonight's study is given the simple title, "Believers."

If you have been paying attention to the adventures your brethren have been having online recently, you will have noted that we are running into some interesting characters on Facebook. Over the past couple of days, I have noticed an increased hostility among some who were always antagonistic to the message we bear, but have – in the past day or so – really increased the frequency and intensity of their attacks on the messengers themselves. This is to be expected. When the limited grasp of the Scriptures that they possess begins to fail them, those who have no rest day or night fall back on the tools of the flesh: mockery, flight, and abuse. It is here, when things do not go as people expect, that true character is revealed. When it is, we lament the sorry state of those who claim to be Sabbath-keeping Adventists, whose actions betray them as frauds in that profession.

This is the most solemn of times. Decisions are being made for time and eternity... and often by those who do not realize the decision that they are making. Yah wishes to bring every soul before Him in judgment; not to condemn, but to cleanse and ultimately save.

We who are faithful know that the "judgment" of Yah that the Scriptures describe is a spiritual spotlight, determined to judge – to evaluate – the soul in the scales of Heaven, and to allow us the opportunity to cooperate in our sanctification. This is what it means to "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." (Phil 2:12) To some, this is a fearful verse. It appears to indicate a life of distressing self-inflicted worry, and the lingering uncertainty that one is not "good enough" for Heaven.

But verse explains verse, and passage illuminates passage. We read of fear and trembling: "Serve Yahweh with fear, and rejoice with trembling." (Psalm 2:11) Now, this is something different than the carnal terror that condemnation inspires. Serve Yahweh with fear... this is not speaking of that crippling terror that leaves one unable to act. We serve Yah indeed, knowing, but unable to truly grasp, the majesty of His glory.

Isaiah knew what it meant to serve Yahweh with fear, when He said, "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips, for mine eyes have seen the King, Yahweh of hosts." (Isa 6:5)

And yet, this holy fear did not drive him away from Yah; instead, he drew near, to the degree that when the Almighty asked, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" the prophet replied, "Here am I; send me." (Isa 6:8)

The fear of Yah does not cause us to hide from Him, as Adam did in Eden. That is the fear of Yah's wrath... which is really the fear of one's own transgressions and their results. But the fear of Yahweh Himself, who is described as light, and truth, and love... this leads to knowledge, and power, and life. Here is something the worldly mind cannot understand. How can one rejoice in the presence of the Most High? It is only by trusting His love toward us, and within us as we unite with Him in the spirit.

How people react to Yahweh is ultimately going to be how they react to His true servants. I spoke in a recent study about my first experience learning of the Victory message. I realized, when I came to believe it, that there truly was no excuse for sin. I could not say, "My flesh made me do it," or "I was tempted, so I did it." Both of these claims deny the power of Yahshua's divine nature, and represent either ignorance or contempt for His sacrifice. If the flesh can "make" a Christian commit a sin, then that flesh must be stronger than the indwelling Spirit of the Creator... an absurdity. If a devil's temptation can overcome and unseat the Father and Son from the throne of the heart, then how stable could that seat have been in the first place?

When I realized that my failures and excuses were alike the rejection of the promises of Yah, I trembled. Could I do this? Could I accept my guilt and endure what came next? But I had no practical choice... I knew that I could not delay for a moment, lest my stubbornness slay me in my iniquity, and I quickly reached out for the hand of mercy. My fear of Yah had driven me towards Him, although I knew that this very fear had driven multitudes away. But what is the difference? Why do some fear judgment and run to the Savior, while others fear judgment and run into darkness?

It depends, ultimately, on what one believes of the heart and mind of the Father. When a soul looks on the burning mountain of Sinai, and hears the thunder over the waters, and thinks, "He who did these works also created me..." he enters into Yah's arms.

**Adriel7777:** Amen

**Zahakiel:** We affirm that we are of like spirit with the One that set the cosmos in its place, and sent His Son to suffer the unavoidable penalty of sin for our sakes. When we trust in the Word, at times against all sensory information, that we are accepted by the Creator, and loved by the Judge, how differently the world appears to our sight.

But to see the world, we must believe the right things of ourselves, and our Father in Heaven. As often as we have heard and used the term, the word "believers" as a description of Christians appears in only two verses:

"And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women."  
(Acts 5:14)

"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." (1Tim 4:12)

The same Greek word is sometimes translated as "faithful," but then it is usually used as a description rather than a noun, as in "a faithful servant." But we note from these two verses that one does not become a believer by entering the Church... those who enter the Church must already bear this title. This is why they are "added to the Lord."

We read that believers have certain characteristics that identify them as genuine – holy speech, behavior, (for this is what "conversation" really means in the KJV) agape-love, spiritual discernment and character, faithful devotion to the truth, and purity of mind and body. A believer, by the very definition of the word, believes. They believe the truth about Yah, and we may read some examples that the Word explicitly spells out for the believers to consider; almost all, interestingly enough, appear in the New Testament within or after the Gospels:

"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent ye, and believe the Gospel." (Mark 1:15)

"For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." (Mark 11:23, 24)

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." (Heb 11:6)

These are just a few. Perhaps some of you can share other promises that Christians believe in the comments after the study.

Yahshua said to those who opposed Him, "But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you." (John 10:26)

Again, we see that belief is a pre-requisite to acceptance, belonging, and rest. It comes before, or perhaps at, the point of repentance in the progression of repentance, then faith, then baptism.

But one might think, "Isn't belief the same thing as faith?" It could be, when used in a general sense, but they are used in two different ways here. The "faith" of repentance, faith, baptism, is not the momentary realization that something is true. It is a deep acceptance of the truth, such that the life is ordered around it, and is affected in every aspect by it. The "belief" that leads to repentance and acceptance by Yah if followed is something of a spiritual awakening. We may read of this here:

"Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, in the Feast day, many believed in His name when they saw the miracles which He did." (John 2:23)

This does not mean that they repented of all their sins and became His lifelong disciples. It means that they accepted His works as miraculous, and understood that He was a messenger from Yah. Many, I am certain, later doubted their initial conviction, and like the various seeds in the parable, some drifted away due to worldly cares or after counting the cost of becoming a known associate of Yahshua. But those who become "believers" such that they follow on from that belief through repentance from sin, a life of faith, and the ordinance of baptism, are those who do not seek to escape judgment by stifling conviction. They "know" Yah, because they recognize His true character in both doctrine that is taught, and in the character of those who claim to be Christians.

For example, it should not require an explicit Church doctrine for one to realize that there is something very wrong with a Church putting professed Christians in jail. That should be obvious from a sincere examination of the life and nature of Yahshua. The wickedness of this generation is seen in the fact that, even WITH multiple and explicit doctrines forbidding this kind of activity (so that they should have no excuse for ignorance) many still consent to reject the Word of Yah, and follow worldly policies rather than holy principles.

Believers are those who see the world through the eyes of victory. An overcomer and a victim have very different outlooks on life. Those who perceive themselves to be victims of sin and self, with no way to escape their overpowering influence, know that they have no assurance of Heaven. To them, the idea of an "Investigative Judgment," an ongoing, invisible evaluation, is a source of terror. I know this, because it was to me

as a mainstream SDA, and I have spoken to a number since who, after a moment of reflection, admitted that it was the case for them as well.

No matter how high their profession, the fear of Yahweh drives them away from His heart, because they know that, since they have no continual victory, everlasting life is a gamble. It is all about "when" probation closes, and until then, like Cain they offer the best of their works in an effort to stay within the Judge's good graces.

And here is a consideration... those who accept a Gospel without victory over sin are essentially the same as those who believe in absolute predestination, the idea that Yahweh chooses from the beginning those who will be saved, and those who will be lost. It is Yah who determines the duration and closing point of the judgment of the living. It is Yah who decides when probation closes, and if this one or that will be permitted to meet with a fatal accident before that time. It is Yah who, with perfect foreknowledge, knows every soul that will be saved, and every soul that will be lost, when individual and corporate judgment ends.

Thus, by necessity it is Yah who decides which ones will be saved, and which ones will be lost, for should He end someone's life or judgment when they are in a state of sin (and those without victory believe that they bounce back and forth between flesh and spirit), that then becomes their inevitable destiny, just as if they had been born to that fate from the beginning.

But for believers, the Investigative Judgment is actually an exciting prospect. The fact that some will be found clean means that all CAN be found clean. It is inspiration for the faith that we WILL be found clean. It is a validation of the Gospel as taught in its purity from the beginning, for believers know that Yah will not set a standard that is impossible to meet, or a goal that is impossible to attain. Through His Son, Yah has given to us the victory so that now... once the decision is made, that self is dead and life is Christ, it does not matter in the least when probation closes, or what events befall us until that time.

We have assurance that we are accepted. We are in Sabbath rest always, and there is no "time" at which the judgment could close on us resulting in the loss of everlasting life. It is not quite Once-Saved-Always-Saved the way that nominal Christianity describes it (in that "even if one sins, salvation is still yours"); it is more like Once Decided Forever Decided, for the decision permits Yah to dwell within us, keeping us always from sin, so that there is no "even if" in this matter.

Thus, for the believer, salvation becomes a genuine matter of choice, and not arbitrary fate or divine timing. "Now" is the day in which any who desire Heaven may choose it, and Yah by His grace has given us just this choice. Even the worst of sinners, because of grace, may receive the miracle of freedom, and in that freedom, cry out for help and

restoration. And having received that restoration, the soul is bound with the wheat, awaiting the day when the storehouse will be opened to visibly receive it.

This is just one example, the Investigative Judgment. Any doctrine may be examined from the perspective of the victim or the overcomer, and the saints are overcomers – that is their perspective. Because they are believers, they have received the power in the promises of Yah. Those who receive the First Angel's Message, and claim victory through Christ's power, it is they who are capable of having a pure faith, and a correct understanding of doctrine. They see every promise through the goodness of Yah's character, and the assurance that His power, all of its infinite glory, is placed at the service of the weakest of saints.

**Adriel7777:** Amen

**Zahakiel:** In the practical things of daily life, choosing to see your world through the eyes of victory is the means by which you know yourself to be in the Atmosphere of Heaven. Seeing the world through the eyes of victory is what allows us to perceive the streets of gold beneath our feet. Because we are believers, our spiritual eyes are opened, and we can begin to see how all things work together for good for the believers, for the ones called according to His purpose.

Going forward, then, giving your testimony, and speaking with those in your sphere of influence, let the eyes of victory color your view of all things, and reveal you to be, in every sense, a believer in the promises of Yah. This gives your words the power of genuine conviction, and may draw out the spirit of the doubting, who, like those who heard the preaching of Yahshua Himself, have never heard a messenger of Yah speak the way that we speak.

Are there any comments or questions about tonight's study?

**Adriel7777:** Amen

**Pastor Chick:** C

**Zahakiel:** Go ahead

**Pastor Chick:** There is a danger in sleeping away the Sabbath hours... the investigative judgment requires our participation... with alertness... while resting in victory, we are alert to any unknown defect or spot that must be cleansed away prior to the close of human probation. END

**Adriel7777:** Amen

**Zahakiel:** Thank you for sharing that. Are there any others? Ok, then I will ask Bro. Luke to offer a closing prayer.

**Lucan:** Dear heavenly Father. We thank you for the life of Yahshua, proving beyond all contention that You can and will keep your children from sin, and in righteousness. We thank you that you have promised and have fulfilled your Word to give this same life to all who will receive it. As we cleanse ourselves from all defects by bringing them to your altar, may your Spirit enlighten our perceptions and quicken our discernment. We thank you for hearing and fulfilling our requests, for we ask them in the name of your son Yahshua. Amen.

**Pastor Chick:** Amen.

**Zahakiel:** Amen.

**Elyna1:** Amen.

**Ruthline:** Amen

**Barb:** Amen

**Adriel7777:** Amen

**Gloria:** Amen.

**Peter Jr 18:** Amen.

**Naraiel:** Amen

**Kimber:** Amen