**TRAVAILING PRAYER THAT BIRTHS YAHUWAH’S WILL**

Article taken from Michael Howard’s book, *True Travail -* c. 2011

 Please be sure to read: “Travailing Prayer That Interlocks With the Heart of Abba Yahuwah”/Mikvah of the Heart of Elohim. This will be podcasted as Podcast CCXXXXI.

This article will be podcasted as Podcast CCXXXXII – both posted under ‘Audio Teachings,” September 9, 2020.

 A have gotten to know a dear lady who has been on my website subscription list for several years through our e-mail and regular mail correspondence. Knowing that I am a prophetic intercessor and had been in Africa months at a time - 7 times in 6 years in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania - she sent to me a book by Michael Howard entitled *Tales of an African Intercessor*, an autobiography telling how Abba led him into intercession for nations in Africa. Later, she sent me four other books by him. About a month ago, she asked me if there were any other of his books I’d like to have. I read the list she sent and picked out two: *True Travail* was one of them.

 Last week I got the two books. I opened the one on travail, an 80-page booklet, and flipped through the chapters. The next-to-last chapter was titled “Practical Travail.” I read a couple of sentences in it, and all of a sudden, the Spirit of Yahuwah rose up from my spirit and I went into travailing prayer with the “oooooooo” wailing that comes when the doctor says to a woman delivering her baby by natural childbirth - “PUSH.”

 Don’t forget what Yahushua said in **John 7:38-39**: “**Out of your belly shall flow rivers of living water. This He spoke of the Spirit…”**

 What did I read that caused that? Nothing particular… I don’t remember. But I do remember the anointing of the Spirit coming off the pages of the book!

 This is totally opposite of religion or emotions of the soul (mind, emotions, will). This is strictly us being a vessel though which the Spirit of Yahuwah can cry and wail for His will to be done. Yahuwah is a spirit. He is THE SPIRIT. No little white doves! That came from Nimrod’s mother-wife Semaramis’ tale of how she was impregnated with his son, Tammuz, the little sun god of Nimrod. The enemy counterfeits, creating deceptions.

 **Romans 8:22-23, 26-27**: “And we know that all creation groans together and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. And not only so, but we ourselves who have the first-fruits of the Spirit also groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of the body…And in the same way, the Spirit does help our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for, but **the Spirit Himself pleads our case for us with groanings unutterable.** And He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the set-apart ones according to the will of Yahuwah.”

 I am going to give you some quotes from this book by Michael Howard. He was from a British family but he and his family lived in Africa. Yahuwah called him to pray, travail, intercede, and open doors for the Good News to reach nations of Africa, so that millions might be gloriously born again.

 The training of an intercessor is strenuous. Much discipline is needed so that the mind immediately says “yes sir,” and does what the Master instructs him to do. The prayer, the intercession, along with times of travail, is very intense. However, the result is miracles – doors that were shut tight by communist countries, or witch doctors, of occult/pagan religions, suddenly came open to allow teams to go in and share the good news in villages, cities, and open-air “crusades”/conventions. People were saved, delivered from demons, healed in body and mind, and many gave their lives to spread the Good News of salvation.

 In my 7-extended visits to Africa, I lived with the people in their homes. I ministered in their churches. I went places with them, riding on the back of bicycles, or in buses into the “bush” of the Serengeti Plain. I almost died of malaria in Tanzania in 1997, but learned that I didn’t need to even know my own name – all I needed was to hear Him in my spirit and I could preach, propped up with pillows that is.

 Trailing prayer is when the Spirit Himself moves through your body and comes out of your mouth with His wailing. Unutterable wailing … no words, just groans like a woman in child birth. I’ve had 4 children, 2 by natural childbirth, so I know what that feels like. **If ever there was a time when we needed to give Him right to travail through us so His “will is be done on earth as it is in heaven,” it is now**.

 In deep worship, in high praise, in travail, in times of total submission to Him so that He takes over and moves through us to receive, to be in His Presence, or to minister to others, He brings forth His gifts.

 My main gifting in Africa was to bring people into the baptism of the Spirit and teach them practical life in the Spirit. Oh how easily they receive because of their high-faith childlike nature. They received healing, deliverance from demons, and the Presence of Yahuwah. However, I experienced this also in Mexico, Colombia, South America, and among the Navajo Indians.

 Here are quotes from Michael Howard’s book. I recommend that you get the book!

 “The word `travail’ both in the Hebrew and the Greek literally means to `birth forth,’ to ‘bear young,’ `to deliver.’ Its outworking can be described as “sorrow,” “toil,” “wither in pain,” “grieve,” “moan” “groan,” and even “pant.” Yet, as we mothers know, as soon as the baby is born, there is only joy. A mother instantly forgets the pain totally. She holds a new life in her arms.

 The apostle Sha’ul talked about travailing in prayer for the salvation of the people to whom he was sent by the Spirit to speak the Good News. Yet, later on, because of their carnality and backsliding, he sadly said he was having to travail again for them.”

 **Galatians 4:19**: “Put on Messiah…until Messiah be formed in you…my little children, of whom I travail in birth again, until Messiah be formed in you.”

 Michael Howard says this: “If we look at the Apostle Paul’s entire thrust of all his epistles to various assemblies, it centers around one focal theme, namely `Grow up!’

Mothers travail to bring forth a child, but often when that child is a teenager or an adult, they become wayward and leave their faith, and are in danger of hell-fire. Thus, the mother travails again in prayer for her child’s salvation.

 When a woman has a baby, often she sweats profusely as she pushes. She grows very weak and tired from the exertion. Yet, because the baby has to also fight its way through the birth canal, its mind is stronger and its body stronger and it has more of a chance to survive what comes its way. Making things easy for the mother or the baby in child birth, just to make things easy, is detrimental to the baby. I do understand the need for C-sections at times, but only in case of emergency. The more we embrace the opportunities given to us during very hard times, the stronger our mind and spirit become. The Word says that we must overcome and endure to the end in order to be saved.

 Howard: “Even as He brooded over the waters at creation waiting for the Word to come forth, so He broods over the waters of the people of earth today looking for those whose heart are perfects towards the Lord and who will line up with the Word. When that happens, there is an explosion of life as Spirit and Word come together. All the Blessed Holy Spirit needs is an agent through whom he is able to operate. That agent is the yielded surrendered, and obedient, a willing believer who, like Mary, is ready to submit in humility and simply say `be it done unto me according to Your Word.’ Sadly there are very few who are willing to take up the challenge for to do will demand death to self in all self’s passions, attention-seeking and personal desire for glory … It is all a question of standing before the Lord and pleading the cause with Go and Him alone. The ministry of intercession and travail is not about the devil and demons, but of moving the heart of Almighty God with `groanings that cannot be uttered.’ When mortal man is able to prevail upon the lord through travail, then the Lord willingly moves heaven and earth to accomplish His righteous purposes. He is able to work through the believer to accomplish God’s will for the nations.

 The blessed Holy Spirit, searching the deep intents of the heart and exposing every attitude and corrupt motive, brings the individual – who is serious with God – to the end of self through many processes. The more that a believer dies to self, the easier it becomes to die,” (*i.e. die to selfish-desires and submit to Yahuwah’s will*). The element that causes us not to want to die to self is nothing more than pride.”

 Though not personal spiritual warfare, travail of the Spirit pushes back the enemy from what Yahuwah wants done. Thus, it frees us also of the works of the enemy.

 “To understand how the Blessed Holy Spirit operates in travail, we have to go to that glorious and exciting day of Pentecost and understand exactly what happened and what still happens when an individual believer receives the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in another tongue, of angels, or earth languages.

 …Without speaking, the Holy Spirit can never give the `utterance.’ So, in effect, all the believer is required to do is open his, or her, mouth and start to speak by obedience and in accordance with the Word of the Lord. The person who is not willing to `step over the edge,’ so to speak, and `walk on the water’ by opening their mouth and uttering the first syllables will never receive the baptism of the blessed Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking other languages. I have prayed for so many westerners who allow their thinking and intellect to get in the way of receiving this amazing blessing. They sit with mouth tightly shut, or keep pleading in English, `bless me Lord…’ No one can speak two different languages at the same time…So, then, quite simply, I open my mouth and utter the first syllable of something saying `ahhhhhh’ …and begin to speak. All of this happens simultaneously. In third world countries I have never experienced any problem with simple natives receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. This is because they simply listen to and obey the instruction and step out in faith.”

 Clarification: To receive the Spirit initially, we must will to cooperate and begin the utterance process if we have to, as Howard says above. However, with travail, He comes on those who are already baptized in the Spirit as He wills - for He dwells within. Travail cannot be prompted, or primed, or initiated, by us – it is a sovereign decision by the Spirit of Yahuwah as He trusts us and needs us to be a vessel for Him to move through.

 I understand brother Howards frustration. In Africa, whenever I was going to have a week of meetings where people received the Spirit, I spent days teaching them about the Spirit from the Word to ground them in who He is and what He wants to do within us. Often times people had to be delivered from demons before they could be filled with the Spirit. I can say the exact same words of frustration that brother Howard said about those in western culture, whose minds won’t shut down in order to receive anything from Him. However, in nations where there is simple child-like faith, they don’t just receive the baptism into the Spirit, but also deliverance from demons, healings, prophecy, and all sorts of miraculous miracles at the same time. They understand how to live out of their re-born spirit, not their mind. They’re intelligent people, but when it comes to things of the spirit, they put away things of the intellect.

 Oh, what joy to see the little children falling under the power of the Spirit and rising up filled with the Spirit, and declaring “I’m going to preach the Gospel.” This is why Satan is focusing his attacks of fragmenting the minds of children, destroying their bodies and their innocence and purity in pedophilia, torturing and sacrificing them to his honor - because they touch the heart of Yahuwah and miracles happen.

 **Matthew 18:1-4** is not comprehended by many with a western intellectual mind. But it clearly says that unless we turn and become as little children, we shall in no way enter the Kingdom of heaven. “The just shall live by his faith.” (**Habakkuk 2.**)

 Having the Spirit free to speak to us and through us in many ways is to truly be free!

Brother Howard says, page 21: “**The same Blessed Holy Spirit who gives utterance through a yielded tongue is the One who also does the travailing through a yielded body**. It is significant for us to understand that in the natural birthing process, labor pains are entirely INVOLUNTARY actions. There is no amount of personal thought, will power, exertion, effort, or striving, that will cause them either to come or leave. When the body determines that it is time for the baby to move out, the mother’s body will go into ejection mode and nothing can stop the procedure. It is hard, messy, humiliating, and painful, leaving the mother exhausted. The same situation and conditions accompany the intercessor who moves into TRUE TRAVAIL.”

 Jeremiah speaks a lot about travail. The prophets understood it. The prophets understood far more about the ways of Yahuwah than almost anyone today in Greco-Roman pagan culture, which has robbed us of the simplicity of being in Yahuwah’s realm. More than ever, these things show us that the Spirit dwells behind our naval in the area of the womb in a woman - in the stomach area in general. As a woman pushes down in childbirth, so the Spirit pushes down as He wails through us.

 After a true new birth, following repentance, during which the Spirit does 40 things sovereignly to take us out of the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of Light, we must ask Messiah to baptize us into the Spirit of Yahuwah – immerse us, put us under - so that we are filled inside and covered outside with His Presence. It is like when He came over the Ark of the Covenant in **I Kings 8**. The Spirit of Yahuwah dwelt over the Ark after Solomon prayed and asked Him to come. In like manner, He wants to dwell within our re-born spirit as His temple. **I Corinthians 6:20-21**: “Don’t you know that your body is the temple of the Set-Apart Spirit?”

 We must never try to “work Him up” by soulish emotions. When we enter His Presence, we never know when He will begin moving upward through us and begin wailing out of our mouth. He needs our vocal cords and our mouth. Thus, we must never shut Him down by telling Him to stop. He is Yahuwah – the Father, Shaddai, Elyon – not some religious theology to manipulate. At our Prayer Center, as we worship, His Presence moves in and we can feel Him tangibly. It’s not our imagination, even new people have said they could feel Him. As you spend time with Him, you will feel His Presence more and more right where you are in your own house!

 If you really want to be a part of what He is doing, you must allow Him to put His will within you as you become the womb for the nurturing and birthing of His will. As you travail, His will is birthed into the earth. By this means, nations, individuals, and circumstances are turned towards Him. He brings great harvests of souls because of it - tens of thousands are born into eternal life.

 How badly do you want to know Yahuwah and Yahushua? It starts with submitting your will to Yahuwah with no holding back. “Your will be done Yahuwah, on earth as it is in heaven.”

 Page 31-32, chapter 5: “What Travail Involves”: “…there can be no travail without a burden and that burden must come from the Lord. The intercessor carries the burden to his bosom in the same way a woman carries her baby. **We simply have to be heavy, or `pregnant,’ with the will of the Father**…**travail requires super human effort because it involves a supernatural person looking for extra-ordinary results**. It is important to note that no matter how strenuous the travail has been, there is always a feeling of spiritual fulfillment and elevation afterwards… This is a work of God in a vessel that has been ordained of Him for this purpose. The same glory appears on the face of a person who has come out of the spiritual birthing room because the same reactions have taken place.” “It does not matter the reason for the travail for travail is travail. In other words, it is the Spirit’s business…**We are simply the channel for Him to cry through to birth His will.”**

Remember, the Spirit is Yahuwah Himself (**II Corinthians 3:17-18**)

 In these last days, the Bride is travailing with the Spirit “Come Yahushua Come!” Tragically, most so-called believers don’t want Him to come and mess up their plans for their lives, or the lives of their children. They are not preparing their children or grandchildren to receive the King of Kings – they’re filling their heads with “what will be your Major in college next year?” They are not preparing their children for martyrdom – they’re filling their children’s heads with lollypops, cotton candy, and Disneyland’s “you shall be as gods.”

 With my last child. I was really big, because she was 9 pounds 4 oz. I was a speck overdue and had a slight back ache, but that was all. I was cutting a chocolate pie to serve for desert that May 31st about 8:00 PM. All of a sudden, sharp pains started and continued one on top of the other. I was rushed to the hospital and prepped as they got hold of the doctor who took his time speeding to the hospital in his sport’s car. She was born about 11:00PM. While lying on the gurney waiting for the doctor to finish watching the Sunday night mystery movie, I told the nurses corny jokes. They laughed. OH well… I had a wonderful natural childbirth. Dr. Robinson was a great guy. He came running in just in time to grab her as she slid out. Oh, how we mothers laugh now, but the experiences were usually not so laughable at the time.

 Travail is like having a baby – one minute all is normal, the next minute He begins to move through us. Of course, that is because we are already pregnant with His will! He doesn’t just come on a person who is carnal of nature or too busy about their own business. His vessels know Him, so travail is nothing spooky. We want Him to move through us so that what we are pregnant with in the spirit, is birthed. I have some things now that I am very pregnant with in the spirit to do with the time before Messiah’s return, and the things He has shown me about my future work for Him.

 We can be sitting in His Presence, reading the Word, or just relaxing, and all of a sudden He rises within our spirit and begins travailing through us. It doesn’t have to be long, or dramatic. It doesn’t hurt/no pain, just the strength of His power drains our strength. We cry, we get loud with howling our ooooooooo, but when it is over, we know something wonderful has been birthed through us of eternal value. We feel the relief! We feel the accomplishment. We feel peace and joy.

 Every baby has eternal value. As it is in the natural, so in the spiritual. He births through us what is eternal. “`Shall I bring to the time of birth, and not cause delivery?’ says the LORD. `Shall I who cause delivery shut up *the womb?’* says your God. No, what He puts in us to birth, He will birth!
 I was once in a prayer room at my church, lying on my back, hands in the air, tears running down my face in the Presence of Yahuwah as I prayed. I looked down and saw light beams coming out of my spirit area, behind the naval - no surprise. A lady who was also praying came over and lightly put her hand on my stomach. She said, “I see light beams coming out of your spirit.” Yes, we are the bearers of light.

 Did you know that His Light is inside of you if He is inside of you? It is not just in the spirit-realm, but can manifest so that people see it in your joy.

 Michael Howard wrote two chapters of his book about Yahushua’s travail for us in the Garden of Gethsemane, and on the tree in His death. He goes into the details of the medical analysis of the “crucifixion.” When you realize what our Master went through to birth salvation for us, then you know what it means: “You are your own, you were are bought with a price.” (**I Corinthians 6**)

 It says in **Isaiah 53:11** that Yahuwah saw the “travail of His soul” and was satisfied that the payment for our sin was accomplished. Yahushua spent a lifetime of travail in prayer, in intercession, in giving His life for us. We can’t take the gift of salvation unless we repent of all sin, turn from it, and give our lives to follow our Master in obedience and submission. What He says we do, for He never says anything outside of His Father’s will. He told His disciples as He was about to ascend to wait in Jerusalem for the outpouring of the Spirit. They waited 10 days (**Acts 1-2**). Then sovereignly as they came together in unity, in praise, and fellowship, Messiah baptized them with the Spirit of Yahuwah. We must unify with Yahuwah’s Spirit to receive Him, and His gifts.

 On page 69, Michael Howard wrote out the words to the old hymn: “When I survey the Wonderous Cross”: “Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small. Love so amazing, so Divine, DEMANDS MY SOUL, MY LIFE, MY ALL.”

 Howard wrote: “The price that Christ paid absolutely demands total and utter allegiance, love, and commitment. A manifested son is willing to pay any price for the glory of the Lord. This position just does not happen. It comes through the process of travail.”

 He speaks of the passage of scripture about the manifestation of the sons of Yahuwah in **Romans 8**, how all of creation groans, waiting for these true sons to arise. This is the “few.” This is the end-time “first fruits” remnant of **Daniel 11:32,**

 On page 74, in the chapter on “Practical Travail,” Michael Howard listed aspects of the birthing process: GROANING, SIGHING, WEEPING, PAIN, PANTING, CRYING OUT, HOWLING, WAILING, ANGUISH, SORROW.” These are typical natural child birth reactions. The Spirit is easy on us, yet because He is all powerful Shaddai, His power can be very strong, and thus we cry out, or cry deeply, knowing that what He is doing through us is eternal. He has to trust us to yield to Him. He won’t just come on a person and scare them half to death. He only works with those He knows and who know Him. But, oh the now-rewards of His Presence and His eternal rewards!

 I find that travailing prayer is most wonderful. The mind is totally PASSIVE, AT REST, AT PEACE. There is no fear – just a knowing that something is being birthed through our Spirit that is good, even His judgment on the wicked.

 On pages 75-79 he talks about some of his travail experiences. He said at one point, all he could cry out was “Oh Father, Father, Father, Father…” over and over. I have cried that out many times, and Oh how His Presence comes! “How often, you might ask, does a person travail?” His answer “The more you are obedient to the Blessed Holy Spirit, the more you will travail, even on a daily basis. It is all about my willingness to be yielded to the great unseen conductor.”

 When I am in travail, most often I am on the floor with head to the ground, knees tucked up underneath me at times, or just sitting in a chair and feeling the birthing from my stomach area. As He moves through us, we feel clean and pure.

 On page 78-79, in telling of one of his experiences, he tells what the dance of Miriam in **Exodus 15** was really about. “After 30 or more minutes of this howling, I started to perform a dance, moving round and round in a circle. I was shouting, chanting, howling and stomping. This was the kind of dance that Miriam and her women did on the banks of he Red Sea. How do I know? I read the word carefully and prophetically. Their dance was not only of victory but of great travail to open the highway in the spirit directing them to the land of Canaan. They were putting to flight all the spiritual armies of the aliens and bringing terrible fear to the nation of Canaan who were still as a stone…The more that I danced, howled, shouted and stomped, the more I could feel the heavens opening and something deeply prophetic and profound take place. I did not need to know answers in the natural…**Let my boast be only in the Spirit who knows the mind and will of the Father and moves me accordingly**. The atmosphere was electrified with the Presence of the Lord. I was in His tangible manifested Presence and it was both scary and holy…When the Holy Spirit had completed travailing, He will quietly leave. Again, I collapsed exhausted but very, very complete and fulfilled and satisfied. When it is true travail., you can only experience such emotions and wholeness.”

 Give yourself to the Spirit of Yahuwah to transform you, teach you, guide you, comfort you, show you things to come, travail through you, speak in a heavenly language through you, or a language of a nation that needs to hear the Good News of salvation. Oh, the power, the authority, and the peace, when we have such a personal relationship with Yahuwah through our faith and obedience to His Son.

In His love, Yedidah - September 9, 2020