



## Shabbat Shalom

Saturday, February 4, 2023

### A Journey Through Yoḥanan – Part 5 What Is Love?

#### Unique features of Yoḥanan's Gospel:

I am not going to rehash them here again.

If you so desire, you can listen to the previous teachings in this series to hear more about the uniqueness of Yoḥanan's Gospel.

They can be found at [CovenantBranch.com](http://CovenantBranch.com)

Who defines what love is?

Where do we get **our** definition of **love**?

How is **love** connected to our **faith**, to our **belief**?

What are we all really looking for?

This is also very much tied in with my Bereshith (Genesis) journey.

In that biggest question of all, "What was missing from the garden?"

Did Adam **know** what **love** is?

Or did he only have a head knowledge of what it is?

From the very moment we are conceived, I believe we are looking for love, we are looking to know what love is.

Problem is, we were born fallen, corrupted, and into fallen places, fallen families and into circumstances that I believe for most all of us that are designed to test us.

#### Share from your journey...

For me, in my journey beginning as far back as I can remember as a child, born into a broken family where through the course of my upbringing, both parents being married four times each before I reached the age of twenty.

I remember from there, at the very beginning as a child, that this is when my journey of searching for love began.

I know as men; we can definitely fall short of this in that we look to all the wrong places for our definition of what love is.

Yet still, it is a searching that we do.

And why do we search for this?

Could it be uniquely part of our design?

What about the women?

What do they look for?

Are they not looking for love as well?

Interestingly, in the design, what the men look for and what the women look for, though they have similarities that are shared, yet they are different and yet they are the same.

They are the same that is, if they endeavor to be One!

We even see this in Genesis, in the first chapter, in the sixth day in the 'Let Us'.

Now, I know what I am about to do, where I am about to share from, some may think it sacrilege. The point is however, let's not be deceitful or believe we are not fallen or forget where we come from.

For Elohim so loved the world... and yet we had no choice in being fallen and in a fallen world. Let us not be puffed up or think that we are somehow better than others that have not made it to where we are in our journey, in or belief or faith.

There is a song by Johnny Lee – Looking for Love

### Looking for Love

- Johnny Lee (2003)

#### Chorus

I was lookin' for love in all the wrong places  
Lookin' for love in too many faces  
Searchin' their eyes, lookin' for traces  
Of what I'm dreamin' of  
Hoping to find a friend and a lover  
I'll bless the day I discover,  
Another heart- lookin' for love.

Another song I want to share is: I wanna know what love is  
I want to actually share this one in that I would actually like to hear the lyrics as originally sung on its official release.

### I Want to Know What Love Is

- Foreigner (1985)

I've gotta take a little time  
A little time to think things over  
I better read between the lines  
In case I need it when I'm older – Hidden Things Proverbs 25:2

This mountain, I must climb  
Feels like a world upon my shoulders – Trials that test our faith, belief and are for our good  
Through the clouds, I see love shine  
Keeps me warm as life grows colder – Through the Clouds? – WOW!

In my life, there's been heartache and pain  
I don't know if I can face it again – Again the trials of life  
Can't stop now, I've traveled so far  
To change this lonely life – This only comes with His help and with His Ruach

I wanna know what love is – I think most probably think he is speaking about a woman  
I want you to show me  
I wanna feel what love is  
I know you can show me (hey)

“I always worked late at night, when everybody left and the phone stopped ringing. "I Want to Know What Love Is" came up at three in the morning sometime in 1984. I don't know where it came from. I consider it a gift that was sent through me. I think there was something bigger than me behind it. I'd say it was probably written entirely by a higher force.”

- *Mick Jones*

For the official release of this song, they brought in a well known New York Christian choir.

“We did a few takes, and it was good, but it was still a bit tentative. So, then they all got round in a circle, held hands and said The Lord's Prayer. And it seemed to inspire them, because after that they did it in one take. I was in tears, because my mum and dad were in the studio too, and it was so emotional.”

- *Mick Jones on recording with the choir.*

OK, moving on...

I appreciate so much the blessing from The Father in my wife that He has given to me while I journey through this life in my fallen state.

I would like to share with you some of her thoughts as I think it relates to what it is that I am trying to bring to our attention.

*Sitting here this morning, chewing on where we have gotten in society, families, relationships, brokenness, so many wandering around isolated, even amongst others.*

*Being alone even in a 'crowd'.*

*How do we connect?*

*Do we even put an effort in to connecting?*

*Are we even interested in connecting with one another?*

*Or are we just interested in our own interests?*

*A dear sister reminded me years ago, "we all have a story"*

*Am I interested in knowing their story, or just desiring that they know mine?*

*Do I take a vested true interest in others?*

*I began to read 1 Thessalonians.*

*It resonated so much to me on the description of how I am to walk out my belief.*

*How I should present myself to my fellow believers and also my behavior to the outside.*

*Is this me?*

*Who all does this include? Family? Children? The fellowship?*

*Being so isolated, where/how do I get to practice these things out?*

*What am I doing with what He had given me?*

*Do I really pay attention to what He has given me or do I dismiss/ ignore what He has put in front of me.*

*Do I deem some things as insignificant because of self-interest? Self-importance, i.e., pride/ego?*

*Delving into His Word reveals so much to teach me how to learn to walk in His ways, how to become an imitator of Him.*

The blessing for me is that much of her words I believe are directly related to the definition of what the Elohim kind of love is.

Listen to the words of Sha'ul, Silas, and Timotiyos

Sha'ul, and Silas, and Timotiyos, to the assembly of the Thessalonians in Elohim the Father and the Master יהושע Messiah: Favor to you and peace from Elohim our Father and the Master יהושע Messiah.

We give thanks to Elohim always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, remembering without ceasing your work of the belief, and the labor of love, and the endurance of the expectation in our Master יהושע Messiah in the presence of our Elohim and Father, knowing, brother's beloved by Elohim, that you were chosen.

Because our Good News did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Set-apart Spirit and in entire confirmation, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.

And you became imitators of us and of the Master, having received the word in much pressure, with joy of the Set-apart Spirit, so that you became an example to all who believe in Makedonia and Achaia.

For from you the word of the Master has sounded forth, not only in Makedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your belief toward Elohim has gone out, so that it is unnecessary for us to say whatever.

For they themselves report what kind of reception we had with you, and how you turned to Elohim from idols, to serve the living and true Elohim, and to wait for His Son from the heavens, whom He raised from the dead, יהושע, who is delivering us from the wrath to come.

*- 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10*

And again from Sha'ul, Silas, and Timotiyos

For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain.

But having suffered before and having been mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our Elohim to speak to you the Good News of Elohim in much struggle.

For the appeal we make does not come from delusion, nor from uncleanness, nor from deceit.

But as we have been approved by Elohim to be entrusted with the Good News, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but Elohim who proves our hearts.

For we never came with a word of flattery, as you know, nor with a cloak for greed – Elohim is witness – nor were we looking for praise from men, not from you nor from others, though we could have been a burden to you, as emissaries of Messiah.

But we were gentle in your midst, like a nursing mother warmly loving her own children.

So, having a tender affection for you, we were well pleased to share with you not only the Good News of Elohim, but also our own lives, because you have become beloved to us.

For you remember, brothers, our toil and hardship, for laboring night and day, in order not to burden any of you, we proclaimed to you the Good News of Elohim.

You are witnesses, Elohim also, how set-apart and righteously and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe, even as you know how each one of you, as a father to his children, encouraging and comforting and bearing witness to you, that you would walk worthily of Elohim who is calling you into His own reign and esteem.

And because of this we thank Elohim without ceasing, that when you received the Word of Elohim which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is truly, the Word of Elohim, which also works in you who believe.

For you, brothers, became imitators of the assemblies of Elohim which are in Yehudāh in Messiah יְהוֹשֻׁעַ, because you also suffered the same treatment from your own countrymen as they also from the Yehudim, who killed both the Master יְהוֹשֻׁעַ and their own prophets, and have persecuted us, and who displease Elohim and are hostile to all men, forbidding us to speak to the nations that they might be saved, so as to fill up their sins always.

But the wrath has come upon them to the utmost.

But we, brothers, having been taken away from you for a short while – in presence, not in heart – were much more eagerly trying to see your face, with much longing.

We would therefore have come to you, I indeed, Sha'ul, more than once, but Satan hindered us.

For what is our expectation, or joy, or crown of boasting? Is it not even you, before our Master יהושע Messiah at His coming?

For you are our esteem and joy.

*- 1 Thessalonians 2:1-20*

Over and over again, they remind us of the struggles, the pressures, the sufferings of this walk. And that we should not be taken by surprise by the fiery trials, that they are for our good.

Listen to one more...

So, when we could no longer stand it, we thought it good to be left in Athens alone, and sent Timotiyos, our brother and servant of Elohim, and our fellow worker in the Good News of Messiah, to establish you and encourage you concerning your belief, that no one should be unsettled by these pressures, for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this.

For indeed, we did inform you beforehand, when we were with you, that we would suffer pressure, and so it came to be, as you know.

*- 1 Thessalonians 3:1-4*



And yet again...

And it is not necessary to write to you about brotherly love, for you yourselves are taught by Elohim to love one another, for, in fact, you do so toward all the brothers who are in all Makedonia.

But we call upon you, brothers, that you do so more and more, and to make it your ambition to live peaceably, and to attend to your own, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, so that you behave decently toward those who are outside, and not be in any need.

- *1 Thessalonians 4:9-12*

We all understand from scripture that Messiah desires a bride and that He will have a bride.

Should not our understanding of what love is, match His definition of what love is?

And, will He choose a bride whose definition of love differs from His?

Listen to the Shema;

“Hear, O Yisra’el: יהוה יהוה our Elohim, יהוה יהוה is one!” – The ‘Let Us’ without adultery  
“And you shall **love** יהוה יהוה your Elohim with all your **heart**, and with all your **being**, and with all your **might**.”  
“And these Words which I am commanding you today shall be in your **heart**, and you shall impress them upon your children, and shall speak of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up, and shall **bind** them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.”  
“And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”  
- *Debarim (Deuteronomy) 6:4-9*

“And you shall love יהוה יהוה your Elohim with all your heart, with all your being, with all your might.”

Now, listen to the words of Yeshua:

“How are you able to **believe**, when you are receiving **esteem** from one another, and the **esteem** that is from the **only Elohim** you do not seek?”  
- *Yohanan 5:44*

How is our belief connected to love?

How is love connected to our belief, to our faith?

If our love is not connected to the one and only Elohim and His definition of love, then this is exactly where we will find ourselves whether we know it or not, both seeking and receiving esteem everywhere but from Elohim.

And if this is what we are doing, then our faith is vain.

And if it is in vain, then it is not belief, it is not faith at all, at least the way scripture defines belief and faith.

I believe at least in part what Yeshua is stating is that if we are not seeking The Father and His definition of love, then it is impossible to have faith or belief.

Just because we think we have faith or belief does not mean we have faith or belief by His definition.

Let's listen to the word of Ravi Shaul:

If I speak with the tongues of men and of messengers, but do not have **love**, I have become as sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

If I have prophecy, and know all secrets and all knowledge, and if I have all belief, so as to remove mountains, but do not have **love**, I am none at all.

If I give out all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I give my body to be burned, but do not have **love**, I am not profited at all.

***Love** is patient,*

***Love** is kind,*

***Love** does not envy,*

***Love** does not boast,*

***Love** is not puffed up,*

***Love** does not behave indecently,*

***Love** does not seek its own,*

***Love** is not provoked,*

***Love** reckons not the evil,*

***Love** does not rejoice over the unrighteousness,*

***Love** rejoices in the **Truth!***

***Love** covers all,*

***Love** believes all,*

***Love** expects all,*

***Love** endures all,*

***Love** never fails.*

And whether there be prophecies, they shall be inactive;  
or tongues, they shall cease;  
or knowledge, it shall be inactive.

For we know in part and we prophesy in part.

But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part shall be inactive.

When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I thought as a child, I reasoned as a child.

But when I became a man, I did away with childish matters.

For now, we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face.

Now I know in part, but then I shall know, as I also have been known.

And now belief, expectation, and love remain - these three.

But the greatest of these is love.

*- 1 Corinthians 13:1-13*

## What about Adam – Adam In the Garden?

What was missing from the Garden?

Did Adam have knowledge of or did He actually know (Yada) the following:

I believe that absolutely he had a head knowledge of all these things.

You don't make someone king and priest of the whole earth without this understanding.

But again, did he know them?

Did he Yada them.

Did Adam walk these things out in the Garden?

Wouldn't he have had to?

He could not have had real authority, tested authority, proven authority as he was designed to be, to have unless he actually walked these things out. – **John 12:24**

After all we say we believe Elohim's words when He says that Adam was created in the image and likeness of Elohim, the 'Let Us'.

How was Adam going to know (Yada) the following?

Did Adam have these? Was he tested in them? Was it proven?

To have authority without these is likening to a boss that did not come up through the ranks.

Did Adam Have;

*Love is patient,  
Love is kind,  
Love does not envy,  
Love does not boast,  
Love is not puffed up,  
Love does not behave indecently,  
Love does not seek its own,  
Love is not provoked,  
Love reckons not the evil,  
Love does not rejoice over the unrighteousness,  
Love rejoices in the **Truth!***

*Love covers all,  
Love believes all,  
Love expects all,  
Love endures all,  
Love never fails.*

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