

How will you respond to Yeshua's Look of Love?

Messiah - the L-rd of a Second Chance

“Because He resurrected, I am forgiven.” What a beautiful reality! The G-d of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is a Pesach G-d. He asked for and expects bikkurim (firstfruits) from us. When we fail to be Pesach people; when the Blood after applied is ignored; when we leave the safety of the blood-stained lintels of His love and wander into the night of horrors and the world; when we mess up; and when we “knowing better” go ahead and sin and ruin our lives, then the resurrection kicks in, and we are given *a second chance*. This is what Kefa and the rest of the disciples experienced. We easily see why Christianity puts great emphasis on the resurrection—it is “proof” of G-d’s power in Messiah and Rav Sha’ul teaches us that the same power is available to us today.

Is Y’shua really the L-rd of a second chance? How often can we sin and be forgiven? Messiah addressed the issue of forgiveness in Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Kefa came up and said to him, “Rabbi, how often can my brother sin against me and I have to forgive him? As many as seven times?” ²² “No, not seven times,” answered Yeshua, “but seventy times seven! ²³ Because of this, the Kingdom of Heaven may be compared with a king who decided to settle accounts with his deputies. ²⁴ Right away they brought forward a man who owed him many millions, ²⁵ and since he couldn’t pay, his master ordered that he, his wife, his children and all his possessions be sold to pay the debt. ²⁶ But the servant fell down before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ ²⁷ So out of pity for him, the master let him go and forgave the debt.

²⁸ “But as that servant was leaving, he came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him some tiny sum. He grabbed him and began to choke him, crying, ‘Pay back what you owe me!’

²⁹ His fellow servant fell before him and begged, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’

³⁰ But he refused; instead, he had him thrown in jail until he should repay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were extremely distressed; and they went and told their master everything that had taken place. ³² Then the master summoned his servant and said, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt just because you begged me to do it. ³³ Shouldn’t you have had pity on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his master turned him over to the jailers (in the Authorized Version *tormentors* Strong’s number 930 from the Greek *basanistes* (bas-an-is-tace’); derived from 928; a torturer: in the KJV—tormentor) for punishment until he paid back everything he owed. ³⁵ This is how my heavenly Father will treat you, unless you each forgive your brother from your hearts.”

We marvel at the possibility of having to forgive someone 490 times daily! Yet this applies, according to Y’shua, to the Kingdom of Heaven of which we are citizens. How often can the L-rd forgive us? A lot more than HaSatan wants us to be aware of. The guilt of unforgiveness is among his choicest of weapons against believers. Are you weary and heavy laden with the burden of sin in your life. Won’t you resolve today to accept His forgiveness and start over as a solid citizen of the Kingdom—a child of G-d. We also note that our release is conditional—it is entirely based upon our “forgiving our brother from our hearts.” Is there someone who has hurt you and trespassed against you that you have not forgiven? The Feast of Firstfruits beckons, it is time to lay those burdens down. Choose to forgive.

Let us consider the words of Yochanan and apply them without delay to our situations:

⁸ If we claim not to have sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we acknowledge our sins, then, since he is trustworthy and just, he will forgive them and purify us from all wrongdoing.

¹⁰ If we claim we have not been sinning, we are making him out to be a liar, and his Word is not in us.

2 ¹ My children, I am writing you ‘these things so that you won’t sin. But if anyone does sin, we have Yeshua the Messiah, the *Tzaddik*, who pleads our cause with the Father. ² Also, he is the *kapparah* for our sins—and not only for ours, but also for those of the whole world.

³ The way we can be sure we know him is if we are obeying his commands. ⁴ Anyone who says, “I know him,” but doesn’t obey his commands is a liar the truth is not in him. ⁵ But if someone does what he says, then truly love for God has been brought to its goal in him. This is how we are sure that we are united with him. ⁶ A person who claims to be continuing in union with him ought to conduct his life the way he did.

⁷ Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command. On the contrary, it is an old command, which you have had from the beginning; the old command is the message which you have heard before. ⁸ Yet I am writing you a new command, and its truth is seen both in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. ⁹ Anyone who claims to be in this light while hating his brother is still in the dark. ¹⁰ The person who keeps loving his brother remains in the light, and there is nothing in him that could make him trip. ¹¹ But the person who hates his brother is in the dark—yes, he is walking in the dark, and he doesn’t know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

¹² You children, I am writing you because your sins have been forgiven for his sake.

¹³ You fathers, I am writing you because you have known him who has existed from the beginning.

You young people, I am writing you because you have overcome the Evil One.

¹⁴ You children, I have written you because you have known the Father.

You fathers, I have written you because you have known him who has existed from the beginning.

You young people, I have written you because you are strong—the Word of God remains in you, and you have overcome the Evil One.

I John 1:8-2:14

The Three Gazes of the Messiah

Gaze 1: When the world and its possessions have a great hold on our life...

Matt 19:20-22

20 The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?

21 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.

22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.

¹⁶ A man approached Yeshua and said, “Rabbi, what good thing should I do in order to have eternal life?” He said to him, ¹⁷ “Why are you asking me about good? There is One who is good! But if you want to obtain eternal life, observe the *mitzvot*.” ¹⁸ The man asked him, “Which ones?” and Yeshua said, **Don’t murder, don’t**

commit adultery, don't steal, don't give false testimony ¹⁹ **honor father and mother and love your neighbor as yourself.** ²⁰ The Young man said to him, "I have kept all these; where do I still fall short?" ²¹ Yeshua said to him, "If you are serious about reaching the goal, go and sell your possessions, give to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven. Then come, follow me!" ²² But when the Young man heard this, he went away sad, because he was wealthy.

Gaze 2: When we are determined to sin and follow thru with our selfishness (selfish motives)

Luke 22:47-48

47 While he was still speaking, a crowd of people arrived, with the man called Y'hudah (one of the Twelve!) leading them. He came up to Yeshua to kiss him,

48 but Yeshua said to him, "Y'hudah, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

47 And while he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss him.

48 But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?

Ματθαιο 26:48-50

48 The betrayer had arranged to give them a signal: "The man I kiss is the one you want—grab him!"

49 He went straight up to Yeshua, said, "*Shalom*, Rabbi!" and kissed him.

50 Yeshua said to him, "Friend, do what you came to do." Then they moved forward, laid hold of Yeshua and arrested him.

48 Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast.

49 And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him.

50 And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come? Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus, and took him.

Gaze 3 When we look into His eyes, see His love, and respond

Luke 22:61

61 The Lord turned and looked straight at Kefa; and Kefa remembered what the Lord had said, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times."

61 And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.