



Names

Kefa – Peter

Messiah – English for Mashiach; anointed one; Christ in the Greek means to be smudged – anointed

Moshe – Moses

Shaul – Paul

Yeshua – Jesus' real name

Yĕhōvâh – God's real name forever (Exodus 3:15)

Yitz'chak – Isaac

Yochanan – John

Terms

Chayei Sarah – 5th Torah portion

Haftarah – reading from the prophets

Tanakh – Old Testament portion of Bible

Torah – 1st 5 books of the Bible

Torah portion – there are 54 portions of the Torah

Take hold of what God has given us; keeping darkness at bay.

Shaul says to the Philippians that they have obeyed God and to make sure they continue to work out their salvation **with fear and trembling**. There is a sense of urgency in what Shaul has to say. We either do what is right in our own eyes or keep God's commandments. In order to do what is right, we first must cooperate with God and then He can work in us through the Holy Spirit. Think about it this way. Say you are working construction and you are helping to put up a house. The other person says hold this while I secure this section of framing, but instead we decide to do things our own way and the wall just falls onto the ground. Doing things our own way is making up our own commandments; our ideas are not necessarily God's commandments.

God tells us that His commandments are good and are a blessing and help for us. We should memorize this scripture; Deuteronomy 4:6 NKJV says, "Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'" Just like doing your job right accomplishes something, keeping the commandments in the Old Testament portion are an amazing blessing for us. Philippians 2:12-13 NKJV says, "Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling**; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure." What did they obey? God's commandments. As I've said before, there was no New Testament portion at the time. How important is keeping God's commandments? I'd say "fear and trembling" makes the point a big, "Yes, they are important!"

Then the Holy Spirit that we are to receive when we believe in Yeshua helps us with the smaller details. Yeshua said we are to ask for the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:11-13). God's commandments are not supposed to change; after all, they are great and important commandments that help us live life. Deuteronomy 4:2 NKJV says, "You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the

LORD your God which I command you."

Why do you suppose that we are not to add commandments? If we do that, we begin micromanaging life, and adding commands can make life more of a burden. Instead of 613 commandments in Yeshua's time, they ended up with thousands of commandments and it became too difficult to follow God. It is not all the extra man-made commandments that help us follow God; in this Messianic era it is the working of the Holy Spirit that helps us; that is what is supposed to help us with the details since the Messiah came.

*Don't follow man-made
commandments that micromanage life.*

We actually only end up with a couple hundred commands from the Old Testament because some of them only were for the Jewish priests and their service at the Temple. We also have about 1,050 commands in the New Testament that have been properly applied from the Old Testament portion; we don't have thousands of commandments to follow. One of the things that adding thousands of commandments does is cause arguing about the little details, and some of these details that are argued about have nothing to do with God. What does putting on your right shoe first as some believe they must do have to do with God! I've been around people arguing about which spoon to use; what are they thinking?

That's why Shaul goes on to say to stop arguing about little meaningless details. He says in Philippians 2:14-15 NKJV, "Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world." If they are all the time fighting over ritual that are not God's commandments, they won't be lights to the world. In fact, doing all these extra traditions and rituals and calling them commandments of God is not Jewish because they contradict the Bible. I'm not saying we can't do ritual; ritual is embedded in life. It is making these things into God's commandments that is wrong. Some ritual is commanded by God. Also, people who say we can't do ritual are also making up a man-made commandment by saying we can't do that. Oh, you can't use that spoon; really?!

Shaul then tells us in Philippians 2:16 to hold onto God's words of life. "Holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain." What are God's words of life? Deuteronomy 6:2 NKJV says, "Keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that **your days may be prolonged.**" And in Deuteronomy 10:13 NKJV, "Keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today **for your good?**" If they give us wisdom and understanding, prolong our lives, and are good; then they are words of life. Don't listen to the people who are lying to you. The Bible actually says, "All liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone;" Revelation 21:8 NKJV. Now, that is scary. I don't want to handle God's word deceitfully (2 Corinthians 4:2); the consequences are not good.

If we are not keeping God's commandments in the Old Testament portion and New Testament portion we will not rejoice with the Messiah in the future kingdom; so make sure that your spiritual life includes actually doing what is right and not just thinking you are okay as some teach. You can't put up a building by just thinking about it; you actually have to do it. We need to understand the Bible within the context it was written and not apply mistaken concepts that take the scriptures out of their original context.

*The Old Testament laws give us wisdom and understanding,
prolong our lives, and are good.*

Shaul says in 2 Corinthians 4 that he doesn't handle God's word deceitfully. People say the Old Testament is useless. God doesn't seem to think so! Shaul says in 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 NKJV, "But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them." Gospel means "Messianic message" because the word is used in Messianic scriptures in the Old Testament portion. One of the things God gave us was the message about the Holy Spirit helping us to keep God's commandments instead of thousands of extra man-made laws; this Messianic biblical concept has been hidden to many. The god of this world is a reference to the devil because that is who is working against us; the devil is at work against God and against us and wants to deceive us. Is the Old Testament done away with? Why would something that gives us wisdom and understanding, prolongs life, and is good be done away with? I sure hope not. that the Old Testament is done away with is The reasoning that the Old Testament commandments are done away with is the reasoning of unlearned teachers.

Put on the work of the Holy Spirit every day so that we live fully in the Lord.

We know that Abraham was a prophet and that God healed and spoke to mankind in the Old Testament; God still speaks to us and we have the Holy Spirit to help us. It says in Acts 1:8 NKJV that, "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you." Some say that God's power is done away with. That's crazy isn't it. People seem to be doing away with God; and these people who are saying these crazy things are supposed to be believers, I guess.

*People seem to want to do away with God.
He is not going anywhere. They may be going somewhere.*

Kefa made is clear, God's works and power have not been done away with. "Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call;" Acts 2:38-39 NKJV. I suppose you could say that we are the ones who are "afar off." We can receive the gift of the Holy Spirit by asking God for His gift. It is a gift. So ask for it.

It's not true what they say, is it. The power of the Holy Spirit was at work with the early believers in Yeshua and is still at work in our day in time. Yeshua said, "Most assuredly, I say

to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father;" John 14:12 NKJV. That is a huge statement because Yochanan said, "And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written;" John 21:25 NKJV.

Our **prayer class** (<https://www.teshuvahsa.org/prayer-class>) has a lot of information in it about the gifts of the Holy Spirit and how to use the gift of the Holy Spirit in a kind and conscientious way. You can also find our prayer class on our menu on our website at: www.teshuvahsa.org.

God can reach us wherever we are. God is not limited by mankind's rules or concepts. The rabbis actually teach that we are supposed to listen to them instead of the Bible. Denominational religion, often says the same thing. They teach their own doctrine as though it is God's word. Sure they quote scriptures. Even the devil is an angel of light. There has to be some truth in a lie or people would easily figure it out. 2 Corinthians 11:14-15 says, "And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works." If they are teaching you God's commandments are done away with, what are their works?

We are not to follow a man-made religion; instead we follow God. Do we want to follow a person or God? If we are willing to do what is right and we want a relationship with God, it doesn't matter if we are on a desert island with no one else around. God can still be there with us. Shaul said in Romans 8:38-39 NKJV, "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Isn't that great! As we set aside our lives to live holy separate lives, keep God's commandments, live with the help of the Holy Spirit, and believe in and trust in God and our Messiah Yeshua, nothing can separate us from Him.

We have a witness in our father Abraham. At the age of 100 and when Sarah was 90, they had their child Isaac whom God promised to them. Yě-hō-váh (Yud-Hey-Vav-Hey; the exclusive name for God) ate and talked to Abraham in Genesis 18:14 NKJV and said, "Is anything too hard for the LORD? So if we are for God and don't turn our backs on Him; He will not turn His back on us.

Deuteronomy 31:6 NKJV says, "He will neither fail you nor abandon you."

We look to God although the things of the world look big and seem to be the way things are accomplished. Be faithful; trust in God and the Holy Spirit.

It seems mankind mostly trusts in themselves and not God. Psalms 20:7 NKJV says, "Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the LORD our God." Perhaps, what's interesting about this verse is that most believers refuse to use the real name

of God, Yě-hō-váh . We know why God's name was stopped being used and that we were supposed to use God's name again after the persecution stopped. How can you say you trust in God's name if you never use it? Even an alternate name is used for Yeshua which is Jesus' real name. God's real name is not in any of our Bibles! Wow!

Psalms 46:1-3 NKJV tells us plainly that we are to trust in God during times of trouble. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though its waters roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with its swelling."

How many of us have heard that this conspiracy is going on or that is happening, but what is really most important? "Do not say, 'A conspiracy,' Concerning all that this people call a conspiracy, nor be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled. The LORD of hosts, Him you shall hallow; **Let Him be your fear**, and let Him be your dread;" Isaiah 8:12-13 NKJV. There may be conspiracies going on, but we are to most of all trust in God and fear Him.

There are a number of congregations that take the work of the Holy Spirit out of their belief system. The Holy Spirit is good and is just as much a blessings as God's commandments. Why would God all of a sudden decide that God is not involved with His creation? That is just silly; He is God. I have a two volume book on healings and miracles. If God wasn't doing anything or not much as some think, how could we possibly come up with a two volume book on miracles and healings? Zechariah 4:6-7 NKJV says, "'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of hosts. Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain!" I find this remarkable. We must remember that God can do anything!

Let God be your fear and not the world.

The Holy Spirit is good. We are to receive and allow the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Shaul said, "Pursue love, and **desire spiritual gifts**, but especially that you may prophesy." 1 Corinthians 14:1 NKJV. If we weren't supposed to be doing any of this, why does the Bible say the opposite? Yeshua talked about the Holy Spirit. "If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" Luke 11:11-13 NKJV. God want to give us His good gifts, so seek them. Also, what could be wrong with the work of the Holy Spirit in us. Galatians 5:22-23 NKJV says, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."

In this portion, God orchestrated the events that brought Isaac and Rebecca together. God picked Isaac to continue the believing line and God fulfilled and accomplished His will. God is still at work in our day and time and will fulfill what He intends. God has given us His good commandments and His good Holy Spirit. Take hold of what He has given us just like Abraham took hold of God's promises and took them to heart.

God is there in all of life's situations and we can have the powerful work of the Holy Spirit in our every day life. Mankind does things their way, but we have a big God and we can trust in Him; so do things His way. We are to desire God's good work of the Holy Spirit which leads us and helps us; the Holy Spirit helps us live in peace, kindness and gentleness; and the Holy Spirit can and will do so much more than we imagine. Through the Holy Spirit, God can orchestrate His intentions and fulfill what He wills to accomplish. Just as He accomplished what He desired for Abraham who trusted in God, He will also accomplish and orchestrate His intentions through us; so be strong and trust in God.