

FORGIVEN, HEALED, REDEEMED, PROVIDED FOR BLESS THE LORD O MY SOUL!

When our Savior, YAHSHUA redeemed us, He blessed us with all the spiritual blessing in the heavenly realm. The moment we accepted His gift of salvation, we became His children and Elohim blessed us in Messiah with all the spiritual blessings (Eph. 1). It is to marvel at the fact that Elohim not only gave us the gift of salvation through His Son, but also made us heirs with Him. As such, we are partakers of all the privileges of children of God. Before the foundation of the world, He chose us to be holy, set apart, blameless in His sight before Him in love; We were adopted as His own children in accordance with the purpose of His will, so that we might be for the praise and the commendation of His glorious grace; we were saved through His blood and forgave us of our sins; we also have obtained an inheritance to the praise of His glory; we were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession to the praise of His glory (Eph. 1). We were made alive in our Savior and Lord, YAHSHUA eternally.

In His sufferings to atone for our sins, YAHSHUA was despised, He carried our diseases and sorrows, He was smitten of God and afflicted; He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him and by His scourging we are healed. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet, He did not open His mouth; by oppression and judgment He was taken away (Isa. 53). Suffering the agony of hell in our instead, He cried to His Father, My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? He suffered insults from those whom He was giving up His life to save them. He was poured out like water and all His bones were out of joint; His heart was like wax; it was melted within Him; His strength was dried up like a potsherd, and His tongue cleaved to His jaws; And (God) laid Him in the dust of death, they pierced His hands and His feet; He could count all His bones... (Ps. 22).

The entire world was under condemnation; sick, hopelessly chained up under the control of the evil one. The Bible says, "As it is written, none is righteous, just and truthful and upright and conscientious, no not one. All have turned aside; together they have gone wrong and have become unprofitable and worthless; no one does right, not even one..." (Rom. 3:10-16). We all have sinned and are fallen short of the glory of God (Rom 3:23). We were dead in our trespasses and sins; we

were then by nature children of [God's] wrath and heirs of [His] indignation; but God – so rich is He in His mercy! Because of and in order to satisfy the great and wonderful and intense love with which He loved us...He made us alive with Christ; it is by grace that you are saved (Eph.2). In His love and compassion, He forgave us with His precious blood; He healed us with all the stripes He received in His body. Many were they; we cannot fathom the terrible acts from sinners against Him; He redeemed us for Himself and raised us up together with Him and made us sit down together in the heavenly sphere in Messiah YAHSHUA (Eph.2). He provides for all our spiritual and physical needs. In what manner should we show Him our gratitude? Must we live as if nothing happened? While He carries in His body the marks of His sufferings a testimony of His love? We, a speck of dust, made of clay, deserving eternal death, must realize that we were purchased with the precious blood of Messiah, like that of a sacrificial lamb without blemish or spot (1 Peter 1:19). We were purchased; so, we belong to YAHSHUA, Who shed His precious blood as a ransom for us; it is by His grace through faith that we are saved; salvation is not of ourselves, but it is a gift of God (Eph. 2:8). Therefore, Paul says, we live, not us, but YAHSHUA lives in us. That gives Him the complete right to own our soul: will, emotion and the intellect, or the mind. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life I now live in the body I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself up for me (Gal. 2:20). That means, we died to the desires of the flesh that is not pure or according to the will of God. It is a life of faith that compels us to please our Savior, in return for what He did for us. Now, the mind of the flesh [which is sense and reason without the Holy Spirit] is death. But the mind of the Spirit is life and peace. The mind of the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit itself to God's Law; indeed, it cannot (Rom. 8:6)

The Apostle Paul experienced struggles living a Christian life, facing the reality that nothing good dwelt in him, that is, in his flesh. He said, "I can will what is right, but I cannot perform it...so, I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is right and good, evil is ever present with me and I am subject to its insistent demands" (Rom.7: 18-14). At the moment that we were purchased, there will be a battle between our spirit and our flesh. It is a proof that we are no longer of ourselves, but YAHSHUA'S. Redemption requires that we stay on our part of the contract. It is a blood covenant with YAHSHUA. At the last supper, YAHSHUA took a cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying, Drink of it, all of you; for this is My blood of the new covenant, which is being poured out for many

for the forgiveness of sins (Matt. 16:27-28). He said, Dwell in Me, and I will dwell in you. Just as no branch can bear fruit of itself without abiding in the vine, neither can you bear fruit unless you abide in Me. If a person does not dwell in Me, he is thrown out like a branch, and withers; such branches are gathered up and thrown into the fire, and they are burned (John 15). This is clearly a statement we must consider. We cannot be in YAHSHUA if our actions are contrary to His teachings. Can two walk together without agreeing with each other? Our life originates from Him; He is the air we breathe to sustain life. The Word of God is our spiritual sustenance; without it we do grow spiritually weak; we are ignorant of what God requires of us; there will be no relationship with Him. At the end, you will hear, "I never knew you, depart from Me." Fruitless Christians will not make it to heaven.

The way to YAHSHUA is through the cross, for there is also a cross for us to bear as we follow Him. "Forgiven and Redeemed" is what YAHSHUA did for us; we must do our part of the covenant for it to be valid to its demands and reward. If you live according to the flesh, you will surely die. But if through the power of the [Holy] Spirit you are putting to death the deeds prompted by the body, you shall live forever (Rom. 8:13). There is no short cut to the way of salvation and justification; there is no short cut to the way of sanctification. We must pursue consecration and holiness without which no one will see the Lord (Heb. 12:14b).

My friend, can you honestly say, I am forgiven, healed, redeemed and provided for according to your relationship with YAHSHUA and your behavior as a Christian? Going to church every time its doors open without a relationship with God, will take you nowhere called heaven. YAHSHUA said, "If anyone desires to be My disciple, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me; for whoever is bent on having life shall lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake shall find. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what would a man give as an exchange for his life?" (Matt. 16:24-26).

Thus says the Lord: "Stand by the roads and look; and ask for the eternal paths, where the good, old way is; then walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls..." (Jer. 6:16a). YAHSHUA is the Way the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father except by Him (John 14:6). That's the way, my friend and the only way you will be forgiven, healed, redeemed and provided for.

BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL!