

We often have an unrealistic view of what will happen when we commit to a season of special consecration.



9But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

The Rigors & Challenges of Seeking Yah

For some of us we are nearing the 1/3 mark for seeking the LORD in a more wholehearted, devoted way. We are doing so in part as a way to better prepare ourselves for the upcoming fall festivals. What I've learned from doing this a handful of times is that there is a rigor coupled with specific challenges associated with these times of prayer and fasting. This was initially very

surprising to me. I would often start out with wide-eyed wonderful expectations of the glory and possibilities of a set-apart time for YHWH. I found out that this idealism crashed rather quickly.

It seemed like at about the two day mark, I start:

- thinking thoughts of growing irritation at uncooperative inanimate objects...and wanting to hurt them.
- feeling thoughts of extreme inadequacy and personal weakness.
- craving off-limit foods (just a small taste would help so much!).
- being bored and restless in the midst of attempting to follow through on my prayer commitments.
- wanting to do just a quick check out of previously appropriate sports, movies, internet, or news feeds.
- feeling more tired and a bit more spacey.
- being more easily frustrated with people.
- feeling generally unsettled and out of sorts.

Then I correlate these (and a myriad of other thoughts) with the ideas,

- "This isn't working - my heart seems farther from God and not closer."
- "There's something wrong with me - it works for other 'Super-Christians' but I'm too messed up and far gone."
- "God's promises aren't true for me - I certainly don't feel rewarded at all for seeking Him in this season."
- "This can't be a good thing - I need to stop this and go back to 'normal'"

I've learned that these feelings are often a part of the process.

Yeshua wants us to use these areas of sin and weakness as a means to drive us into conversation with Him as our only Help.

And when I mess up, I'm to quickly repent to Him and then to any

affected others....and start again. I find benefit when I talk to Him about these weaknesses and aberrant thoughts that I'm thinking...and then ask for His help.

I've also found that very rarely for me are there observable benefits during these times. It is almost always ***after*** these times that I can see small (but tangible) benefits more clearly. Because we are so used to instant gratification in this culture, this can be challenging when we import this expectation into our times with Him.

It is a good thing to wait upon our God in weakness. He has Genesis 1 on His resume and He is so much greater/grander than any other human. He is invisible (for now) and we really don't have anything better to do than to draw near to Him...even if we feel He is not talking or overtly helping us.

So dear saint, if you find yourself in the midst of some of the above (or different) challenges, don't lose heart or shrink back.

God is for you and He is doing something in you as you continue to draw near to Him. Even if you've given up in certain ways, get back up, give Yeshua your expectations, and start afresh.

Also, for anyone who is feeling inspired, it's not too late to join in.

Just drop me an email, and I'll send you the prayer link and provide more specifics about jumping in.