



Light of Messiah Ministries

...Bringing Jesus to the Jewish People

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Sometimes Its Time To Stop (Pause)

The sadness, pain, and hurt, that comes from experiencing a loved one or family member who does not believe in Jesus can be overwhelming. We want so desperately for the ones we love to accept. We want them to understand. We want them to know. The joy and the hope which is ours is not understood by them. **They may even be going through very difficult times without any hope or strength, yet they are not open to hearing about Jesus.** They want to handle it their own way. They want to solve their problems themselves. It is their life, they say. They will manage. They are in control. They just don't want to hear it.

I have recently been approached by several broken hearted and teary eyed people who have Jewish friends or family members who do not yet know the Lord. One mother whose daughter married a Jewish man. Another dad whose son married a Jewish woman. **The parents are not only concerned about their children's Jewish spouses, but also about their children who are not walking with the Lord and who have married unbelievers.**

Then there are the neighbors and business associates who have spoken of their dear Jewish friends who are just not open to the Gospel. **They have shared their hearts with them, to no avail. And they ask, "What do I do now?"**



I am speaking personally. I have many Jewish family members who do not yet know the Lord. I have family members who are not where I would love them to be spiritually. I see them walking through life with no hope, struggling with sadness and emptiness. **I want them to know. They resist. It is painful. But it is where they are. I can't change that.**

Let me give you some advice. I am giving it to myself at the same time. It is advice that was a part of my training in ministry. Coming from someone who is always encouraging others to share their faith my counsel may sound a bit strange to some. But it is necessary to share. **My advice is: STOP. Stop trying to change the other person. Pause. Give room for God to do his work.**

Before you misunderstand, let me explain. Not only might this advice sound strange to some, it may sound almost irreverent and unbiblical. On the contrary, its not. In fact it is very bib-

lical. **Jesus would only engage the uninterested for a short period of time.** If someone was being closed to His message He would turn to others who were more open. Occasionally there are those who are not just resistant to the message, but hostile to Jesus. Scripture then exhorts us not to share our pearls, our hope, with those who merely trample it under foot.

The reason why this advice FEELS strange is because it goes against our natural tendency to want to help people through spiritual darkness and accept Jesus, especially our loved ones. Let me break what I am saying down.

Stopping (pausing) Is Difficult

We naturally want to help others in need. When the need is spiritual we naturally want to push people in the direction of the truth. The reason why many people don't share is because of fear or ignorance, but we are innately given a desire to share Jesus with others if we know Him. When we love people the tendency is to push harder, and our emotions become involved. When they resist, we can even become angry and confrontational. **Watching a loved one drown is one thing, but to see them reject the life jacket is another. We want to jump in and save them.** But we can't. Spiritual salvation is of the Lord. **We have no control over another person's heart. If we did, then we would take the credit for saving**

them. And God wants the glory. So, God calls us to let go. To stop. Stopping is difficult.

Stopping (pausing) Leaves Room For God To Work

Taking a pause from sharing Jesus with those who are not open gives God the opportunity to work in their lives in His own special way. His ways are perfect and are far above ours. He knows the beginning from the end. **He knows an individual's heart and can move in that heart with power that we do not have.** He is able to direct earthly circumstances so that His plan can be accomplished.

I have recently spoken to many parents whose children became prodigals. They gave the message of Jesus to their children, but could not control their child's heart. Their children rebelled, and left home in that rebellious state. Some went to jail for a period of time. Others got involved in drugs or alcohol addiction. **Ultimately, through the circumstances of life, their children came around to the Lord.** God did His work in His own way.

We never know how long it is going to take nor do we know the outcome. **What we do know is that God promises to continue to pursue those who turn their back on Him.** It is not His desire for any to perish but for all to come to everlasting life. And He won't stop until His plans are accomplished. **We just have to let Him do His work.**

Stopping (pausing) Requires Faith

It takes faith to turn a loved one over to God. We have to give up control, to let go, to believe that He will do the right thing. **It takes great faith to believe that God has a plan and that His plan is perfect.** We have no con-



trol over the timing, the outcome, or the results. We just have to believe. I know parents who have been praying for their children for decades, children who are praying for their parents, and friends who have been praying for their Jewish friends for years. **I have known Jesus for 30 years. My parents do not yet know the Lord. But I BELIEVE for their salvation.**

Trusting God with our loved ones and our Jewish friends isn't anything that we have a choice over. We have to learn to do it. God is sovereign. We are not. He is in control. We are not. He knows all things from begging to end. We don't. **Don't forget that God wants to use circumstances in our lives as well.** He wants to build our faith through trying circumstances. He wants us to learn how to trust Him more. **What better way to build our faith and to learn trust than to turn our loved ones over to Jesus?**

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We Still Need To Pursue

When we decide to stop talking to someone about Jesus that in no way means that we stop our witness. There are many ways of witnessing to people without talking to them directly about Jesus. **Our Shalom Basket Ministry is an example of how we facilitate this kind of relationship ministry between Christians and their Jewish friends.**

I recently shared with some parents how they needed to move toward their Jewish daughter in law in a culturally relevant way. I encouraged them to begin celebrating the Jewish holidays in their home and suggested to the mother that she begin to wear a Star of David. As we show our love in culturally relevant ways, in personal ways, people will hear about Jesus through our actions. **This is especially important in the workplace with coworkers and with family members with whom we need to be extra sensitive.** They will see Jesus through you.

Don't Stop Forever

After pausing for a period of time, test the waters again. Use small opportunities and every open door to talk about Jesus if you can. His Word will not return void. Pray for your friends and family who do not yet know Him. Let the Lord do His work. He is faithful to all generations.

Thank You!

Thank you for standing with us in our efforts to reach Jewish people with the message of Jesus. Your prayers and financial support help to make our ministry possible.

Rejoicing in Him,

Murray Tilles
Light of Messiah Ministries