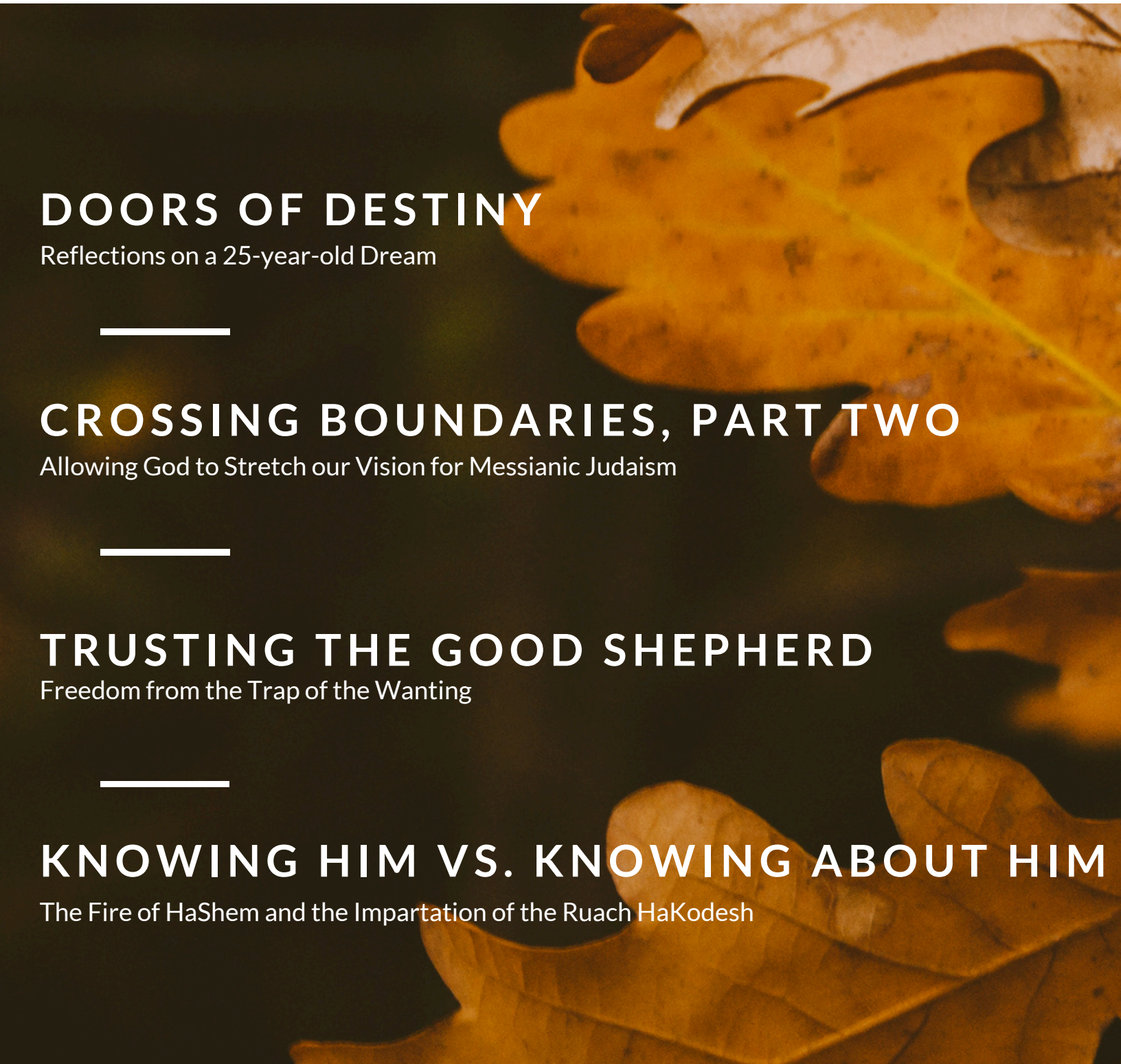
TIKKUN AMERICA

restore

Issue 65 | Kislev | November 2026



DOORS OF DESTINY

Reflections on a 25-year-old Dream

CROSSING BOUNDARIES, PART TWO

Allowing God to Stretch our Vision for Messianic Judaism

TRUSTING THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Freedom from the Trap of the Wanting

KNOWING HIM VS. KNOWING ABOUT HIM

The Fire of HaShem and the Impartation of the Ruach HaKodesh

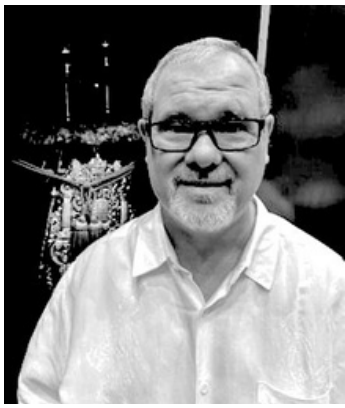
CONTRIBUTORS

01



RICHARD HARRIS

Richard Harris is a Messianic Jew and is the staff worship leader at the Pasadena International House of Prayer (PIHOP) in Pasadena, California. Committed to the power of the Ruach, Richard is an intercessor for the body of Messiah in Los Angeles and Houses of Prayer throughout the Pacific Rim. Richard serves in ministry with his wife, Mary.



MARK RANTZ

Rabbi Mark has served in full-time Messianic Jewish ministry for since 2001. In early 2013, Rabbi Rantz joined Messianic Jewish Publishers and Resources (MJPR) and served as the Assistant Editor and lead contributor in the production of the Complete Jewish Study Bible. He and his wife Kat lead Congregation Beit Hallel in Ocala, FL.



DAVID BARSKY

Rabbi Dr. David Barsky founded Beth Yeshua Messianic Congregation in Coral Springs, FL, in 1987. As a successful businessman, Rabbi David walked away from secular work years ago to full-time ministry! With a wealth of ministerial experience, 5-fold ministry, and the work of the Ruach, Rabbi David is a blessing to our Tikkun family.



ISRAEL NELSON

Israel Nelson is a second-generation Messianic leader. His parents pioneered Messianic congregations in Michigan and New York before moving to Israel in 1990. In 2007, he and his wife, Cindy now live in Chandler, Arizona, where they are raising nine children. Since 2013, he has led Beth Emanuel Messianic Congregation.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Editor-in-Chief **Benjamin Juster**

Creative Director **Amy Strom**
Senior Editor **Mark Rantz**
Editor **Kathleen Rantz**
Graphic Design **Amy Strom**
Content Manager **Mark Rantz**
Project Manager **Amy Strom**
Advisor **Lorena Juster**

SUBSCRIBE

Tikkun America Restore Magazine is published by Tikkun America®.

The Tikkun America Restore Magazine features a diverse selection of authors that express varying view points of theology that may not necessarily reflect the views of Tikkun Ministries. As an equipping magazine, the editors provide broad flexibility for the authors to present their views and to speak in their own voice while maintaining a focus on discipleship in the Kingdom of God.

Email comments and suggestions to info@tikkunamerica.org

www.tikkunamerica.org

06 MY PLACE IN THIS WORLD
BENJAMIN JUSTER

13 DOORS OF DESTINY
ISRAEL NELSON



HELLO ISSUE 65



19 CROSSING BOUNDARIES, PT 2
MARK RANTZ

25 TRUSTING THE GOOD SHEPHERD
RICHARD HARRIS

30 KNOWING HIM VS. KNOWING ABOUT HIM
DAVID BARSKY

EDITOR IN CHIEF

BENJAMIN JUSTER



Benjamin is the President of Tikkun America and one of the shaliach leaders on the Tikkun America Apostolic Team. Raised in the Messianic movement and a former Vice President of the UMJCY, Benjamin has a continuing passion for seeing people reach their potential in Yeshua. He holds a Masters degree in Messianic Jewish Studies from MJTI. He served as the Executive Director of Tikkun International before being appointed the President of Tikkun America in January 2020. Benjamin's focus is on planting Messianic congregations, mentoring and releasing emerging leaders, and building unity among churches and ministries to stand with Israel today and in preparation for the end times.

Benjamin and Lorena also help to lead the international teaching ministry Restoration From Zion, affiliated with Tikkun Global.

Benjamin, his wife Lorena, and three children live in Jacksonville, Florida.







MY PLACE IN THIS WORLD

BENJAMIN JUSTER

I was at the dentist having a filling done the other day. It was a minor repair, although it did require some Novocaine, mostly to keep me comfortable. With little else to do while someone was working inside my mouth, I found myself watching the interaction between the dentist and his assistant.

It was remarkable. The assistant seemed to know exactly what was needed before the dentist asked. Instruments passed back and forth in rapid succession. Each person was attentive to the other, and they barely needed to communicate with words. As someone who values leadership and efficiency, I was quite frankly amazed.

They completed the work quickly, and before I knew it, I was out the door. But the picture stayed with me.



How do we work together in our congregations, communities, and in the Kingdom? Do we prepare for our responsibilities with that same care? Do we understand one another's needs?

In Romans 12:4–8, Paul describes believers as members of one body, with different functions and gifts. He encourages us to put those gifts into practice: serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, and showing mercy. Each contributes something the body needs.

That means the grace God has given you has implications for the people around you. Someone needs your encouragement. Someone will benefit from your generosity. Someone's understanding can grow through your teaching. Our gifts become a blessing as we offer them in love. Many people don't realize the detrimental impact of abandoning community life—everyone else misses out on the blessing that perhaps only they could have provided.

First Corinthians chapter 12 develops this picture further. The Spirit distributes gifts, and their expression is intended for the common good. God places the members in the body according to His wisdom. The eye needs the hand. The head needs the feet. Even members that appear weaker are indispensable. There is something deeply reassuring about that. We all have a place in God's design, and we need one another.

Yet I think there is another dimension we sometimes overlook. It is wonderful when an individual uses a gift to bless the body. Consider what happens when that gift joins with the gifts and developed abilities of others. Encouragement strengthens leadership. Discernment helps guide generosity. Teaching gives understanding to people who are being lovingly shepherded.

We begin to experience the beauty of an interconnected body.

I saw a small reflection of this in that dental chair. Both people had developed their skills, but they had also learned how to use them together. Their cooperation served the person entrusted to their care. On that particular day, I was very grateful to be that person!

We can see something similar in a healthy marriage. A husband and wife learn each other's strengths, limitations, and ways of communicating. As parents, they discover how to support each other through the demands of family life. One notices that a child needs reassurance while the other handles a practical problem. One recognizes exhaustion and steps in to help.

That kind of cooperation takes practice. It grows through conversations, mistakes, forgiveness, and adjustments. Over time, they become more attentive to each other and more effective in caring for their family.



The same can happen within a healthy Eldership team. One Elder may have particular insight into Scripture. Another recognizes relational tensions early. Someone else brings wisdom to practical decisions or has a gift for drawing out quieter voices. As they pray, listen, and serve together, they learn when to contribute and when to make room for another. Unity grows as they recognize and honor the grace God has entrusted to each person. Their shared leadership becomes a blessing to the congregation.

Ephesians 4:11–16 connects the work of equipping leaders with the growth of the whole body. Every part has a contribution to make, and the body builds itself up in love as those parts work together.

This invites us to take preparation seriously. A gift can be developed. Skills can be honed. We can learn to communicate more clearly, arrive prepared, receive feedback, and follow through. Prayer and practical preparation belong together. Both express care for the people we serve.
Excellence also leaves room for patience. Teams include people who are learning, and every one of us has limitations. Love helps us give clear direction, offer encouragement, and make adjustments when something goes wrong. We grow together as we keep serving together.





But what if you do not yet know your role?

Please do not be discouraged. Understanding our place often develops through participation. You can begin by noticing a need and offering help. Ask a trusted leader where assistance would be useful. Join an existing team, serve alongside someone experienced, and be willing to learn.

Pay attention along the way. Where do others receive help through your contribution? What responsibilities stir a desire to grow? What do mature believers recognize in you? A temporary assignment may help you discover an ability you had never considered. You can contribute meaningfully while your longer-term direction becomes clearer.

Here are three ways we can prepare and engage:

1. Take one step toward greater faithfulness in your present assignment. Clarify what is expected of you. Identify one skill to develop or one habit to improve. Perhaps you need to prepare earlier, practice more consistently, or communicate when you cannot fulfill a commitment. If you have no assignment yet, ask where you can help and agree on a manageable first step.

2. Learn what the people beside you need. Ask a fellow team member, your spouse, or a ministry leader, “What could I do that would help you fulfill your responsibility?” Listen carefully and act on what you learn. Make time to pray together and discuss how your contributions connect.

3. Invite feedback and make room for another person's strength. Ask someone trustworthy where you are contributing well and where you could grow. Receive their observations humbly. Encourage a gift you recognize in someone else, and look for an opportunity to serve together.

I went to the dentist expecting a repaired tooth. I left thinking about the body of Messiah.

What a beautiful thing it is when people understand their responsibilities, develop what they have been given, and learn to serve together in love. We catch a glimpse of the wisdom of our Creator in the way our contributions fit together. May we each grow into our place, helping those around us fulfill theirs, so that the whole body is strengthened and Yeshua is honored.



Benjamin Juster
Editor in Chief



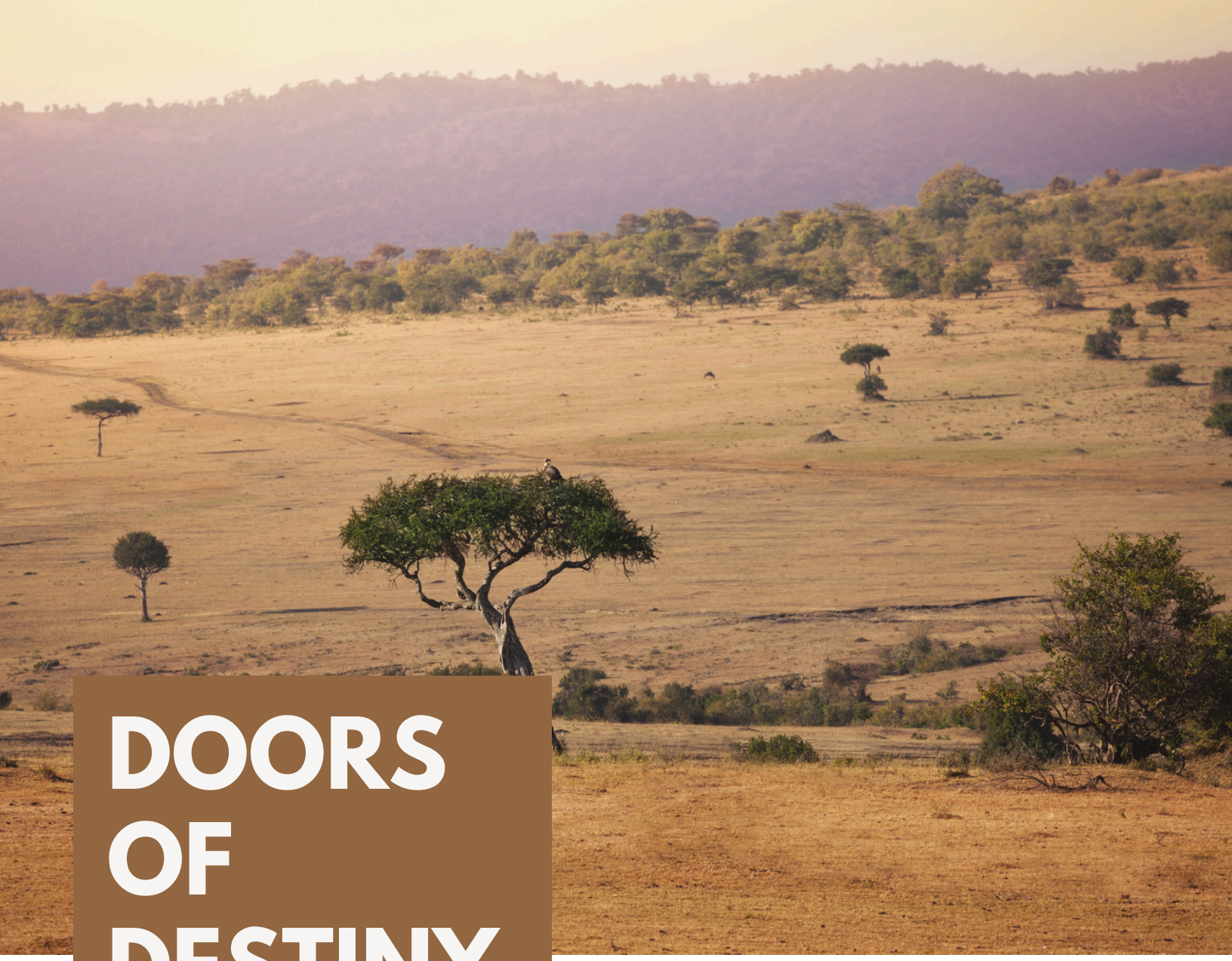
Receive their observations humbly

Grow into our place

Help those around us fulfill their place

Encourage a gift you recognize in someone else, and look for an opportunity to serve together.

BENJAMIN JUSTER



DOORS OF DESTINY

ISRAEL NELSON

Twenty-five years ago I had a dream. I was on a mountainside in East Africa, teaching the people there. I can still see the image in my mind: green hillsides dotted with huts, and people seated on the ground as I walked along a path. It was vivid, and it stuck with me.

I shared the dream with my wife, Cindy, and over the years we've talked about it and wondered if it would ever happen.

This past August, I was invited to go to Kenya and Rwanda with my friend Pastor Mike, a pastor I've partnered with for many years. I found myself walking through Doors of Destiny.



In Kenya, we ministered to and taught missions leaders at a conference where I was asked to speak on the Sabbath. That felt like a soft pitch :-)

In Rwanda we ministered at a large church conference called Chayah (Life). The passion and joy in that place were incredible. So much dancing!

I was also invited to teach at their Seminary on the New Testament's use of the Tanakh. Standing in front of the students, I felt almost as though I were outside myself, watching as I taught in East Africa, in the land of a thousand hills, in a lecture hall on top of a hill. I could see my dream. I told the students, "This moment is literally a dream come true." It felt surreal.

I'd like to share some of the things I found myself meditating on while in Africa, because I believe many of us have dreams we have carried for years.

One. I didn't make it happen.

I imagine I could have pursued connections to find a way to teach in East Africa. We have a friend in Israel who has worked in that region for years in ministry and humanitarian projects. But I never felt a stirring to do so. It was just in my spirit as a "wondering." I wonder when that will happen, and sometimes, I wondered if it would ever happen at all.

I fully recognize that God gives us assignments we must pursue, like Paul's call to the Gentiles. But I also noticed that it was years after the Lord told Paul about his calling that the Spirit released him and Barnabas. Some callings we pursue; some we simply carry until they ripen.

What's striking about that moment in Acts 13 is that they were ministering to the Lord. They weren't pursuing vision boards or mission statements. They were just ministering to the Lord and fasting. And something ripened.

It was suddenly time to go ...

Two. Doors look like people.

The reason I was invited to Africa was my long-time ministry partnership with Pastor Mike. Our relationship never involved an idea of going to Africa together. We have been mostly involved in Mexico and Costa Rica in our missions efforts, not Africa.

What happened was this: we had opened one of our church facilities here in Arizona for a small Rwandan church to meet on Sunday afternoons, without much thought about it. They had a need, and we were able to help. From that simple act, their pastor invited Pastor Mike to come to Rwanda to visit and minister.

We had no idea that this Rwandan pastor founded and leads a massive ministry, including multiple churches, schools, ministry centers, a Seminary, and even their own Hospital. They touch literally tens of thousands of people all over the country. It's truly one of the most remarkable ministries I've ever seen, and one with real national impact.





I found myself walking through a wide-open door of ministry that was shaped like my friend. I have seen this repeatedly in my life. The opportunities God has brought came through people I have served and friends I have loved.

I don't know where the Lord will take me in life, but I know the road is paved with relationships.

Three. What is in you will come out.

Pastor Mike and I have very little in common, besides Yeshua and a real desire to please Him. He is very germ-conscious; I only wash my hands when there are people around. He is a walking bio-hack; I barely take Airborne when I'm sick. He is a very anointed evangelist, and I am much more gifted in teaching. That's why he was invited to speak at the Revival Meeting, and I was invited to teach at the Seminary.

I don't put "anointed teacher" on my business card (I don't have one). I have simply seen that the Lord knows what contribution He has put in me for the body, and He organizes my life so that it is used.

I have never gone to College or Seminary, but the Lord doesn't seem to mind. He gave me a voracious appetite to understand the Bible and Second Temple Judaism, and, to quote an old commercial, I "obeyed my thirst."

But the things He put in me are not for me. They are for the body of Messiah and the world He has put around me. I have spent much of my life wishing I were more like someone else,

but it's funny that I was never any good at being them. I've never been good at impressions.

What I've discovered is that I can't help but teach people. It's not even the gifting I value most. It's just the One that spills out of me.

What I noticed in Rwanda is that the gifts in Pastor Mike and me were not just spilling out; they were being drawn out. We could both feel them flowing from us, like the virtue that flowed from Yeshua when the woman with the issue of blood touched Him. The hunger of the people, and their honor for us, was pulling the gifts in us into their lives.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled."

As I reflect on my recent trip, I know I'll be back. The Door is still open, and the Dream is still alive! Somewhere in my mind, those green hillsides are still there, with people seated on the ground and a path running through them. But I'm more convinced than ever that this is not because of me. The Lord is working to orchestrate all of our lives together to bring the knowledge of His Glory throughout the earth.

That's His Dream, and it's one He had before any of us were here!




I don't know where the Lord will take me in life, but I know the road is paved with relationships.
ISRAEL NELSON



Crossing Pt. 2 Boundaries

MARK RANTZ

Last month I shared about a young man named Garrett Koch, and the work in Adonai was doing in me to once again take up the mantle of Messiah's calling to reach those trapped in the cults. I challenged how we, as Messianic believers, have always been called to be boundary crossers, with the hope that we would surrender our hearts to the Spirit's leading, and to love and compassion for "the one."

For me, my teshuvah (returning) to boundary crossing began earlier this year when I met Garrett Koch at the gun shop at our local Rural King as I was looking to purchase a new firearm. This meeting was nothing short of miraculous! On that day, my wife, Kat, and I went to Rural King here in town instead of going all the way up to the Bass Pro Shop in Gainesville (an hour away). Even in that moment, it was as if the Ruach was driving my car through me to Rural King's parking lot. As I stopped the car, I felt a combination of emotions where I knew God wanted us to be there, and yet at the same time I rationalized, "Well, with my right knee still healing from knee replacement surgery, I really don't want to go that far from home." As I recall, I may have even said that to Kat as we were getting out of the car.

As we entered the store on March 9, 2026, I knew exactly what I needed (a new firearm which I'd been looking at online for weeks), and I planned to be in and be out, no distractions. Yet what would have taken no more than 20 minutes turned into a conversation with a 24-year-old salesperson, lasting over 2 hours!

In our casual conversation, I told Garrett Koch that I was a Messianic Jewish rabbi and leader of a Messianic Jewish congregation here in Ocala, and the conversation exploded as he asked question after question about our Messianic beliefs, why Jews don't speak God's Name, and, specifically, Jewish marriage, weddings, and ceremonies. He and his then-fiancée, Sandra, in Mexico, were soon to be married, and I was amazed at how he hung on every word. In the midst of this conversation, I inquired,

"So, Garrett, are you Jewish or a Christian - do you attend a local congregation?" And to our surprise, he replied directly, "I am one of Jehovah's Witnesses!"

Immediately, I saw this as a *kairos* moment, and shared my faith about how I came to believe in Yeshua as my Messiah! At the time, I knew that a seed had been planted, and that this was a divine appointment, but I also left the store concerned that my words may have fallen on deaf ears -

I couldn't have been any more wrong, and once in the car, Kat looked at me and said,

"*That young man is going to come to the Lord*!"



From that day forward, whenever I thought of Garrett, I'd say a quick prayer asking Yeshua to save him, but beyond that, I did not know what the outcome would be. Well, that was true anyway, until a little over a month ago, when a miracle occurred as two Christian friends of mine told me of a young Jehovah's Witness working at Rural King who was leaving Watchtower, saying, "… we feel you need to meet him and lead him to Yeshua!" Immediately, I knew it was Garrett, and the following day we met, and I had the profound honor of leading this fifth-generation Jehovah's Witness to Yeshua!

Since that time, he has not only joined our Congregation and is growing and maturing every day in Yeshua's love, but has also completely severed all ties to Watchtower, has submitted a formal disassociation letter, and has been disfellowshipped by them. Sadly, he has lost family members and many lifelong friends for his decision to follow Messiah, but in its place, he is gaining more than he ever had, or could ever have hoped for (Matt. 19:29)! Since that day of choosing life in Messiah over slavery to the kingdom of the cults, Garrett's growth has been astounding; he has been immersed in water (mikveh) and has been prayed over for the infilling of the Ruach haKodesh! Where once he was dead, Garrett has now been made alive in Messiah Yeshua!

Garrett coming to Yeshua reminded me today of the reality of what the Torah declares,

"The outsider dwelling among you ***shall be to you as a native-born among you. You should love him as yourself****, for you dwelled as outsiders in the land of Egypt. I am Adonai your God."* (Lev. 19:34 TLV, emphasis mine)



When we were slaves in Egypt, strangers, and foreigners, we must have felt forgotten by God, but the Holy One, Blessed be He, never forgot us and never will! Because of this miracle seen at Pesach, how can we ever forget "the other" or write anyone off? From the time of our exodus, and even before, with Parashah Lech Lecha, and the calling of Abram, and to our lives today, Adonai has never forsaken us, and so we are called to never forsake those whom the world calls strangers, foreigners, or outcasts.

In her amazing book Heart of a Stranger, Angela Buchdahl, Reform rabbi at Central Synagogue in New York City, powerfully reminds us of this great calling in Gen. 12:1: "Go forth from your land, from your birthplace, from your father's house to the land I will show you…".

Of this passage, Buchdahl states,

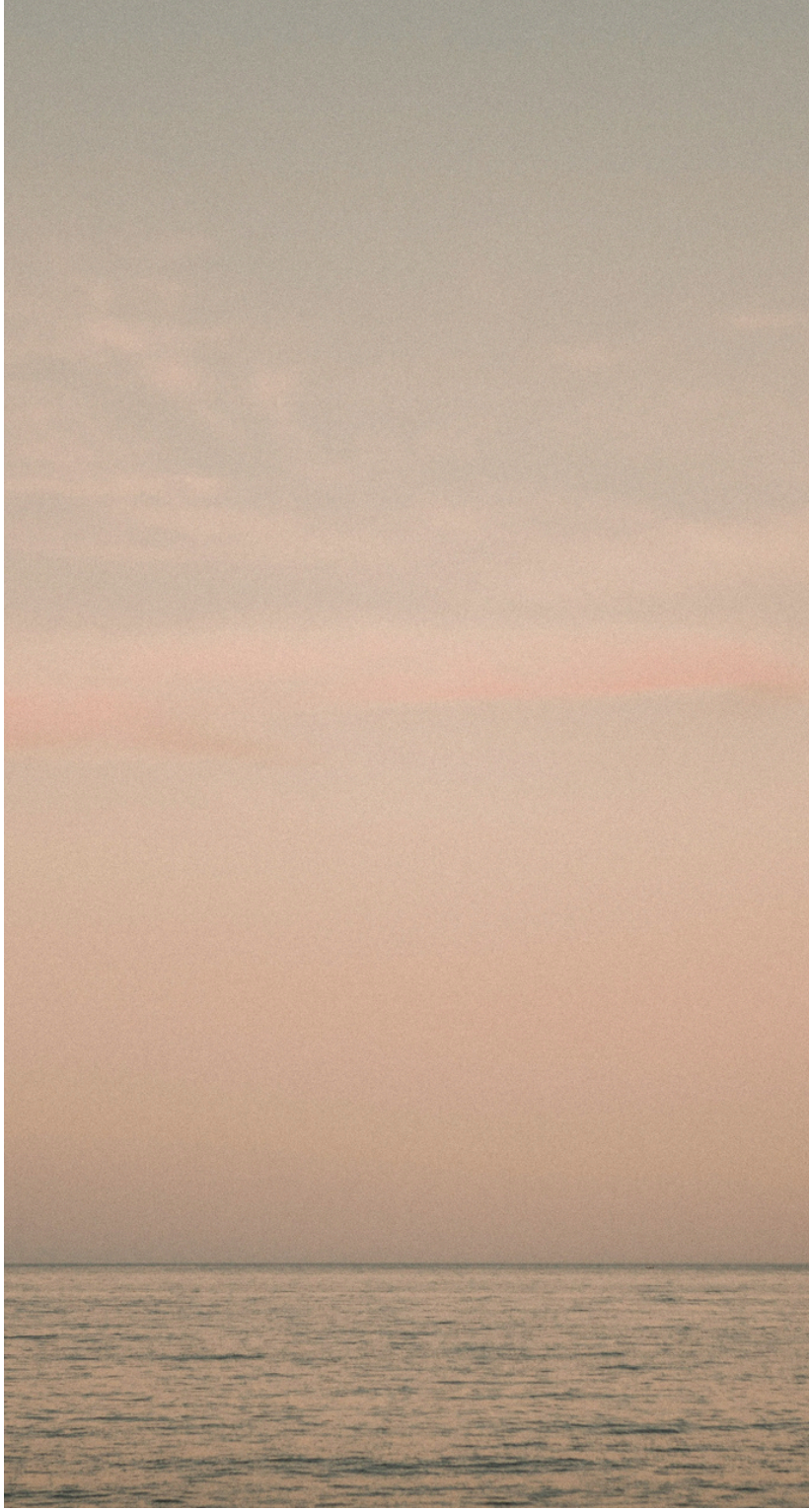
"The charge was clear; the purpose and path were not. Abraham and Sarah left all that was safe to pursue God's assurance of a lineage and a legacy. Only when they crossed over the river Euphrates and became strangers in an unknown land could they give birth to a new people, my people, known as Hebrews. Our name, Ivrim ('Hebrews'), translates literally as 'those who cross over.' The descendants of Abraham have been boundary crossers ever since!"

From this quote, we see our holy, Messianic calling; and we can never forget that as Yeshua's Messianic community, we too are boundary crossers, just as through our Jewish identity, Adonai has written this reality into the fabric of our very existence.

Yet with it, we are called to never forget Jude's admonition to snatch the lost from the fire and bring those enslaved in the cults and demonic oppression into relationship with a God who loves them unconditionally and desires only to heal and restore their lives.

Friends, this is equally true for us as part of our Tikkun America and Tikkun Global family. From the beginning, we have taken hold of Messiah's calling as boundary crossers through agentic blessing, not just to reach our people and see the Restoration of Israel, but also to be agents of such blessing toward our cousins, Christian Arabs, and former Muslims, and to be echad (one) with them, in Yeshua, and by the power of the Ruach HaKodesh!

But, in knowing this reality and the nature of our call, can I challenge you today to go even deeper and to see that part of this Messianic mandate as a restorationist and revivalist move of God in Messiah Yeshua for the Last Days is to also welcome in outsiders, strangers, and the foreigner, as seen in those who are bound to the lies of the cults, who, without hearing and receiving the Besorah (Good News) of Yeshua, would forever be lost in their sins!



As questioned in my first edition, when we encounter them, could we just write them off and think, "this is foolish, … they will never listen … they are not worth the effort," or is our response as that of Jim Elliott (who wrote in his journal on October 28, 1949), before his martyrdom in the Amazon rainforest in eastern Ecuador, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose!"

What are you waiting for? Your "Garrett" is waiting …


“
We can never forget
that as Yeshua’s Messianic community, we too are boundary crossers.
MARK RANTZ



Trusting the Good Shepherd

RICHARD HARRIS

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.” This line begins one of the most treasured of David’s psalms. Today, we are surrounded by cultural messages and invitations for us to want things that we do not have. We are encouraged and validated for pursuing the acquisition of possessions or power which promise to bring us happiness, fulfillment, delight, and security. You won’t be happy if you don’t have this car, go on this vacation, have that perfect job, or have so many followers on Instagram. The list is quite literally endless. There is more than we could ever possibly want or attain. The trap is in the wanting.



What David knew, and what this Psalm points out from the very beginning: It is God who leads us to all that will enrich us, sustain us, and delight us!

I was a teenager in the ‘60s. I can tell you, I wanted to be a rock star. I wanted to have the lifestyle, the adulation, the acceptance, and significance that those guitar heroes seemed to all have. I even went to high school with names you’d know if I shared them. I was a good player too. But when I would go to the clubs they’d play at, I never felt at home. There was almost nothing I liked about nightclubs, except the music, of course. For a long time, I never actually stopped wanting it; I kept trying and hoping that one day my break would come.

And it did, but not at all in the way that I expected. My Heavenly Father knew me better than I knew myself. Which is no surprise. As David observed in Psalm 139, “How precious are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them, If I could count them, they would be more in number than the sand.”

He thinks about me way more than I ever do or ever could think about Him.

The day I stepped on the platform on my first worship team 35 years ago, every musical longing I had ever had found its home. He made me lie down in a lovely green pasture by the restfulness of still waters. He restored all of the hope deferred that had weighed on my heart, and in the joy of praise. He began to lead me in His righteousness, so that, as time went on, He would shine through my life, little by little, more and more.



Over the years, God's faithful tending of us leads us to trust Him, as knowledge of His true nature seeps ever deeper into our experience. David declares it. *"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for YOU are with me."* Now he's talking to Him instead of about Him. David's simple testimony invites us into trusting God in the midst of fear and danger. Which is exactly the place where God is waiting and altogether ready to meet us. David knows this, and so he asserts of Adonai, YOU ARE with me. The prophets would later echo the same: *"He shall be called Immanuel, God with us* (Matt. 1:23)"

"You prepare a table for me in the presence of my enemies." In his wonderful short series of essays on A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23, Phillip Keller points out that for their summer months, shepherds seek out and prepare prized grazing areas in high mountain plateaus, often referred to as tablelands, or mesas (the Spanish word for table). Even in the early spring, the diligent shepherd will scout out the best areas, well ahead of the summer grazing season.

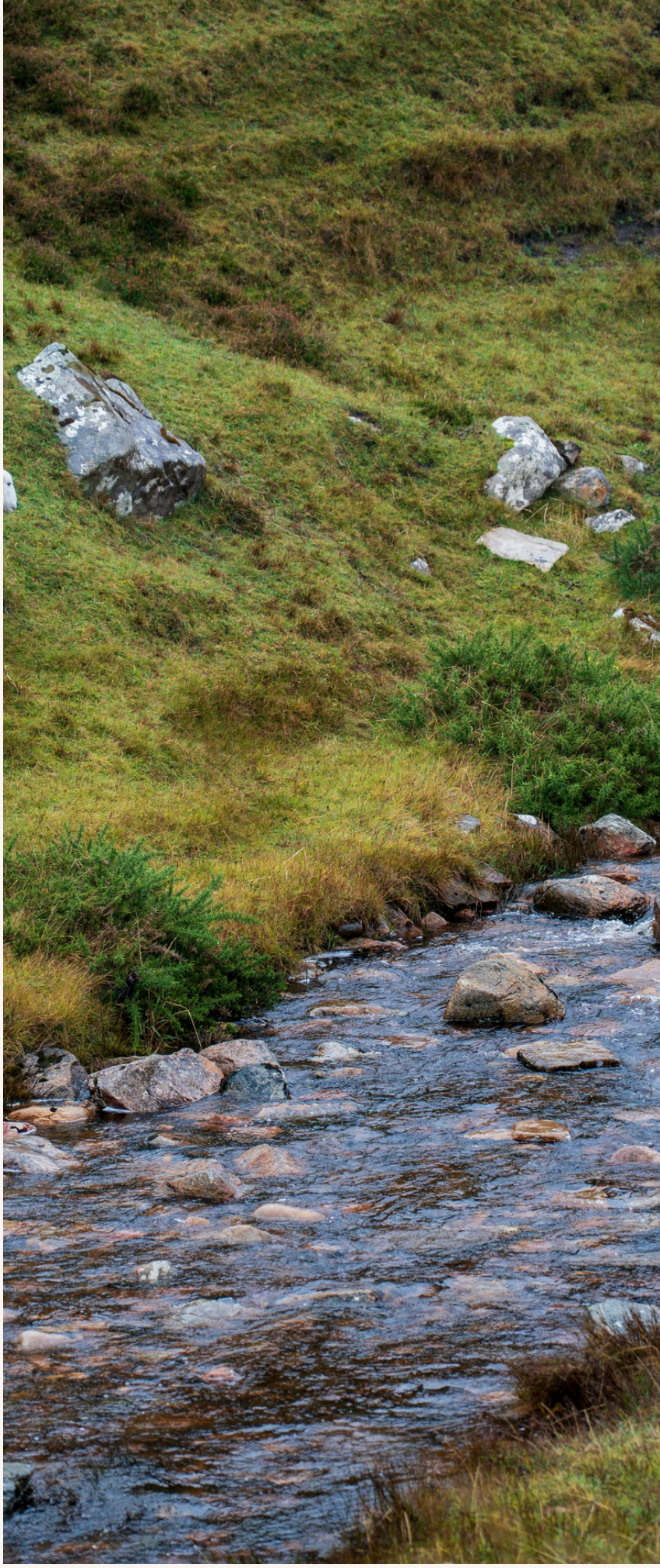
He will revisit his chosen areas many times, removing poisonous plants, distributing salt and minerals at key locations for his flock, and carefully deciding the best places to rest them at night, while being ever mindful of the sign of predators. David was intimately familiar with these practices. Through this lens, he reveals to us the fullness of God's care for us, His beloved.

Earlier in the story, Sh'mu'el (Samuel) declared to Sha'ul (Saul), *"The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart"* (1 Sam. 13:14). How does this relate to seeing God as our shepherd? It is abundantly clear in Yeshua's life. His focus was always on His Father. This was the primary target of His heart. All that He did pointed to His Abba. He was after His Father's heart. He lived the first commandment - first. This was no mere decision; it was basic to His nature. This is the same nature God saw in David.

And, yes, he didn't manage that perfectly. We know his story. Yet, when he messed up, David invariably made teshuvah (repented), returning to the God he knew that delighted in him.

I believe this is why he stated so simply and boldly, *"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life. And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever."* God was the target of David's heart. He knew so well the wisdom of trusting Adonai in all things, and for all things.

This Psalm therefore reveals in the innocence of six simple lines the unsearchable riches and glory of God's heart for all of us. For David, it was his daily bread and his final destination, and it must be ours as well!



Over the years, God's faithful tending of us leads us to trust Him, as knowledge of His true nature seeps ever deeper into our experience.



RICHARD HARRIS



KNOWING HIM VS. KNOWING ABOUT HIM

DAVID BARSKY

Shalom, mishpachah. My heart is breaking over an issue that is so very critical to our well-being as believers in Yeshua. As a Messianic Rabbi, I want the very best for God's people. But that only comes when we walk with Him, when you experience Him fully — Panim el Panim, face to face. Once we do, our lives will never be the same again. The Lord has put it on my heart to bring this short teaching. Please take it in. It comes from years of watching two very different streams flow through the body of Messiah — one that teaches about HaShem, and one that leads people into Him. As a Messianic Rabbi who seeks to walk in the fullness of the Ruach HaKodesh, I have to tell you plainly: you can be Torah-literate, historically accurate, doctrinally airtight — and still be a stranger to the very God you study. Orthodoxy without the Ruach is a dead letter. Information without impartation is religion, not relationship.

Yeshua Himself confronted this:
"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven… And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me.'" Matthew 7:21-23

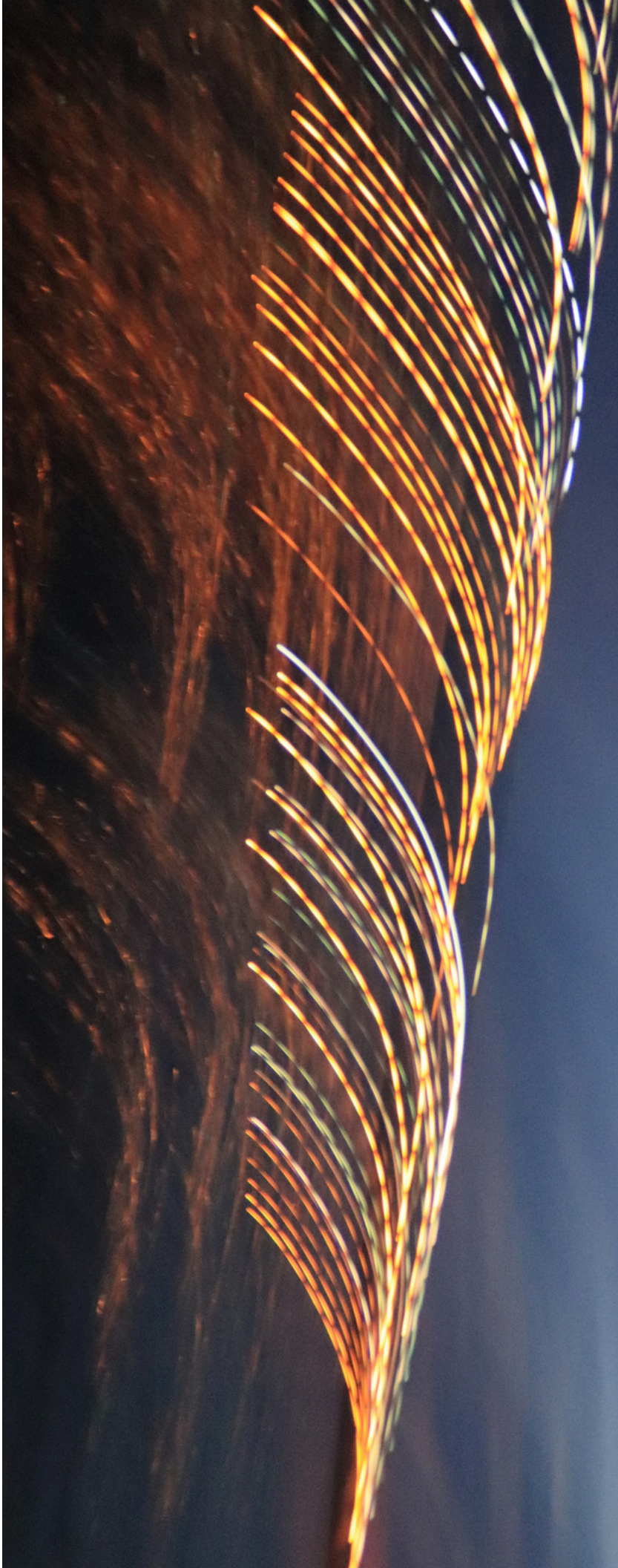
He did not say "you never knew about Me." In Hebrew thought, da'at — knowledge — was never meant to be academic. It is covenantal, intimate, and experiential. It is the same yada (to know) used of the deepest union between a husband and wife (Genesis 4:1). HaShem has never wanted scholars only. He wants a Bride who knows His voice.

Point 1 — Da'at Elohim: Knowledge That Is Spirit, Not Just Text

Yeshua defined eternal life this way:
"This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Yeshua the Messiah whom You have sent." John 17:3

Torah scholarship is a gift — I have given my life to it. But Yeshua rebuked the most textually precise men of His generation: *"You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me, and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life."* John 5:39-40

They knew the letter — the ketav — but had no relationship with the Ruach, the Spirit behind the letter. Paul, trained under Gamaliel himself, warned of the same: *"The letter kills, but the Spirit gives life."* 2 Corinthians 3:6



This is the Messianic, Spirit-filled distinctive: we do not choose between Torah and the Ruach HaKodesh. We need both — the Word AND the Spirit, the Torah AND the Fire. Mount Sinai gave the Law in fire (Exodus 19:18); Shavu'ot gave the Spirit in fire (Acts 2:3). The same God, the same fire, and same pattern — external revelation is meant to produce internal encounter.

Point 2 — Beware Orthodoxy Without the Ruach

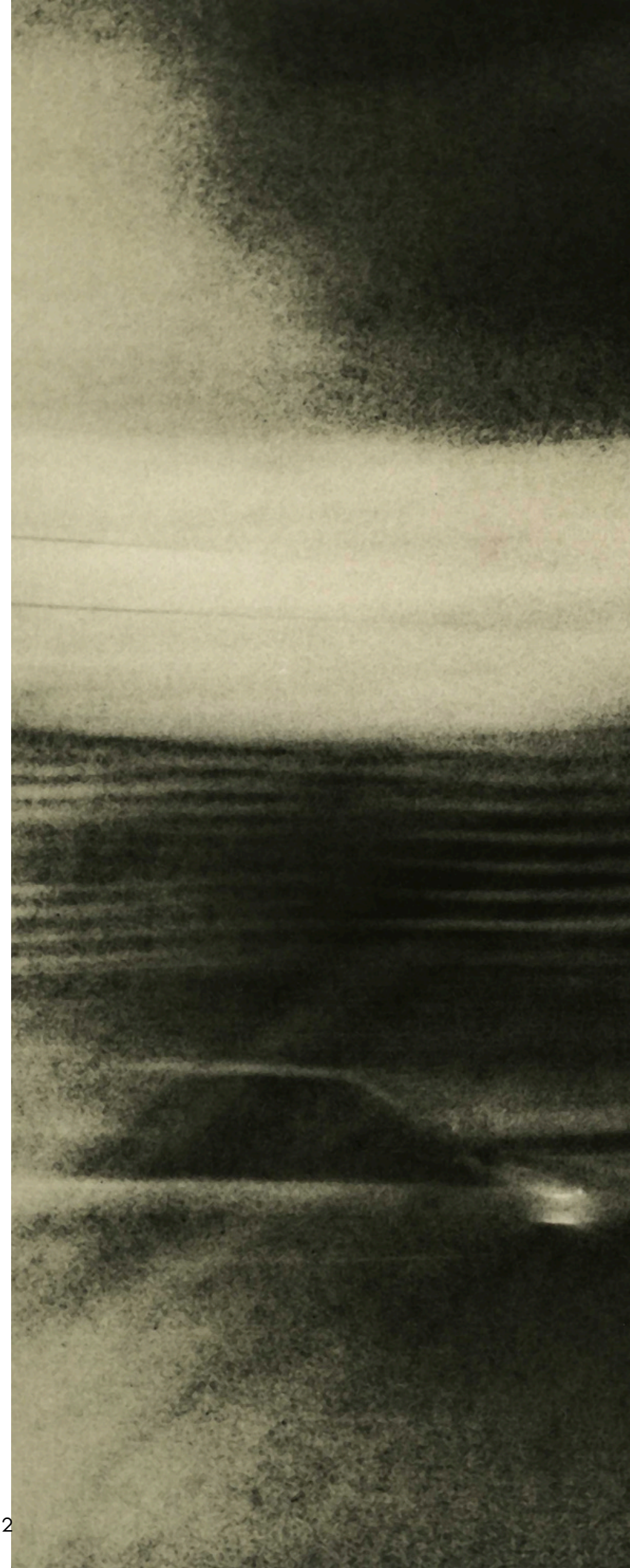
Hosea prophesied:
"I desire mercy and not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings." Hosea 6:6

And Paul warned Timothy of a coming breed: *"Holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power."* 2 Timothy 3:5

A form — the shape of Torah observance, the shape of liturgy, the shape of correct Christology — and yet, with no power. No move of the Ruach. No manifest Presence.

Beware teachers who can quote every rabbinic source, defend every doctrine, correct every calendar dispute — and have never once wept in the Presence of God, have never once prophesied, have never once been overtaken by His Spirit in times of worship. That is a dead orthodoxy, and Yeshua called it "whitewashed tombs" (Matthew 23:27)

— beautiful on the outside, but no life within!





Being Spirit-filled is not optional decoration on top of Messianic Judaism. It is the fulfillment Joel prophesied and Peter proclaimed at Shavu'ot: *"I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh… your sons and your daughters shall prophesy."* Joel 2:28; Acts 2:17

If your Messianic theology has no room for speaking in tongues, prophecy, healing, and the manifestation of the Ruach HaKodesh, then it is incomplete. Correct doctrine that quenches the Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19) is still disobedience!

Point 3 — Historical Context Illuminates; Only the Ruach Transforms

Understanding Second Temple context, the Moedim (appointed feasts), Hebraic idiom — these things matter and I will always teach them. But context alone never regenerated a single soul. The Pharisees had the best historical and textual scholarship in Israel and Yeshua still called them blind guides (Matthew 23:16-24) — not because their history was wrong, but because it never led them to teshuvah (repentance), or to encounter with the Ruach.

The test of true Messianic teaching: Does it lead people into an actual, felt, living encounter with the God of Avraham, Yitzchak, and Ya'akov through Yeshua — or does it just leave them impressed with their own knowledge?

Point 4 — Beware Leaders With No Training, No Semicha, No Covering

Being Spirit-filled does not mean self-appointed. Some of the most dangerous voices in the Messianic movement today are Spirit-enthusiastic but have no semicha (ordination) from a recognized source, no formal training in Messianic Judaism, and no covering under a legitimate Messianic organization or Messianic rabbinic authority. Zeal without accountability is presumption and not anointing.

Moses laid hands on Joshua publicly, transferring recognized authority: *"Take Joshua the son of Nun… lay your hand on him… and you shall put some of your authority on him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may heed."* Numbers 27:18-20

The Antioch *kehillah (Messianic congregation)*, moved by the *Ruach*, still formally laid hands on and sent out Paul and Barnabas — the Spirit's leading and structural accountability worked together, not against each other: *"So when they had fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away."* Acts 13:2-3

Paul charged Timothy:
"Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery." 1 Timothy 4:14

And he warned:
"After my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock." Acts 20:29



A true Messianic, Spirit-filled leader carries a threefold cord: Sound Torah training, a recognized semicha, and covering under a respected Messianic body. Remove any one strand and the leader is exposed — to error, to deception, and to the enemy.

The book of Hebrews reminds us:
"Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account."
Hebrews 13:17

If a leader answers to no one, no one can catch them when they fall.

In Conclusion

Ask yourself, mishpachah:

1. Am I pursuing Da'at Elohim — the living knowledge of God — or am I just accumulating information about Him?
2. Do I welcome the Ruach HaKodesh's manifest Presence in my walk, or have I settled for a form of Messianic godliness with no fire?
3. When I follow a teacher or leader, do they carry real training, real semicha, and real covering — or only charisma and confidence?
4. Torah without the Ruach is dead letter. Spirit without Torah and Accountability is chaos. HaShem is calling us to both — a people who know the Word and burn with His Fire, taught by leaders who are trained, ordained, covered, and full of the Ruach HaKodesh.

B'shem Yeshua — Amen.



ORTHODOXY WITHOUT THE RUACH IS A DEAD LETTER. INFORMATION WITHOUT IMPARTATION IS RELIGION, NOT RELATIONSHIP.

DAVID BARSKY

Our Congregations

Arizona

BETH MAYIM CHAYIM
bethmayimchayim.org

YESHUA HA'MASHIACH
yeshua-hamashiach.org

BETH EMANUEL
bethemanuelaz.org

California

BETH DAVID
bethdavidmc.org

BETH SHALOM
bethshalomcorona.com

Colorado

OR CHAIM
or-chaim.com

Florida

BEIT HALLEL
beithallelocala.org

ELIM CONGREGATION
ElimMessianicCongregation.org

BETH YESHUA, HOUSE OF THE RISEN SON
bethyeshua.us

Illinois

NEW JERUSALEM HOUSE OF PRAYER
newjerusalem.net

Kansas

KINGDOM LIVING
kingdomlivingkc.org

REMNANT OF ISRAEL
shalomwichita.com

Maryland

EL SHADDAI
escfrederick.com

ROSH PINA
roshpina.life

New York

ADAT CHAIM
adatchaim.net

BETH AM MESSIAH
bethammessiah.org

Pennsylvania

BEIT SIMCHA
beitsimcha.com

SHORESH DAVID
shoreshdavid.com

Tennessee

B'RIT HADASHA
brithadasha.org

SHOMAIR YISRAEL
syknox.org

Virginia

BEIT ZAYIT
beitzayit.org

OHEV YISRAEL
ohevyisrael.org

TIKVAT ISRAEL
tikvatisrael.com

Washington DC

AHAVAT YESHUA
ahavat.org

Canada

SHALOM RESTORATION FELLOWSHIP
shalomrestorationfellowship.ca

TEMPLE YESHUA
templeyeshua.com

HOUSE OF DAVID
chodmontreal@gmail.com

Mexico

SINAGOGA EL SHADDAI
SinagogaElShaddai

United Kingdom

BEIT EZRA
beit-ezra.org.uk



connect

WITH YOUR TIKKUN AMERICA FAMILY