

## Audacity – A Willingness to Tackle Dangerous Situations

### **Introduction & Motivation**

Audacity is described in the Encarta dictionary as: “*daring or willingness to challenge assumptions or conventions or tackle something difficult or dangerous.*” We need audacity when it comes to resolving conflicts and in clearing our conscience. A clear conscience has been defined as a “conscience void of offense toward G-d and other people.” It is the freedom obtained by knowing that on one can point a finger at you and say, “You’ve offended me, and you’ve never asked for my forgiveness.” What is the scope of a clear conscience? It ultimately starts with G-d, but then it quickly moves to biological and spiritual family (the congregation), relatives, friends, employers, teachers, former acquaintances, and others. Why is this so difficult to gain? Because in any conflict, there are more than 1 person with guilt. The ones we offended were wrong also! We tend to focus on their issues (the splinter and the beam in *Yeshua*’s teaching) which balances our own guilt and sets us up for live with guilt and blame (and the see-saw battle that ensues).

We need to have audacious conversation—whether with our son or daughter, or with our parents, or with our mom and dad, or with one of our best friends, or with the brother or sister in our congregation. Having the courage to tackle difficult issues is a requirement to preserve and maintain real fellowship and intimacy. “*But if we are walking in the light, as he is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of his Son Yeshua purifies us from all sin.*” (1 John 1:7)

I was thinking of all of you as I was holding a conscience-clearing conversation with my department chair at the University yesterday. We want to be NOBLE men and women who make NOBLE PLANS and carry out NOBLE DEEDS because we feel like change is possible. Can we see the Noble Call and Plans of G-d? We cannot act differently until we SEE differently, when we view life from G-d’s perspective.

I was pondering that after our great victory in the IBLP Basic Seminar, that the enemy of our souls, the weakness of our flesh and the pull of the world couldn’t all come back at a more opportune time and we had better be ready to STAND. There will be a battle to fall back into the old patterns and to defend the weaknesses of our flesh, thereby giving our enemy the opportunity to overcome us in our flesh. It would do us well to remember that the keys to walking in the *Ruach Elohim* are humility and confession. We do not need to defend our flesh nor put any confidence in it as *Rabbi Sha’ul* states in Philippians. Satan will try to pull us back into the flesh, to see from our own “good and evil” perspective. He will tempt you to look to yourself instead of unto G-d. Remember that every test is from G-d’s hand; and we need not forget the sovereignty of G-d. He is all-wise, so everything that comes will be the wisest thing that could happen. He is all loving, so Satan will try to convince us otherwise. What if we fail this test? The key is how we recover in *Messiah*. Let us not dwell on the failures, when they come, we choose if we will fail backwards or forwards by our response to the failures. Can we fall forward? Yes we can! We always fall forward when we come, call, and clothe.

### **Come, Call and Clothe**

*Yeshua* comes into our life and saves us from the failure of the flesh. The *Ruach* wants to reaffirm our righteousness in *Yeshua*. Alternatively, the Enemy will be accusing you and trying to get you to defend your flesh by balancing guilt and blame. But our Father calls to bring us to the place where mercy and truth met, where He made a way for us to become blameless and holy through confession—at the “*execution tree*.” It is written (1 Peter 5:6): “*Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that at the right time he may lift you up.*” It says humble yourself (i.e., just do it) and allow *Abba* to call you unto Himself as *Yeshua* did to the disciples when they failed time and time again. Remember *Kefa*? *Yeshua* called him back out of his safe zone of fishing after he failed and back into the new life of the noble calling of feeding his sheep. Could it be that *Yeshua* let Peter fail because He wanted Peter to come to the same place *Rabbi Sha’ul* came to—to put no confidence in the flesh? We too will be tested, because G-d wants us to be firmly convinced of this very fact so all the glory and power will go to Him. You will want to be depressed because you feel like you failed again; but this is a sign of pride! Repent quickly and claim the righteousness of G-d and humble yourself to those you feel you failed.

We must be careful because to us the failure looks more like this: come, see, conquer and then withdraw. But this is the most common trap of the enemy, the flesh and the world. We try to overcome in the power of the flesh only to hurt others and ourselves. When this happens, go back to G-d; and **clothe** yourself with security in His love, your significance and honor in being His son, His heir. There is no higher position we will ever attain to than being a child of the King of Kings. This offends our pride but brings security and significance to our Spirit like nothing else can. All other ground is sifting sand. When you feel secure in *Messiah Yeshua* and significant in the position He has put you in as a noble man in Him then you can practice dignified leadership.

**COME** into the presence of those who hurt you or whom you hurt based on Matthew 5:23 and Matthew 18. Go to your brother/sister if you have hurt him/her or if he/she has hurt you.

**CALL** – call them unto yourself in a safe way. Having removed your hurts and bitterness, your fears of rejection and failure. Willingly offer them the security and significance of *Yeshua*'s love that you received from your heavenly Father.

**CLOTHE** – them with UNDERSTANDING.

### ***Audacity in Seven Questions***

When dealing with offended or potentially offended parties, ask them seven audacious and daring questions and discover their most pressing issue from their very own perspective. Don't be tempted to process their words from your own presuppositions (your own set of thoughts, experiences, fears of rejection or failures). Simply try to see it as they do, don't defend your flesh, your goal is to see life differently from a new perspective. Wisdom is seeing life from G-d's perspective; one form of Understanding is to see life from the perspective of those who mean the most to you. A noble man who understands the heart is the one who wins the heart. Ask those you have failed the following questions:

#### **1. What is the most pressing issue on your heart, how have I hurt you most?**

Remember, to put no confidence in your flesh, you are blameless and holy in *Messiah Yeshua* not in your flesh. Take sides against your flesh and humble it. Satan will lose his victory when you die to the flesh. This is exactly what *Yeshua* modeled for us and yet He was totally and completely innocent! Do not save yourself during this question. Simply say, "*This is what I hear you saying...*" Then let them correct you if you didn't really get it right. Keep going until they say, "*Yes I think you understand me.*"

#### **2. "How is this affecting you?"**

This will hurt a little, or maybe a **LOT**, but this is where we begin to see differently. We can't act differently until we see differently. The point here is not about looking "good" in our children's or wife's eyes but about seeing the good in "*all things working together for good...*" We must see the situation from G-d's perspective and from the perspective of others. You cannot change unless you are aware of the blind spots and the hurts our flesh causes. When you see from another's perspective you see differently and it makes you aware and you will change when you see it (walk a mile in their shoes). Allow this process to work in your heart; G-d uses understanding to work in you to "*will and to do His good pleasure.*" Simply answer, "*This is what I hear you saying...*" and again let them course correct you until you hit the bull's eye of understanding. You will be giving their soul the fresh air of *Messiah*'s love as you do this.

#### **3. "If nothing changes what will the future look like?"**

I know this question seems tough to ask but it will really motivate you to move towards a willingness to receive G-d's grace—which is the Desire and the Power to do His Will. No doubt we resisted His grace when we failed and now we need to move back into being willing to receive G-d's grace. G-d resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

#### **4. "What do you see my responsibility to be for this issue?"**

You may think you know the answer but you must ask this question. Remember, do not defend, explain, complain or blame. Take full responsibility and simply say, “*This is what I hear you saying...*”

**5. “What do you see your responsibility to be for this issue?”**

**6. “What would be the preferable outcome in solving and overcoming this the next time it comes up?”**

This is a great question to let the *Ruach Elohim* come into your fellowship. In Matthew 18 Scripture states: “*To repeat, I tell you that if two of you here on earth agree about anything people ask, it will be for them from my Father in heaven. For wherever two or three are assembled in my name, I am there with them.*” 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?*” “*No, not seven times, ” answered Yeshua, “but seventy times seven!*”

*Yeshua* is affirming, for us to realize, that we will indeed fail. But when we come, call, & clothe, He will be there with us, and He will support our efforts and our prayers of agreement. This is how we get back to intimacy. We lose our intimacy because we have a conflict when we feel our security or significance is threatened. We sense someone has gone from giving to taking and then we go into criticizing or defending and finally into withdraw. We cannot bypass the conflict to get back into intimacy so we have to go back into it unarmed and humble. We resolve the issues through audacious dialogue and restore intimacy. Don’t let Satan hold you back from this; he seeks to isolate you because he knows he can pick you off when you are separated from the flock. Families that stay together can put 10,000 or more to flight. Psalm 133 says that *Abba* commands a blessing when “*brethren dwell together in unity.*” We have no other alternative than to be audacious and noble men who lead courageously by coming, calling and clothing others in G-d’s mercy and love.

**7. “What do you see the next step we could take that would be the wisest thing we could do based on past experience? current circumstances? and our hopes of the preferable future?”**

If they then want to ask you these same questions you can come into a whole new level of understanding. Remember it is Mercy and Truth.

In closing, when the test and trials come, “*count them all joy my brethren,*” G-d is moving us away from confidence in our flesh to confidence, faith and trust in our only source of true righteousness, His Son. Do not be disappointed in the weaknesses of your own flesh; this is a sign of PRIDE. Humble yourself in the sight of the L-rd quickly and agree with your adversary so you can go on to Calvary and find the source of living waters, live cleansing waters. All things are being summed up into *Messiah Yeshua*, and nothing of your flesh will remain. It is corruptible and dying but we are sowing in the *Ruach* that which is incorruptible, our gracious identity in Him. Be blessed in your audacity!