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"Hearts Up" is the official e-publication of keystounderstandinglife.com ("Keys" website). When we want to alert one another to something important or perhaps even to a potential danger, we usually say, "Heads Up!!" To assist us in being alert to spiritual dynamics behind our real-life experiences, we offer "Hearts Up"! This monthly e-publication works to inform, but mainly to help lift our hearts up during trials! The articles are intended to be substantial, giving you much to reflect on and work to experience with God; as such, the articles are "meaty." The articles often build on the Scriptural concepts discussed in the [spiritual warfare materials](#) we offer, as well as in other "Hearts Up" editions and on the *Keys* website. "Hearts Up" articles are intended to support readers who seek the spiritual growth in Christ which comes from interacting well with the Lord during trials and real-life difficulties. Our materials often talk about interacting with the Holy Spirit with the heart; this interaction is not about speaking in tongues, but about hearing, understanding and embracing the counsel of the Lord with our hearts. We trust the material will challenge you to desire more in your relationship with Jesus Christ in terms of interacting with Him in real-life decision-making and problem-solving. "Hearts Up" works to facilitate an on-going dialogue between readers of the *Keys Series* materials and the authors; so if there is a particular discipleship topic, issue, or sentiment you would like us to consider speaking to, [Contact Us](#). If you received this edition of "Hearts Up" from a friend and wish to learn more about other features which sometimes appear in this e-publication, click the link below while connected to the internet or visit this menu button on the *Keys* website.



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SPIRITUAL WARFARE COMBAT TIPS

Satan’s Tactic: Influence Our Sense of Identity Without Us Knowing It

Romans 7:15-21 “For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate. But if I do the very thing I do not want to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that the Law is good. So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good.”

In this passage from Romans, Paul’s description of the internal spiritual battle almost sounds like a case of split personality – the “Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde” syndrome! In truth, that’s almost what it is: two identities in competition with one another. This inner battle, between old self and new self-identities, is experienced in *each* trial we face, though in some trials it is much easier to recognize than in others. Paul is writing generally about spiritual battles in Romans 7:15-21. Paul doesn’t mention a particular external issue because he is focusing on the internal dynamics which may be noticed by all of us in our own trials. External, real-world issues, concerns and challenges virtually always accompany trials and spiritual battles, but at their core, trials involve our sense of identity.

Goal of this tactic. Satan’s attempts to influence our identity without our awareness hinges on getting us primarily focused on the physical-world, external part of a trial (a conflict of some type between believers or spouses, concerns over where to move to, what school to enroll one’s kids in, what action or actions to take concerning finances, what decision to make at work, etc.). When we focus mainly on the external part, Satan’s tactic can succeed in getting us to overlook the internal part and how the whole trial relates to influencing our identity in an ungodly way.

In today’s world most everything is seeking to influence our sense of identity in some way. These influences aren’t always bad or ungodly in and of themselves. There are spiritual parallels to the various ways the world appeals to our sense of identity, and we will look at some of those in a moment. Recognizing how everyday kinds of things work to shape our identity can help us improve in seeing how Satan works to shape (lie to us about) our identity in Christ.

Why is shaping or influencing our sense of identity so important? Our sense of identity directly influences and actually drives our actions in a given moment! When it comes to connecting with God and following the Lord as His disciples, we need to understand what’s so important about our

sense of identity. This helps greatly when it comes to implementing what the Scriptures say about being responsible for our spiritual sense of identity during trials.

Our sense of identity directly influences and actually drives our actions in a given moment!

What are some examples that reveal how various influences on our sense of identity do sometimes drive our actions? Well, the commercials we see on TV seek to get us to want their services (like insurance, a car with special features or capabilities, a fast phone service, etc.). They do this by showing us how services or products provide us with a desirable experience or how they help us avoid undesirable experiences. Similarly, ads on the internet portray products (shoes, fashion, household gadgets, etc.) as desirable. They also do this by showing us how something makes us look better, how it enhances

the way other people look at us, or by showing us how we may look bad if we are in any way associated with using another product. These influence how we feel (heart) and what we think (mind). While commercials, ads, and sales promotions are intended to influence us, they are usually limited to focusing on a couple key issues that people may unconsciously associate with their identity in various ways: age, race, gender, financial or physical well-being, security, prestige, etc.

Similarly, companies often seek to influence employees’ sense of identity. Part of the reason for doing so is to create a sense of pride, ownership and interest in one’s work. Some companies focus on building an employee’s connection to and association with the company by creating a sense of family, a sense of being part of a team, or on the personal opportunities an employee can get from being part of the company. It is a well-known fact that an employee who feels strongly and wants to be part of the company tends to work better. Businesses tend to perform better and be stronger when employees identify themselves in a positive way with the business.

Practically all appeals to our identity, both worldly and spiritual, make those appeals based on things like what you see in the underlined portions of the paragraphs above. Those are the essence of the effort to shape one’s identity.

Commercials, ads, and companies work to influence a person’s actions by influencing one’s sense of identity, but they do it in different ways. People are different, products and services are different, and businesses are different. What one person wants may not be the same as what someone else wants – this is based on differences in how a person’s thinking is shaped by their sense of identity. As a result, the way something is presented may turn one person on while another is turned off. For this reason, commercials and ads try to appeal to viewers in a variety of ways in order to target more than one kind of viewer’s identity. Often you might see the same product or service presented with different actors, different sponsors, or in different environments.

The point is that while not all of these influences are bad or ungodly, we will act or not act based on how effectively they influence our sense of identity. Again, our sense of identity shapes how we conduct ourselves. It shapes our values and principles. It shapes our priorities and the things we will take on no matter what the cost. It shapes the things we avoid doing regardless of cost.

Spiritual battles and our identity. While companies, commercials, family, friends, etc. influence and affect our sense of identity in various ways, these influences come at us primarily externally.

When it comes to God’s influences and Satan’s influences, they too may have some external aspect to them. Fundamentally, both God’s and Satan’s influences are mainly internal. Discerning between the two involves dealing with feeling and wants (fears, desires, hopes, inadequacies) in our hearts, and thoughts (assumptions, plans, reasons) in our minds. The training we receive in church, our personal spiritual practices, and our studies (of Scripture and our lives) are to help us follow Christ as skilled disciples. These various ways

When we want to follow Christ as skilled disciples, we must learn to pay attention to Satan’s appeals to our sense of identity, not only externally, but internally!

in which we seek to be discipled are to aid us in improving our discernment skills so we can recognize appeals to our spiritual sense of identity, not only externally, but internally!

Satan is much more skilled at influencing our identity in trials than are commercials, ads, and team-focused businesses. Satan pushes his influences on us. God doesn’t, although sometimes external circumstances may make it appear that way. God desires that we change and submit willingly, and have faith when it comes to His wonderful guidance and influence. To even see and overcome Satan’s influences, we have to draw on the guidance of God’s Spirit. Each of us has done this successfully before. Still, that spiritual task is easier in some trials and harder in others.

Other external influences. In terms of spiritual battles and trials, “external influences” can refer to practically anything that is going on outside of us at the time when our hearts are disturbed. External influences on our sense of identity can involve dealing with a busy schedule and making time to be discipled, the unsightly trash in our neighbor’s yard, the pressures either from our friends or our enemies, strained relationships at home or work, or even the stress of trying to make a godly decision when more than one of the options appears to be godly. Regardless of what the external situation may entail *during a trial*, behind any of the physical world’s external influences are the internal, spiritual influences!

Satan’s internal influences. When it comes to spiritual battles, regardless of whatever is happening outside of us at the time (externally), Satan seeks to influence us (internally):

1. To unconsciously think our identity in Christ isn’t true when something “bad” happens or may happen to us, or...
2. To unconsciously think our identity in Christ would not be true were we to fail to act against the “bad” thing we perceive has happened or will happen.

This next part is key! Unless Satan’s attack on our identity is discerned and transformed by acting in accordance with the counsel of God’s Spirit, we will either:

1. Fail to act when we should, because we fear what might happen were we to act, or...
2. We will act when we should not act, because we have failed to discern the flaws (Satan’s deceptions) in our own thinking, thus we don’t fear the consequences of our sinful actions.

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Example of identity crisis in Scripture.

John 13:37-38 Peter *said to Him, “Lord, why can I not follow You right now? I will lay down my life for You.” Jesus *answered, “Will you lay down your life for Me? Truly, truly, I say to you, a rooster will not crow until you deny Me three times. (Asterisks are part of translation)

In John 13:37-38 Peter faces a trial, but he does not detect it. Jesus, however, does detect Peter’s trial. Peter presents himself falsely when he is overconfident in himself stating he will “lay down his life for Christ.” How do we know this is a trial and that Satan is involved? Jesus responds to Peter pointing out that what Peter says is true about his own motives really isn’t true, even though Peter probably believes it is true. Peter isn’t paying attention to his heart’s true fears and motives. The fact that Jesus indicates Peter is speaking falsely about himself, concerning his relationship with the Lord, reveals that Satan is involved although not mentioned. Satan is the father of lies and self-deceit, ergo he is involved.

What is going on externally? Jesus is telling his disciples that He is going to the cross and then to be with the Father, and that they cannot go with him at this time. On the outside it looks like Peter loves Jesus and simply wants to be with him – again, Peter probably believes that too!

What is going on internally? Satan causes Peter to view what Jesus said as a “bad” thing, when in fact it is not, though Peter doesn’t understand why. Peter is tricked by his inaccurate perception that not being able to follow Jesus at that time was “bad” when in fact it was “good” from God’s

Satan’s tactics... can cause us to resist God’s direction unconsciously, while consciously we desire to be with and serve the Lord!

perspective. Satan’s influence is to cause Peter to believe that if he doesn’t reject the “bad” thing Jesus says must happen (the disciples can’t follow right now), then Peter would be lacking or somehow wrong. That is where Peter’s sense of identity is influence by Satan’s attack. Peter displays his motives as being noble, loving and good because he believes they are – that is the power of Satan’s deception when we don’t look in our hearts. In actuality, Peter is rejecting what the Lord has personally said must be.

We too may behave like Peter when the Holy Spirit is speaking to our hearts trying to get us to change in ways that are contrary to our “normal” personality. We too may act before recognizing what is really in our hearts and attitudes. The Holy Spirit often tries to tell us to change something that seems to go against our temperament. We may resist the Spirit thinking impulsiveness is just part of “how God made me.” Or, my tendency to be quiet sometimes is “how God made me.” Our personalities have old-self weaknesses and imbalances that God desires to turn into new-self strengths and discernment. When Satan attacks us, our trials present us with opportunities to be discipled and to embrace God’s attempts to convict our hearts concerning our new identity in Christ.

Like Peter, we usually don’t think that we are resisting God when we have our eyes fixed on a

“good” thing or something that “any normal believer would desire!” Yet if Peter could be in the personal, physical presence of Jesus and not see how his own personality was being sinfully manipulated by Satan, how much more easily might we miss the mark when we can’t see God (or Satan) with our eyes or hear Him with our ears? We don’t always see the spiritual influences at work in us because of how Satan’s deceptions cause us to focus on whatever is happening in physical reality: an argument with a loved one, concern over one’s financial situation, fearful nature of our many “what ifs,” or the challenges of feeling trapped in an unwanted and complex situation, etc. Satan’s tactics against our identity can cause us to resist God’s direction unconsciously, thus negating the fact that we consciously desire to be with and serve the Lord!

The Scriptural concepts of old self and new self are about identity. In last month’s edition of “Hearts Up” (*The Bible’s Bigger Pictures* article) we looked at God’s perspective of us versus the perspective of our actual conduct in a trial. This article relates to that one in terms of what the Scriptures say about the old self versus new self identity crisis we embrace in trials. Either one will affect our actual conduct in the trial.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. (Italics are part of translation)

1. **The old self or old-self image.** For the duration of our lives, the old self is to be passed away continually (2 Corinthians 5:17).^{*} Why continually? Because Satan continually attacks Christ in us, and his deceptions appeal to our old selves. Trials are times when Satan attacks and works to deceive us. When we arrive at the critical point of acting in a trial, we will either act “in Christ” or not. (James 1:15 describes that critical point.) In other words, at that point, the old things may have “passed away” (for that trial) and the new will have “come,” or the other way around. Our own inconsistencies in trials demonstrate the truth of this verse.
2. **We also have a new self or new-self image.** The new-self image is who we are or can be in Christ. This must be embraced continually in each trial. This means that in each trial, we have to exercise our God-given free will to identify our old self actions and inactions that Satan influences us to take in a trial. We must also reject the old-self image by connecting with The Teacher, the Spirit of God, in our hearts in the trial (2 Corinthians 5:17).^{*}

^{*} You may want to review the hugely important grammatical context of 2 Corinthians 5:17 explained in *Feelings 101: Pain to Peace*, bottom of pg. 187 to 189.

Practical training in the Spirit (discipleship beyond the basics). The external aspects of trials may be very real in terms of what we see, feel, hear and otherwise sense. The unseen inner spiritual battles are what is most important. The truth is that when it comes to our spiritual sense of identity and how it is shaped, things are a bit more involved than whether to respond to a commercial or internet ad. Transforming our spiritual sense of identity during a trial is more challenging than simply trying to discern between the “goodness” and “badness” of a particular product, service, family value, business ethic, action or inaction. This is because Satan can use practically any situation to influence our spiritual sense of identity, including our good intentions (Matthew 16:21-23). Discipleship beyond the basics includes discovering changes God seeks in us, and discerning and acting on the bigger spiritual picture that God wants us to embrace about our identity. In short,

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discipleship training that goes beyond the elementary teachings of Christ focuses on real-life application training in trials. Discipleship training is vital to improve in doing our part to transform an old-self image in a trial such that we act in Christ (the new self). Very rarely do we just “get the feel” for how to respond in the new self without some sort of disciplined training. After all, *discipline* is the part of the lifestyle for a *disciple*.

Overcoming Satan’s attack on our identity includes training in these tasks:**

1. Recognizing when our hearts are disturbed either with feelings (emotions) and/or desires.
2. Identifying our concerns, desires and the things we want to do – WHILE our hearts are still disturbed! (This gives us clues as to Satan’s influences on our actions and motives).
3. Establishing (feeling) our true sense of identity in Christ: the new self. (We will experience peace during a trial when this is properly accomplished in Christ.)
4. Considering what God would have us to do – WHILE our hearts are at peace! (We can compare this with what we come up with from #2 above, to ensure it looks different.)
5. Acting, while at peace, on the results of #4 above. (This involves acting because we are at peace, not acting to get to peace – there is a difference!)

We can tell we’ve overcome Satan’s attack and centered our sense of identity in Christ when we experience the following regularly and more consistently *during* trials:**

1. We discipline ourselves to do our part to recognize our old self at work in the situation, just like Paul describes in Romans 7:15-21 (see Scripture at the beginning of this article).
2. We experience a strong, solid sense of peace as we reject our old desires and embrace God’s correction within us (Philippians 4:7; Galatians 5:17).
3. We are confident that we heard the Lord correctly (1 John 3:18-24).
4. We have faith that God will be there for us regardless of the outcome of acting as He directs us to act or not act (Hebrews 11:36-40).

** *Feelings 101: Pain to Peace* examines these tasks in detail and offers practical application exercises. It presents discipleship training that is suited to do on your own, at the pace the Holy Spirit sets for you.

Next Month’s “Hearts Up” will look more closely at how our sense of identity works, and how it comes from the image of God!

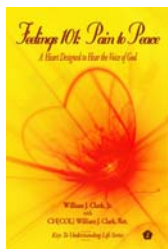
THE BIBLE’S BIGGER PICTURES

Learning to be Satisfied: A Lesson from the Exodus and Passover

“**L**earning to be satisfied” isn’t necessarily about settling for less! “Learning to be satisfied” doesn’t necessarily mean God’s plan won’t include blessing us materially, financially, or relationally as we try to live for Him, do His will and serve Him. However, sometimes Satan can use our desires “for more” in ways that may violate the direction God wants for us. Our part is, in the Spirit, to discover the ways Satan seeks to deceive us. This involves looking at our past old-

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self patterns and remembering that God’s guidance will usually require us to trust in His instruction – not just our own efforts! In other words, God’s guidance during trials will usually seem “unnatural” to our old selves (Galatians 5:17). The Bible demonstrates this lesson both in the Old Testament and the New Testament.



Real-life Basis for the Lesson. *Feelings 101: Pain to Peace* focuses on the Scriptural skill of listening to God’s Spirit with our hearts and on seeing how God offers us very specific guidance for each real-life challenge we face. This skill helps you to identify your own past patterns by listening to God’s Spirit. Maybe you use *Feelings 101* lessons to help you improve in doing your part in hearing exactly what God wants of you and when; maybe you’ve found something else that assists you in interacting with God’s Spirit and applying Scriptural truths to your life. Regardless, as we get better at hearing the specifics of God’s guidance to us in our real-life trials and circumstances, Satan will work harder to deceive us and throw us off God’s track. The following is huge in terms of being skilled spiritual warriors for God:

We must realize that Satan fights against God by causing *us* to become so narrowly focused on our physical world problem(s) that we forget to do our part in trusting God’s guidance to us.

Dealing with Satan’s Attacks. For God to raise us above Satan’s confusing tactics in life, we MUST trust God enough to do our parts consistently once we’ve been blessed with hearing His guidance to us in our hearts during trials. With these things in mind, perhaps you may see that “learning to be satisfied” involves embracing some of these bigger pictures from the Bible:

- We must observe the blessings in our lives; be thankful for them and *remember them in such a way that it enables us to trust and act on the Lord’s guidance even when things are difficult or unpleasant.*
- We must recognize that while we may struggle to handle real issues in life, if we are to remain consistently within God’s counsel to us, we have to first understand and deal with the spiritual battles behind our life issues; not the other way around.
- We must recognize that Satan’s attacks/deceptions work to turn us against one another.
- We can inadvertently choose to reject God’s offer to bless us personally in ways He sees as being rewarding and wonderful. The idea is to interact with God’s Spirit so we can do so. Procrastinating and failing to heed the Spirit in trials doesn’t change God’s ultimate plan; however, it often delays or even deprives us of the best God may offer us personally because we resisted His direction along our way in life.

A Passover Lesson. Recently I was reading about the Passover from a pamphlet put out by the USO for Jewish personnel in the US Armed Forces. I came upon a portion of the celebration that was particularly meaningful to me and I thought it might be to others as well. This part consists of reflections that take place during the Passover, before the actual meal. In the pamphlet, this portion is called, “Da-yay-nu,” which translated means “We should have been satisfied,” and part of it is presented on the next page.¹

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“Had He brought us out of Egypt And not passed sentence on its people,	Da-yay-nu (<i>we should have been satisfied</i>)
Had He passed sentence on its people And not upon their pagan gods,	Da-yay-nu (<i>we should have been satisfied</i>)
Had He passed sentence on their pagan gods And not slain their first born sons,	Da-yay-nu (<i>we should have been satisfied</i>)
Had He slain their first born sons And not given us their treasures,	Da-yay-nu (<i>we should have been satisfied</i>)
Had He given us their treasures And not split the Red Sea for us,	Da-yay-nu (<i>we should have been satisfied</i>)
Had He split the Red Sea for us And not led us safely through,	Da-yay-nu (<i>we should have been satisfied</i>)
Had He led us safely through And not drowned our enemies there,	Da-yay-nu (<i>we should have been satisfied</i>)
Had He drowned our enemies there And not supplied our desert needs,	Da-yay-nu (<i>we should have been satisfied</i>)
Had He supplied our desert needs And not fed us with manna,	Da-yay-nu (<i>we should have been satisfied</i>)
Had He fed us with manna And not given us the Sabbath,	Da-yay-nu (<i>we should have been satisfied</i>)
Had He given us the Sabbath And not brought us to Mount Sinai,	Da-yay-nu (<i>we should have been satisfied</i>)
Had He brought us to Mount Sinai And not given us the Torah,*	Da-yay-nu (<i>we should have been satisfied</i>)
Had He given us the Torah And not led us to the land of Israel,	Da-yay-nu (<i>we should have been satisfied</i>)
Had He led us to Israel And not built for us the Temple,	

Da-yay-nu (*we should have been satisfied*)....”

*Torah means the first four books of the Bible: Genesis to Deuteronomy.

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Doubt and Uncertainty Show Our Need for the Same Lesson. The experiences that are recounted in this portion of the Jewish Passover can be found mostly in Exodus, but also Joshua (entry into land of Israel) and 1 Chronicles (building of the Temple). It goes from one example to another, highlighting how God showed favor upon the Israelites each time they faced a problem. You may want to brush up on several of the parts of the stories that are part of the Exodus, and which show the need to improve in the area of “being satisfied.”

- After the signs of plagues, after the Pharaoh freed the Israelites, and after the Egyptians gave treasures to them, the Israelites were afraid, doubted God and Moses, and questioned that they should have left Egypt once they faced the Red Sea (Exodus 14:11-12). (*Da-yay-nu!*)
- Just two months after all that God did to release them from slavery, after the miracle of the Red Sea being parted, and after being delivered from the Egyptian army, the Israelites doubted, questioned Moses, and didn’t trust God when they could not immediately find food (Exodus 16:1-3). (*Da-yay-nu!*)
- After providing both food and water in incredible ways, many Israelites did not respect, or perhaps didn’t believe, the Lord wanted the 7th day of the week to be a holy day... the Sabbath. Out of fear of not having enough (food), many Israelites went out to collect manna on the Sabbath (Exodus 16:21-29). (*Da-yay-nu!*)

As you can see from the passages above, though God blessed them in one situation after another, the Israelites often failed to remember and “be satisfied” so as to trust God in the face of a new challenging or fearful situation! How often do we forget and fail to follow what God tells us in our hearts when we are at peace? This tendency was passed down from generation to generation in Israel, and we too tend to cling to such distrust and fear. As is mentioned in the passage below, Moses reminds the Israelites that this unfortunate resistance to God is part of the lesson they (and we) must learn from their history. Mastering the principle behind this lesson is vital to the quality of their relationship with God, just as it is to us and our relationships with God. (*Da-yay-nu!*)

Deuteronomy 1:32-33 But for all this, you did not trust the LORD your God, who goes before you on *your* way, to seek out a place for you to encamp, in fire by night and cloud by day, to show you the way in which you should go.

As a result of continually having a hard time “being satisfied” so as to fully trust the Lord and continually change their attitudes (hearts), the Israelites sometimes made things unnecessarily hard on themselves and each other. This is one reason why they wandered in the desert for 40 years before God permitted the next generation to enter the Promised Land! The “*Da-yay-nu*” portion of the Passover reminds the Jews of such lessons, so that hopefully they will do better in the “trusting God” department.

A Lesson Also From the New Testament. This lesson on “being satisfied” is also found in the New Testament. It is not only a lesson for us individually in our own trials, but it is also a lesson for our participation within the Body when we face trials together and amongst ourselves. Just as the Israelites were a people chosen of God, because of the sacrifice of Christ, we are spiritual family and a people set apart for God.

Hebrews 3:12-19 reminds Christians to learn the painful lesson of unbelief from the Israelites during the Exodus. In that passage, the Greek word for “unbelieving” is ἀπιστία and means not only “lack of faith” but also “refusing to trust!” “Being satisfied” and trusting God in a timely manner during trials means everything! But that spiritual awareness requires seeing the bigger pictures of our own patterns, and it requires the renewing of the mind (Romans 12:2). The letter to the Hebrews reminds Christians (us as disciples of Christ) that we are not supposed to take long periods of time to change our attitudes, motives, desires so they can be aligned with those to which the Holy Spirit speaks to us. Ceasing a spiritual version of “dragging our feet” is part of this Bible’s bigger picture. It cautions against missing the mark willfully after receiving the knowledge of truth! (*Da-yay-nu!*)

Hebrews 10:23-29 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near. For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES. ...How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has ...insulted the Spirit of grace? (Caps and italics are part of translation)

A Practical Exercise. A great exercise you might want to try is to spend a small amount of time writing your own version of “Da-yay-nu,” that you might call, “*I should have been satisfied.*” Start by reviewing events in your life, but pick a particular period in your life. Don’t just remember the blessings that God has favored you with; remember the blessings that have happened *even though you didn’t do exactly what you knew God wanted you to do.* The point of the exercise is to help us link our own old self patterns with the times when God has shown us He wants us to trust Him, and that He deserves to be trusted continually. Again, this dimension of certain trials isn’t about settling, but it does reveal times when we are being challenged to grow more in the new self (who we are in Christ)! This isn’t a goal we are to arrive at eventually, but continually! It can only happen by being continually in the Spirit. (*Da-yay-nu!*)

How wonderful are the lessons from Exodus and the Passover when it comes to living for the Lord as His Ambassadors and Citizens of Heaven! The Lord calls us to die to our old selves in real-life; moreover, He will give us the strength to do so when we work to align the matters of our minds and the concerns of our hearts with Him! God has sacrificed His Son and given us His Spirit! What is more important than to hear His counsel and trust Him, not just once, but rather in each trial we face?!

KEYS WEBSITE ALERTS

Check out the new index to topics, articles and passages of Scripture found in the many “Hearts Up” editions going back to September 2009. The [Index to “Hearts Up” Articles Online](#) can be found under the navigation menu shown on the next page:

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HEART TO HEART

Trust Me

The fog is dense--
Nothing can be seen that lies beyond.
I am in the moment and not striving.
There is nothing to allure me away.
I can be content right where I stay.

Once again God speaks to me through His creation.
I once responded and found salvation.
Is this a message once again
Perhaps of my need to give all to Him?

He sees within and without
The cloud that hides the rest.
Though I strain to see through it,
My earnest is in vain
My endeavor can nothing change.

Perhaps the message He has for me is
"My dear one, you cannot see
What I have in store for Thee.
How have I loved, led, and
Provided for you in the past?"
Now I ask you, "Trust Me
While life shall last!"

Norma Clark

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If you write poems, psalms, lyrics or prose of faith, and would like to share one of them with others in a “Hearts Up” edition, you may submit it for consideration for the *Heart To Heart* feature. You may also submit a personal story or testimony of your own to share how one of the articles or the *Keys* materials helped you draw closer to God during a trial. You can email your submission through the [Contact Us](#) page or send it to the snail mail address provided on that webpage. Be sure to read the **Contribution Guidelines** before sending us your submission. You can view those guidelines by clicking the link provided on the Contact Us page itself.

ENDNOTES

¹ *Da-yay-nu (We should have been satisfied)*, The Passover Haggadah, Armed Forces and Veteran Services, National Jewish Welfare Board, Member Agency, U.S.O., Inc, 1952, p. 45-47

We decided to include the following information on gifts and donations in response to questions some of our readers have asked. We have not been in the habit of pressing for, or even asking for, financial support. While “Hearts Up” is offered to readers at no cost, our ministry is indeed a faith ministry.

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