

SEEKING TO STRIVE

Luke 13:22-20, 2 Peter 1:3-11

“Yeshua”

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Phil de Martimprey

These last three weeks in our Yeshua study have been very challenging for me. The call of Christ to “strive” in following and obeying the Law of Messiah has confronted some of my long-held opinions and assumptions, as to how we as Christ-followers should understand and relate to “The Law”. Questions like, “Where do we find this Law? How many Laws are there? Why haven't I heard more about the Law of Messiah?” Have echoed in my mind numerous times during our studies, bringing with them a sense that I may have missed something very important in my journey toward more obedient kingdom living. However, even though it has been challenging to me, I will testify that it has motivated me to prayerfully, and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, seek to more fully understand and obey the Law of Messiah. Additionally, this section of our study has resulted in this conviction: **Enabled by the grace of God and ministry of the Holy Spirit, our heartfelt obedience to the Law of Messiah, is the only way to be saved from the *carnal life*, and enjoy the current and future blessings of the *kingdom life*.** It is the only way, (as the Apostle Paul puts it) to “put to death the things of the flesh/earth” (Rom 8:13, Col 3:5) and to “set our minds on things above / be transformed by the renewing of our minds” (Col 3:2, Rom 12:2).

While this process of learning to live the kingdom life (most often referred to as Spiritual Formation) is a familiar concept most of us, these last three weeks have helped give clarity and direction as to how God has designed the kingdom life to be lived. In our time today, I hope to give meaningful and practical examples and concrete steps that will help to answer the question, “How do we move from “Seeking” to “Striving”?”

THE PROGRESSION (2 PETER 1:3-11)

This passage (written by Peter to the early believers) helps to give us the progression of kingdom living, which finds ultimate expression in agape love. God in His grace towards us, and through His divine power has given to us all that we need to be successful in kingdom living. Our journey begins with faith, and then we must “make every effort to supplement our faith” with the attitude and actions of vs 4-8. These will keep us from being “ineffective or unfruitful”.

We cannot do this with our own effort alone, but we cannot do it without our effort either. God’s grace will work in our lives in conjunction with our “striving”, to bring about greater kingdom living, to His glory and our Christ-likeness. So let us take just a few minutes to scratch out one way we can practically implement this life of commitment to the Law of Messiah.

THE PRACTICAL: VIM

Vision: We must develop a specific vision of the kingdom life we are pursuing.

Intention: To realize our vision, we must decide to live the kingdom life.

Means: Once we have made the decision to pursue our vision of Kingdom life, we must seek out and apply the means needed to see it to fulfillment.

*VIM Is found in greater detail in the writings of Dallas Willard, particularly in chapter 5 of "Renovation of the Heart".

4th Of July Party Information

- 1) It's from 5-9 p.m.
- 2) Bring your lawn chair and a salad or dessert to share
- 3) Park in the back parking lot
- 4) Come ready to meet some new folks!
- 5) We could use some help moving things over if you can help after either 1st or 2nd service