**Travailing PRAYER**

**Interlocking with the Heart of Abba Yahuwah**

 **I Kings 18:41-46**: “And Eliyahu said to Ahab, `Go up, eat and drink, because of the sound of the noise of rain.’ And Ahab went up to eat and drink. And Eliyahu went up to the top of Mount Carmel and he bowed down on the ground and put his face between his knees, and said to his servant, `Go up, please, look closely toward the sea.’ So he went up and looked closely and said, `not a speck.’ And seven times he (*Eliyahu*) said `Go again.’ And it came to be the seventh time that he (*the servant*) said `See, a little cloud as small as a man’s hand is coming up out of the sea!’ And he (*Eliyahu*) said, `Go up, say to Ahab, “hitch up and go down before the rain stops you.’ ” And in the meantime, it came to be that the heavens became black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy rain, while Ahab rode and went to Yisre’el/Jezreel. And the hand of Yahuwah was on Eliyahu. And he girded up his loins and ran ahead of Ahab to the entrance to Yisre’el.”

 I was asked by a friend in Canada to teach on travailing prayer. So here we go!

 Get yourself a map of modern Israel and find Mount Carmel above Haifa, northwest Israel near the Mediterranean Sea. Then find the town of Afula to the southeast in the interior of the north. A little south of Afula are the ruins of ancient Jezre’el in the Jezre’el Valley, the same one mentioned in Scriptures like **Hosea 1 and Revelation 16**, known also as the Valley of Megiddo/i.e. har Megiddo/Armageddon (Greek). The Valley runs from the Mount Carmel down to Beit Shean below Tiberias. It is considered the greatest battlefield of history.

 After killing Jezebel’s 350 prophets of Ba’al, Eliyahu ran all the way from the top of Carmel to Jezre’el, where the palace of Ahab and Jezebel sat just above the floor of the Valley of Jezre’el. That’s a long way to run! But, the Spirit empowered Eliyahu to run. I’ve been on the top of Mount Carmel right at the spot where Eliyahu travailed in prayer for rain after over 3 years of drought. Looking to the east from the top of Carmel, you can see all the way down the Jezre’el Valley clear to Mount Tabor, beyond Afula and the ruins of Jezre’el. Looking to the west you’d see the Mediterranean Sea.

 Read **I Kings 17-18**. Eliyahu was in a birthing position, squatting down--the ancient way that women had their babies. He was in “travailing prayer,” and Yahuwah answered him by sending rain. I’ve also been several times to the ruins of Jezre’el. To understand the importance of this valley past, present, and future to do with Messiah’s return, refer to: “Why Megiddo? Why the Jezre’el Valley?”/Use the search menu.

 **Ya’cob**/James **5:17-20**: “Eliyahu was a man with feelings like us, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain. And it did not rain for over three years...And he prayed again and the heaven gave rain and the land brought forth its fruit. Brothers if anyone among you goes astray from the truth and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the straying of his way shall save a life from death and cover a multitude of sins.”

 And what lesson do we have here? Eliyahu was in travailing prayer to reverse drought and bring rain so that trees and flowers and crops could grow. Through travail we can reverse the journey of a sinner from going along the road to hell, and turn them around so that they go the way of life and bear righteous fruit for eternity.

 **Galatians 4:19** “My little children, for whom I am travailing again, until Messiah be formed in you; even now I wish to be present with you …”

 The Apostle Sha’ul knew what it was like to allow the Spirit of Yahuwah to flow through His spirit as if birthing a baby, for it is in travail that we touch the heart of Elohim and interact with what is already on His heart to do. In travail, we feel the deep emotion of our loving Abba! He opens up within us to let us feel His heart.

 “Our Father who is in heaven, set-apart is Your Name. Your Kingdom come! Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven!” **We want His will done on earth as it is in heaven. Travailing prayer births His will into the earth!**

 From **Romans 8:22-27**: “For we know that all the creation groans together (*is travailing*) and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. And not only so, but even we ourselves who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, we ourselves also groan within ourselves eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. For in this expectation we are saved…and in the same way the Spirit helps our weaknesses, for we do not know what we should pray for, but the Spirit Himself pleads our case for us with groaning unutterable. And He (*Yahushua Messiah*) 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 Elohim.” (**Hebrews 4:14-16; I Timothy 2:5**)

 This passage in **Romans 8** describes travailing prayer, but also describes prayer in the Spirit, speaking in a prayer language of angels. In speaking in these tongues, the Spirit moves through us to pray His own will into the earth. Thus, by both means, travail and speaking in a prayer language--His gifts to us--we speak His will into the earth!

 **Yahuwah answers travailing prayer because it is not we who are doing the praying, but He Himself who prays through us with deep groaning!**

From Henry Gruver’s vision: **Chapter Three, Vision: THE POWER OF TRAVAIL** Bible School Days, 1961 or ’62 [From his book: Cross † Wise: *Visions of a Walker*]

**“My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,...”**

Galatians 4:19 (KJV)

 “The first time I experienced travailing in prayer was while I was still in Bible College. David Wilkerson had just seen Nicky Cruz come to the Lord from the street gangs of New York City; and they had come to Dallas to share about the new work of “Teen Challenge” that David Wilkerson was establishing. He had been learning, straight from the hands of the Holy Spirit about the power of travail that the Apostle Paul is speaking about in Galatians, Chapter Four. My mind could hardly fathom the thought that souls could be brought forth in such a manner as they described…But, as I heard David and Nicky share, I knew I had never experienced what they were talking about. Their testimonies continued to challenge me as I left the chapel service; and although I thought I had a vision for the salvation of souls, my spirit felt barren compared to the glimpse I had just received. When I got home, God gave me a vision of a group of us sitting on a big boulder beside a very small stream. Suddenly, in the vision, I began to cry out for an inner vision and an understanding of the value of a soul. As I cried, the scene opened up on a fuller scale and I could see the small stream being cut off. It looked as it would if you took a big knife and cut off a slice of the earth. From that view I

could see the small stream flowing towards a waterfall that took the stream’s water into the unseen deep. I could see the water turning into silver droplets as it fell off the waterfall into the darkness; and I heard screams of torment and fear coming from the drops as they hopelessly fell into the abyss. While I was witnessing this, my innermost being wrenched, I was groaning for those precious souls. I noticed, as I submitted myself to that intense intercession, the dam would rise up higher, cutting off the waters from falling into the dark emptiness. As the Spirit of God was stirring my heart, I continued groaning. I had never experienced such intense pressure on my diaphragm and my entire physical body before. Everything within me pushed to bring forth their salvation and keep them, and others, from dropping off into that eternal darkness. Each time I travailed, the dam rose a little higher, until we were all standing on the boulder with hands lifted up and the waters rising higher and higher until they flowed over the canyon, out across the earth. “And the armies which were in heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.”(**Revelation 19:14**, KJV) .

 Then I saw a glistening white castle with a golden pavement coming from it. Out from the castle grounds, along that golden path, came an array of the most beautiful white horses I had ever seen. I immediately thought of the Lord coming with His ten thousand, riding across the earth!” HalleluYah!

 Real “travailing prayer” is almost unknown in the nations of Western culture where materialism, intellectualism, carnality, and self-appeasement are substituted for life with the Spirit. Yet, for those who know the power that comes with submission to the Spirit of Yahuwah--the authority, wisdom, knowledge, gifts, and guidance--there is no life like it! The life of Henry Gruver is an example of what we can all be and if we just submit to His will over our will.

 Are we all called to do what Gruver does? Yes, in the sense that we have all been called to be filled with the Spirit and let Abba direct our lives. Abba directs us in our servant duties as He wills. If we are obedient, we move forward in our work for Him. Henry Gruver’s life has been a daily commitment to Abba under the authority of Yahuwah. In prayer walking and intercession, Abba has taken him on one adventure after another to share salvation, healing, deliverance, and the Word, with others. Abba has given him dreams and visions and miraculous experiences, even like the one I wrote about in “Trump Declares: `We’re Going to Mars,’ ” in which Gruver died and ascended into the second heaven to view the cosmos up close.

 We are all called to follow the **Acts 1:8** pattern. It is the normal life of a servant of Elohim! It is the **Deuteronomy 15:16-17** life. If there’s no hole in our ear, we’re not His. Even Messiah had a hole in His ear, from eternity. Messiah speaks in **Isaiah 50:5-7**.

 Because Henry Gruver has such child-like faith, his life has definitely been extraordinary. But, all the hidden ones are soon to come out of hiding, not out from under Abba’s talit, but from the places they have been nurtured and taught by the Spirit. [Refer to: “The Revealing of the Hidden Ones”/Mikvah of the Heart of Elohim]

 I used to go into travailing prayer, not a lot but whenever I was in deep prayer and the gifts of the Spirit were moving, especially in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Travailing prayer was common in the days of Evan Roberts, Smith Wigglesworth, John G. Lake, Charles Finny--the early days of the Pentecostal movement of the Spirit in many countries (early 1900s). The lukewarm shallowness of most American believers was manifesting openly by the 1960s. Now the normal things of the Spirit are mocked.

 One Sunday evening, I was greatly burdened for my children. After the service ended, most of the people got up and started chitchatting with others around the front of the church. I sought a private place but only found a place by the steps going up to the “podium.” I got down on my knees and began pouring out my heart to Abba. Without warning, His Spirit began travailing through me – groaning and crying out. The Spirit literally moves within our spirit and it feels like child birth. Of course there is no pain, but it is obvious that the Spirit dwells in the area of reproduction as it becomes a temple when one is truly baptized in the Spirit. (**I Corinthians 6:19-20**). He is the one groaning and crying and pressing on our spirit. It’s not spooky; He is gentle and tangible. Yet, all around me I was aware of people standing talking and laughing.

 Today, carnality reigns. Everyone thinks of himself as a god – except for the “few,” the remnant of Yahuwah’s children!

 Abba just impressed on me vividly a news story from years ago, in which a woman was giving birth to a baby on a busy street in downtown New York City. She’d tried to get to the hospital but couldn’t make it in time. All around her were people passing by, seeing her plight, yet no one stopped to help her. Is this not a perfect picture of the calloused and cold nature of today’s humanity? Similarly, all around me that night I church were believers laughing and talking while I was spiritually birthing a miracle of His love. Yes, this calloused and cold nature has become the nature of so many who profess to be believers. It is the nature of Satan’s world. All around are people dying in their sin, as I shared the vision of Lester Sumrall in “What About Billy Graham’s Passing?...” Yet, few care that the masses are falling into the flames of eternal Hell.

 2008: I was to speak one Shabbat morning at a congregation in Kentucky. From the front, I looked out on the people chattering and laughing about all sort of things of the carnal world, even weekly business. All of a sudden Abba’s Spirit came upon me. He was grieved; He was also angry. I went into travail, groaning, then speaking in tongues and praying, praising, and crying. No one even looked up. They stopped only when someone blew the shofar. Afterward, a few came up to me and thanked me for my “lecture.” But, one young man told me that Abba had led him there to hear me, and that I confirmed things to him. He thanked me. I came for that one man!

 The deep things of the Spirit are lost on modern man in general. Yet, in places of severe persecution believers are very “sober minded.” When they meet in China in secretly, they tell me that they have no time for talking about their families, the news, or anything of this world, for they know that at any minute they could be shot dead, beaten, or imprisoned, if found in worship or hearing the Bible read.

 The Spirit within us often moves through us like liquid fire. **Luke 3:16-18**: “Yochanan (John the baptizer) answered, saying to them all, `I indeed immerse you in water, but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal straps I am not worthy to loosen. He shall immerse you in the Set-Apart Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He shall thoroughly cleanse His threshing floor and gather the wheat into Hs storehouse, but the chaff He shall burn with unquenchable fire.’ And urging with many other words, he brought the Good News to the people.’ ” Yochanan, first cousin to Yahushua, was the rightful High Priest, just as Yahushua was the rightly King.

 **Acts 2**: Messiah gave His disciples the Spirit of His Abba. Nothing has changed since the book of *Acts*. Its lifestyle is the same for us. If we let Him burn the “chaff,” we’ll be gathered into the barns of Yahuwah when Messiah comes. (**Matthew 13!)**

 **Revelation 22:17**: “The Spirit and the Bride say `Come…’ ” Are our prayers for His coming not enough? Why do we have to join together with the Spirit of Yahuwah to call for Messiah to come? - Because His travailing within us brings the answer we long for!

We interlock with His Spirit and His will is done!

 No, we can’t work up travail by emotion--not true travailing prayer that is! We must never even attempt to manipulate Yahuwah’s Spirit to suit our will. He is Elohim; we are not! But, righteous emotion comes with His Presence. It is part of His nature. How can we be unemotional when He is groaning and crying? His anointing (Presence) comes over us and His joy rises within us? His joy is our strength (**Nehemiah 8:10b**). His joy is the “power of His might” that we stand in, in spiritual warfare (**Ephesians 6**).

 There is no life like having a personal daily interaction with Yahuwah, who is the Spirit. (**II Corinthians 3:17-18**) It is He who transforms us.

 Eliyahu travailed and the rain came. When we travail by the Spirit, spiritual rain comes into our life, producing fruit in abundance. (**Galatians 5:22-24**) Without the outpouring the former and latter rain of His Spirit within us, our spirit will dry up and die. When that happens, demonic spirits can take over the mind and emotions.

 Religious people often attribute the works of the Spirit--the gifts of the Spirit (**I Corinthians 12**) to the Devil. Messiah warned us against “blasphemy” of the Spirit. The Pharisees were saying He was doing His miracles by Be’elzebub/Satan. It is written n their Talmud to this day. But, His warning was strong: **Matthew 12:24-37.** We will be judged by our words.

 In 1904, in the Rhondda area of Wales, the coal mining area, and westward to Swansea, a man named Evan Roberts was chosen by Abba to lead a great revival – the revival of the baptism in the Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues, the fruit of the re-born spirit, and the gifts of the Spirit (i.e. healing, prophecy, word of knowledge, etc). I had the privilege of speaking at a congregation in the Rhondda during the 100th anniversary of that revival (2004), and also the following year. In 1904, travailing prayer was also restored to us.

 This great revival came into America by 1906. It preceded the great healing revivals. Everywhere the Spirit was received there was great blessing. Evangelists and missionaries went forth to the world, especially from England and America. Many believers were in travailing prayer for lost souls during that time. Yahuwah wants to save the lost, but He has left that task to us. We are His vessels to move through. We begin by giving ourselves to Him, and praying with all our heart. As we take on His burden, He will travail through us to birth His will! He is going to restore these great gifts of the Spirit to a remnant in these last days who will be empowered by His Spirit, as in the days of *Acts*. (**Daniel 11:32**)

 Since travailing prayer is the Spirit Himself moving through us, one has to be baptized in the Spirit so that He comes to live within our spirit. Yes, people have misused the gifts and the power of the Spirit--definitely! But, people misuse food and drink daily. Do we stop eating and drinking because of abuses? No, that’s ridiculous. By giving His Spirit, Yahuwah has restored to us the only means we have on this earth of overcoming the flesh, the world, and the Devil! Ezekiel was filled with the Spirit, as were all the prophets. His power through His servants is nothing new. The miracles and power of the Spirit in the book of *Acts* never went away.

 Blessings to you as you walk through the parted Red Sea on your journey to the Promised Land. Chag Sameach!

In His love, blessings,

Yedidah

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