

“The heart is deceitful above all things. And desperately wicked; who can know it? I, Yahuweh, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.” Jeremiah 17:9-10

“For as he thinketh in His heart, so is he.” Proverbs 23:7

“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Luke 12:34

“Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it springs the issues of life.” Proverbs 4:23

“Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see Elohim.” Matthew 5:8

“But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone.” Matthew 15:18-20

Have you ever wondered why so many believers still have sin in their lives that seem to have a stronghold on them?

Do you remember in your walk having something you just couldn't beat no matter how hard you tried or do you still have it? Anger, bitterness, negative attitude, fear, self-hatred, unforgiveness of yourself or others, guilt, regrets, resentment...

Many believers today are taught that whatever they do, they are forgiven...so they think they have a license to sin. They have abused His grace and that is a very dangerous mentality!

All through Scripture, Father has been trying to tell us/show us how to overcome and defeat the law of sin. He sent His Son, Yahushua, to walk it before us, to live sinless so we could see it can be done, to die for our intentional and our unintentional sins!

The key is the heart...the heart is referenced all through the Scripture, some of which I quoted above. In Jeremiah, it says we will be judged by the intentions of our heart...not just our outward actions! See Jeremiah 17 above. Scripture even references through the “Sower” parable in Matthew 13 about those who are “saved” but not really **born again**. For example, if you say the prayer just because you are scared not to or due to peer pressure of the moment, and not because you truly believe and want to be a new person in Him. Or you say the “prayer” so that you have your “ticket” or as a back-up plan just in case there really is a “God”, then you aren't really born again. The heart has to change. The intentions in the heart have to be one that truly believes in Yahushua, that He died for our sins and was resurrected/rose! We have to have a heart that truly repents for their sins and turns away from sin.

A person summarized the meaning of this parable perfectly, “To summarize the point of the Parable of the Sower: “A man's reception of God's Word is determined by the condition of his heart.” A secondary lesson would be “Salvation is more than a superficial, albeit joyful, hearing of the gospel. Someone who is truly saved will go on to prove it.” May our faith and our lives exemplify the "good soil" in the Parable of the Sower.”

Also, all through Scripture, Father shows us that sacrifices weren't what pleased Him. What pleases Him is a real, true, genuine heart-change within the person. (See Jeremiah 6:19-20; 7:21-23, Psalm 51:16-17, 1 Chronicles 29:17)

But how do we accomplish this heart-change when some of us, me included, have battled with things that seem to not go away no matter how hard WE try? The key is getting a new heart and mind along with being filled with His Spirit. This can only come from Him!

Ezekiel 18:30-31 "says Yahuweh Elohim...Repent and turn away from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit..."

Many of us don't realize we have all the tools, but most churches and assemblies do not tell us or show us how to mature and grow in our walk with Him...how to really walk out our salvation. Most of us have been taught to say the little sinner's prayer and we are forgiven. The part forgotten which is modeled all through the New Testament/Renewed Covenant, is to "GO AND SIN NO MORE". We have been taught that we will be forgiven over and over and over, no matter what. So, why should we stop sinning? Why not keep using the excuse "I am just made that way"?

The churches, messianic congregations and more, don't teach you what to do once you are "born again". They just tell you to do your best and go to church or the assembly each week to grow. They don't tell you what it takes to truly experience the "New Birth" which includes receiving His Spirit, asking for a new heart, and how to fight the forces we cannot see (Ephesians 6:12). Most don't tell you that in order to be a person who is close to blamelessness as we can get before Him, you have to immerse yourself in the Word. That means YOU reading His Word for yourself and asking the Spirit to teach you. That doesn't mean a devotional only or watching someone preach on TV. That means reading Genesis to Revelation so you know what is in the Word yourself, learn to know Him yourself through His character revealed in Scripture and apply the Word in your life...DO IT...THAT IS WHAT IT MEANS BY BEING A DOER OF THE WORD not just a hearer of the Word. (See James 1:22)

Matthew through Acts shows us the love of Elohim and how Yahuweh loves us in spite of our sin...so much so, that He gave His Son to die for us so we could be forgiven, have eternal life and defeat the law of sin and death! John and Acts demonstrates our power through Messiah and Father's Spirit over evil... revealing Elohim's love for us. Romans through Jude shows us how to be sanctified (set apart unto Him...purified, blameless before Him). Without sanctification (the process of being set apart unto Him), we cannot have what is demonstrated in Matthew through Acts. "When you have Romans to Jude in your life, the blessings will come; the showers of blessing will come! Without sanctification, you won't see Matthew through Acts made manifest (*revealed*) in your life." (A More Excellent Way by Wright)

Frances Roberts says it this way: "*Sanctification is accomplished in no one by accident. 'Learn My Rules and put them into practice consistently, if ye desire to see progress in the growth of thy soul.'* ***Holiness is not a feeling—it is the end product of obedience. Purity is not a gift—it is the result of repentance, and a serious pursuit of God.***"

Instead of teaching that we cannot be sinless, how about teaching us how to be set-apart unto Him? We need to understand that not only are we to love Elohim because He first loved us, but also to love Him because we want too. We don't follow His commandments/law because we have to, we do it because we WANT too and we are FREE to choose too! This is a true heart change. He gave us the free will to choose! If we choose not to obey, we don't get the blessings either...it isn't automatic blessings because you believe or say a prayer! You can have as many curses in your life as an unbeliever has in

theirs if you go on doing what you have always done. When there is no heart change, there is no salvation. I know the church teaches, “once saved, always saved,” but this is a lie. There are conditions to keep your salvation and receive eternal life. Let me illustrate this for you and then I will prove it in Scripture.

You have a friend that you love. You call them, text them, send them emails, and invite them to dinner, etc. Now, what if that “friend” never talks to you unless you call them, never accepts your invitations, never comes to your house, never initiates an invitation to you, and never initiates the phone calls or texts? Are you going to stay friends with them for long? NO! A one-way relationship is always rejected eventually. We want two-way communication and relationships. We want fellowship.

The same is true of our Father. He gave His Son to us as a sacrifice for our sins, so that we could be forgiven, atoned for and have eternal life. Now, do you honestly think we are not required to do something in return, to show our love for Him as He has proven and shown to us, to forgive others as He forgave us? I am not saying salvation is not a free gift, because it is. But, to have a relationship with Him and know Him, there are conditions. We cannot remain in sin after we know better. We cannot keep rejecting His communication through His Spirit and His Word and being disobedient, and expect to enter the Kingdom. ***Here are the Scriptures to prove what I have said above:***

#### Hosea 4:6

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me. Because you have forgotten the law of your Elohim, I also will forget your children.”

#### Matthew 6:15

If we cannot lose our salvation, then what about this statement: “If you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” It doesn’t say unless you are saved/born again. If our sins aren’t forgiven because we did not forgive, then we cannot enter the Kingdom.

#### Hebrews 6:4-6

“For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of Elohim and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of Elohim to their own harm and holding Him up to contempt.”

#### Matthew 7:21-23

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to Me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you workers of lawlessness.’ ”

#### 2 Peter 2:20-22

“For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Master and Savior Yahushua Messiah, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. What the true proverb says has happened to them: “The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire.” “

### Ezekiel 18:24-26

“But when a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice and does the same abominations that the wicked person does, shall he live? None of the righteous deeds that he has done shall be remembered; for the treachery of which he is guilty and the sin he has committed, for them he shall die. “Yet you say, ‘The way of Yahuweh is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die.”

### 2 Timothy 2:11-12

“The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with Him, we will also live with Him; if we endure, we will also reign with Him; if we deny Him, He also will deny us;”

### Hebrews 10:26-28

“For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses.”

### 1 John 2:3-4

“And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. Whoever says “I know Him” but does not keep His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in Him,…”

### Romans 11:22

“Note then the kindness and the severity of Elohim: severity toward those who have fallen, but Elohim's kindness to you, provided you continue in His kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off.”

### Romans 2:6-8

“He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, He will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.”

### Exodus 32:33

“But Yahuweh said to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot out of My book.” ”

### Matthew 24:13

“But the one who endures to the end will be saved.”

### Matthew 24:24-25

“For false messiahs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.”

### Revelation 3:5

“He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.”

### Revelation 22:19

“And if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, Elohim will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.”

### John 15:2

“Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit He

prunes, that it may bear more fruit.”

John 6:39

“And this is the will of Him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that He has given Me, but raise it up on the last day.”

1 Corinthians 9:27

“But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.” (Paul/Shaul said)

Colossians 1:21-23

“And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, He has now reconciled in His body of flesh by His death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before Him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul (Shaul), became a minister.”

We enter a covenant with Him when we repent of our sins, and ask Him to forgive our sins through His Son/belief in His Son dying for our sins and being resurrected. Every time you step outside the covenant, you open yourself to the penalty of the law of sin and death! I will go further and say this...I believe He revealed to me that if we truly BELIEVE then we OBEY. Therefore, when we disobey rebelliously (not unintentional), we really don't believe and are therefore, not saved. See Hebrews 3:7-19.

When I read Hebrews 6 after being truly born again, after I learned about the pagan traditions of man and teachings not in the Word that have been passed down through the church, tears flowed down my face at the realization of my repeated sin and rebellion. He revealed to me that it means we cannot sin intentionally over and over and be atoned for after we already are atoned through Messiah's sacrifice for our sins when we say we believe the first time. Most teach that Hebrews 6 is talking about if you renounce Him...completely renounce belief in Him and His Son.

I believe He showed me that Hebrews 6 applies to everyone ***once you understand that you have to keep the covenant to keep your salvation.*** You receive your salvation as a gift, you keep it with obedience. Until you are aware of this and truth is revealed, I believe He has much mercy on us all. I also believe He revealed that it comes down to the intentions of the heart. If our heart is for Father and we want to follow His ways and know Him, and we have a love for truth and not sin, we aren't going to keep sinning intentionally. And when sin is revealed, we are quick to repent as King David was. This is why He has mercy before full truth is revealed...because He can see our heart is not for sin, our heart is for doing good and turning away from sin! (See Appendix A at the end for more on this.)

I am not saying we are saved by keeping the commandments. I am saying that once forgiven, we cannot keep crucifying Messiah again and again to atone for our sins on purpose. When we sin unintentionally, we repent and He forgives us in His grace and mercy because we repent once we know. Our salvation is a gift but we can refuse the gift and turn away from the gift! If we refuse it by unbelief, rebellious disobedience and/or renouncing Him, then we can “fall away” or “lose” our salvation. ***This is why we walk out our salvation with fear and trembling.*** This is why we stay in His Word to be renewed continuously so as NOT to be a servant to sin. We will be sharing much more on this topic in Derek's book. He has received so much revelation from the Spirit through hours of immersion in the Word and prayer for things not easily understood. For over a year now, he

has been asking for revelation and is now in the final stages before typing it all together. Please pray for the book's completion and for Abba to help and open the eyes of many through His revelations.

Now, let's look at Romans 8:1. Most people only quote the first half of the verse because the NIV Version left off the last half of it so that people would be deceived... (I have put here verses 2-5 after so that you can fully understand what this passage is saying)

*“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Messiah Yahushua, **who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.** For the law of the Spirit of life in Messiah hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, Yahuweh Elohim sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.”*

Please read the whole of Romans 8. Basically this passage tells you right up front, there is no condemnation **IF you walk after the Spirit** (led by the Spirit) and are not led or walk after the flesh (your mind, emotions, old man/nature, what the enemy tells you to be true). This means that if you are NOT being led by the Spirit and you allow the enemy to influence you, tempt you and you sin as a result, you are NOT free from condemnation, you are NOT free from the law of sin and death!

Let those who have the eyes to see, see and those who have the ears to hear, hear!

The passage keeps going and tells you, that you either follow the Spirit of Elohim or you are following the spirit of Satan. **You cannot have two masters.** The fruit of following His Spirit is that you have conquered intentional sin, are conquering unintentional sins, you are following His commandments and feasts because you want to, because they are written on/in your heart! That is what He meant by circumcising our hearts to give us a love for His commandments. When we believe in Messiah and what He did for us, and then we start our journey of sanctification and purification (being set apart unto Him), He gives us a love for all He loves! We listen to His voice and obey! Obedience is the CONDITION to our receiving blessings instead of curses, to choosing life instead of death, to having His power over the law of sin and death instead of being under it, and to receiving healing or maintaining our health instead of having diseases in our bodies! (see Exodus 15:26; Deuteronomy 11:26-29, 28, and 30:19-20; 1 Samuel 15:22-23)

Henry Wright says it well, “Much of the church body today is trying to receive from Elohim through prayers and petitions, but they are not in fellowship; they are not in obedience. Yahushua said loving Him involved obeying Him: “If ye love me, keep my commandments.” John 14:15 Fellowship with Elohim involves being obedient to Him, not out of “Phariseism” or legalism, but out of a heart that wants to know and be in fellowship with Elohim by faith!”

We will never be a NEW PERSON in Him or truly be in fellowship with Him if we don't continually “renew ourselves with the washing of the water by the Word.” (Ephesians 4:23 and 5:26...See also 2 Corinthians 4:16 and Colossians 3:10)

Furthermore, to mature in our walk with Him, we have to know good AND know EVIL, so that we know what is of Elohim versus what is of Satan and his dark forces. This is called discernment. You develop discernment as you study His Word and know Him, know His voice so that you can distinguish His Voice from the voice of the enemy.

A dear family member passed a little paper to me, which beautifully describes how to distinguish the voices. I will summarize this below so you too can use the Word of Elohim against the enemy when he tries to pass off his voice for our Father's voice! This has been adapted from an out-of-print book titled "Come With Me":

"Lucifer and his dark forces/spirits speak to us through an accusing, nagging and mocking tone, which generates fear and causes confusion. He is vague and generates an overall sense of guilt as if everything is wrong and hopeless. The enemy is discouraging and attacks your self-confidence (tells you that you are weak/worthless). He brings up the past including replaying your sin/guilt/shame and reminding you of your poor choices. Satan produces feelings that Elohim has rejected you as unworthy or not set-apart (unholy), and sees you as a miserable sinner. He gives suggestions that cause you to withdraw from others. Last, he is negative and tells you the horrible way you feel is real and the way it is. All of the above is condemnation by the enemy and we have the power to stop it with His Word! See Ephesians 6.

Father and His Spirit convict us when needed and speaks to us through a gentle, loving, imploring, and urging tone to return to Him. When He is specific and lets you know what specific action He wants you to take in response to sin; freedom follows. He encourages you by showing you that you can rely on His Power, not your strength. He releases you from your past including that your sins are forgiven. He attracts you by generating an expectation of kindness, love and a new beginning with His help. He draws you into fellowship with Him and others of His sending...those who come with His love and nature. He speaks of His unchanging nature and steadfast love. He is truthful by stating the facts about you and Elohim."

A relationship with Father, through His Son and being filled with Father's Spirit is what is missing in most believers today. Without it, we are separated from Elohim and all He has and wants for us. Don't look to anyone on this earth for answers. Look to Him, to His Word, and listen for His voice! Then, you will truly be free! Then, we also need to know and understand that the enemy speaks to our spirits from our soul just as Father does. When we recognize the enemy versus Father's voice, and we rebuke the enemy quickly with Scripture, we avoid these "thoughts" becoming apart of us like it is apart of our normal make up, and we avoid sin instead of sinning because of it. "Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind..." Romans 12:2 Break generational curses off of you and your family. These curses are from spirits. Understand that He told us that He will pass down curses up to 4 generations through the fathers. See Exodus 20:5

Read Matthew through Jude again. Get and read Henry Wright's "A More Excellent Way to Be in Health" to understand how the enemy has kept us, you and so many in bondage to him rather than in freedom with Elohim! I don't agree with everything in Wright's book, but I do agree with all he says about diseases and why we have them in our bodies. Wright's book has changed my life and it is in the process of changing many others. I personally have been healed as a result of this book and will be sharing testimonies of His miracles in my life and the lives of many others in the near future. As with anything you read, ask His Spirit to guide you and show you what He wants to teach you through the knowledge you gain!

**Please note:** I/We don't have all the answers nor do we ever want to cause anyone to stumble. Please go before Him, seek His Truth, love, mercy and grace. Ask Him to search you (Psalm 51). Know that His love and mercy are at levels we, as humans, will never fully understand until we stand before Him. It is okay to question your salvation if you haven't changed from your "old person" to a "new" person in Him or have repeated sin in your life. However, if you desire to live for Him, to walk in His ways, to do His work, to keep His commandments and to truly know Him personally, you have not "lost" your salvation or turned away. He will not and has not forsaken you! If you were lost to Him,

you would not have those desires...you wouldn't care anymore or He would send you delusion as it says in His Word. We have all taken advantage of His love, mercy in the past. We have all failed Him and fallen short. He knows and meets us where we are as long as we sincerely desire to change and long to be blameless before Him. Repent and weep before Him. "Go and sin no more" on known sins, and do not break His commandments. Realize we all allow the enemy to deceive us at times (turn thoughts into actions) and sin in rashness or the heat of the moment as we walk out our salvation. He is just to forgive us as we recognize and repent for these sins. Remember—if you have the desire to know Him, are seeking Him and want to be blameless before Him, He has a vessel He can work with and you are not lost to Him. Go forth and humbly walk out your salvation with fear and trembling AND THANKFULNESS!

We write this today out of a heart-felt love for our brothers and sisters in Elohim! We want everyone to defeat the enemy, defeat/overcome sin, and truly KNOW Him so that none of us hear "I never knew you, depart from Me..." (Matthew 7:23)

*"In this the love of Elohim (God) was made manifest among us, that Elohim sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we have loved Elohim but that He loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if Elohim so loved us, we also ought to love one another."* 1 John 4:9-11

*"Therefore as you have received Messiah Yahushua, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude."* Colossians 2:6-7

*"I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me."* Proverbs 8:17

Be sure to read Appendix A below. It is a comment/question from a fellow believer regarding how to know when you have "lost" your salvation, and our response.

**Seek Him and you will find Him! Listen and you will hear His voice!!**

With much shalom and love,  
Rivkah

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#### Appendix A:

A Comment/Question from a dear believer, received after the study above was written but before posting it (His timing is perfect!)

Our response, we pray, will encourage and restore hope to all...to restore all back home to Him!

Comment/Question...

Shalom to you both,

*"I thank Yahuah for you both and for Yedidah for being such a blessing to me. (Yedidah's work has blessed me many years.) I would like to ask you to pray for me. I am struggling and to be honest I am not sure where I am at with Yahuah and Yahushua. I see myself going backwards and fear of not being able to return. **When does one know when they have become lost for good?** I desire to*

*repent and be right but my heart seems to become numb. When I say I desire to repent, I have been repenting with many tears but I must be honest in that I have always had trouble letting go of guilt and perhaps accepting forgiveness if that makes sense. I am guilty of fear and know it has made me disobedient (I mean it was through fear I disobeyed and understand that) and now I desire to know if it has cost me my salvation which I know had been true. I cannot find His presence any longer and I grieve. Thank you for listening and considering my request for prayer. It is not easy to confess this but I would do anything to find my way back. Shalom. I seek truth most of all. I don't have anyone in my life that believes like me; it has always been Elohim and me....I cannot bear to lose Them but fear I have. I just want the truth no matter what that truth may be. Thank you."*

Our response...

We are so glad that you had the courage to say what most only keep hidden in their heart. We too, have fallen from His grace and backslid in our lives about 4-5 years ago...before the current calling on our lives. After much grief, despair, guilt, self-hatred/unforgiveness of our own sins, and repentance filled with tears and agony, we slowly defeated the enemies lies and are where we are today with His grace, mercy, forgiveness, compassion, and love. The key is your heart. If you have a heart to repent and do sincerely repent (which you do as stated above), if you still long for a relationship with Him, and are still seeking Truth at all cost, then you have not lost your salvation! Those whose minds are seared and therefore do not repent or have a desire to repent, nor have a desire for a new/changed heart and spirit, those are the ones lost. An example in Scripture is King Saul. When confronted with his sin, he did not repent. He justified his sin and was haughty before Him. That is why Father's Presence/Spirit left him.

The guilt you have and not forgiving yourself (the hardest person to forgive is often ourselves) along with not "feeling" His presence is a lie from the enemy! He has held many believers captive for years because of guilt, shame, unforgiveness of self, self-hatred, and more. Please do not give up! When we have these "feelings" and the enemy uses them to his advantage, we are sinning in that we are allowing the voice of the enemy to be heard over His voice. We can combat these lies plus hear His voice through washing ourselves with the water of the Word. By immersing yourself in the promises in His Word and using them against the enemy every time the "voices" speak in your head, you will OVERCOME! The only fear that is not sin, is a fear of Yahuweh! We like to explain the "healthy" fear this way...when you are a child and you are thinking of lying to someone, most children that are disciplined by the parents think twice and decide not to lie because of the consequence of the "rod". This is how we need to have a fear of Him. A fear of losing His Presence and a fear of not pleasing Him should keep us from defiant sin (for example, breaking the commandments knowing it is wrong). Because you have a fear of losing Him, losing His Presence, and not keeping your salvation, you haven't lost your salvation and that fear is not sin! The fear that is a sin is a fear of anything that becomes more important than Him (a fear of something other than Him). We are to walk out our salvation (grow mature in His Word, nature, ways, and turn away from sin as it is revealed to us) with fear and trembling. This means exactly what you have stated...a fear of losing Him, His Presence and our eternal life. We should never take it for granted. This fear keeps us humble and with a contrite heart. (Psalm 51)

Many of us are not "feeling" His Presence like we used to. Some of this is due to the backsliding. As Scripture tells us, what we lose when we sin after salvation is the "joy of our salvation." It doesn't mean it is a permanent loss. We believe He will restore the loss as you let go of the guilt and unforgiveness of yourself as we spoke of above (Psalm 51:12). We highly recommend the book, "A

More Excellent Way to Be in Health” by Henry Wright. This book will help you let go of all strongholds of the enemy!

As we (you and us) keep our humility knowing we are undeserving, but also continue in gratefulness, full of joyful praise for and to Him, His joy will return in our spirits. We are just recently receiving a return of His joy deep in our spirits! Keep persevering...endure to the end! You are on the right path!! We leave you with two excerpts that we opened to the morning we read your question. We believe these are for you and for all those with this same question...

Psalm 34 verses from Tehillim (read the whole Psalm)

V5-8 “I sought out Yahuweh and He answered me, and from all my terrors He delivered me. All who looked to Him became radiant, and their faces will not be shamed. This poor man calls and Yahuweh hears – and from all his troubles He saved him. The angel of Yahuweh encamps around His reverent ones and he releases (*saves*) them.” V19 “Yahuweh is close to the brokenhearted; and those crushed in spirit, He saves.”

“Jesus Calling” Devotional February 22

“You need Me every moment. Your awareness of your constant need for Me is your greatest strength. Your neediness, properly handled, is a link to My Presence. However, there are pitfalls that you must be on guard against: self-pity, self-preoccupation, giving up. Your inadequacy presents you with a continual choice—deep dependence on Me or despair. The emptiness you feel within will be filled either with problems or with My Presence. Make Me central in your consciousness by praying continually: simple, short prayers flowing out of the present moment. Use My Name liberally, to remind you of My Presence. Keep on asking and you will receive, so that your gladness may be full and complete. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 and John 16:24”

**We pray this brings His peace that passes all understanding (Philippians 4:7).**

**Shalom and joy to you as we all continue on our journey back home!**

**Derek and Rivkah**