

Growing In Faith

As believers that came to the Lord in our teenage years, then married in our 20's the Father has led us through many personal and spiritual experiences. We are both from evangelical churches. When we married we did not like each other's churches.

A solution was found as we had friends attending a Baptist Church across town so we joined them there.

Our Congregational and Methodist (now Uniting Church) church backgrounds did not practise Baptism by immersion. We learned what scripture taught about this type of baptism and were baptised.

Our faith journey is a bit like the children of Israel moving from place to place, places to grow and come into the next stage of our walk with the Master.

As children came along we needed a church closer to home so we began to attend the local Baptist church which was nearby. It is here that Bruce developed a close relationship with the pastor, a friendship we still have today decades later.

Talking with our pastor after a meeting one week night Bruce shared about an area he had wrestled with, and the past sins that were involved. Although long since repented of they were still hidden in the dark as they had never ever been shared with anyone. They involved sins hidden for over a decade, but in repentance walked away from about 7 years previously.

Scripture instructs to confess our sins to one another that we may be healed.

James 5:16 *Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*

Now the truth of this scripture could be realised and the healing process begin.

Desperate for some answers and counselling we were eventually led to a Church of Christ and ended up attending their early morning contemporary

charismatic service.

It was here we were Spirit filled and received the gift of tongues.

At this time we both received some worship songs, a glimpse of what was to come concerning receiving worship songs from the Lord.

Through contacts in this church we became part of a parachurch ministry where we both received prayer counselling, emotional healing and good support.

After doing some counselling training Bruce did seven years of counselling helping those in the same area he had struggled with.

We were then led through Pentecostal churches where we learned different aspects of faith and healing.

Whilst attending a country Pentecostal Church Bruce kept having questions come to him.

In the judgement what standard will we be judged by?

In the rule and reign from Jerusalem what rule will we be under?

There was another similar question now forgotten. The answer always came back to Torah.

We remembered that Yahweh God had spoken to both of us individually about a decade before about keeping the Sabbath. We were in Pentecostal circles at the time and lacked understanding of the meaning of Sabbath.

Back at our country Pentecostal Church the pastor could not help much with the questions I had.

We made contact with a lady living out in the country who taught on the roots of our faith. We visited her weekly when we could make it for about a year learning about the Hebraic Roots of our faith and the place of Sabbath and Torah.

As we came into a deeper understanding of the word in context and the place of the remaining Torah we both began receiving worship songs again. There is now a growing portfolio of songs.

Believing the Father was speaking about moving to a city not far from this lady's place, we moved and built a home where we could be part of a Messianic group.

We learned much in this group that gave us more understanding of the bible

through taking the counsel of the word as a whole.

It was now time for our next move as we could see the Messianic had taught us well but the Father had more for us.

Moving to another city we joined a Sabbath keeping group that sought to be modelled on the early church structure.

This brought clarity as to what the early church was like in contrast to our churches today.

We now live in another city near the coast and are enjoying retirement. It is interesting to look back on our journey.

Our faith walk is never about our comfort. We have lived in six cities in south east Queensland and a couple of shires and moved around 20 times. In every place the Father has had a purpose and has been growing and instructing us. Our walk took us into baptism by immersion, being Spirit filled, speaking in tongues, emotional healing, learning about faith and divine healing, the Hebraic Roots of our faith including Sabbaths and feasts, knowledge of the early church practices and structures.

In each fellowship there has been new things to learn and often much to unlearn.

Knowing Torah and keeping the Feasts and Sabbath are all preparation for Messiah's return and rule.

Micah 4:2 *Many nations shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion the law shall go forth, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.*

Zechariah 14:16,17 *Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths. (Tabernacles)*

(V17) And it will be that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them.

There is a cost however. At times we have moved cities to become part of the moves of the Spirit the Father wanted us to be part of. It has been an adventure and humbling to look back at what He has been teaching us with each move and place he took us.

As we ready ourselves for the soon coming Messiah it is our prayer that in His strength we can make it through to the end and earn the crown of life laid up for those who persevere under trials until the end.

James 1:12 *Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.*

We give praise to the Father for what has been an amazing walk. He is a true and faithful God who knows how to lead us into a deeper walk and understanding of the working realities of His kingdom. Also those things lost since early church times that He has been restoring.