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The fullness of Maturity is *ECHAD!*

January, 2008

Shalom!

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Winter greetings to you all. Can you believe we are more than half way through January already?

Our little community is on the final week of our **Hebraic Spiritual Warfare study**. We see this issue as deeply entwined with the

concept of being echad among one another and with the Father as our Yeshua prayed. We think this is essential information for those who are attempting to build Messianic communities. Bob has been good enough to be developing a power point presentation of this topic from the materials I have used on a white board before. Low tech to high tech transition? :o) It should be ready sometime in February if anyone is interested to schedule a presentation in your community.

Janell will be taking us through a study on Galations which was prepared by Tim Hegg which we have been anticipating for nearly a year. Preliminary observations of this book being written around the time of the Jerusalem council and that the reference to circumcision had to do with the Rabbinical proselyte process are steps toward

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more accurately comprehending Sha'uls message. We experience the same controversy today as we lament those who have come to a Messianic Torah understanding, only to ride on through into Orthodox Judaism, ultimately denying Yeshua.

My book, **Christians and Depression: Real Questions & Real Answers** is finally finished and will be available through both websites soon and then through its own domain name. Although it is written for a general Christian audience, the Hebrew flavor is evident. My hope and prayer is that it will point people to greater understanding of depression, faith and maturity. A large portion of the first chapter is presented below for your review.

Today we welcome **Marsha Van with her series on moving up toward greater "set apartness."** This is first in a series of four about the realizations she has had of late about what it means to come into our Messiah's understanding of set apartness, rather than our own. You may recall reading her [Beam Parable](#) from some time ago. Marsha has been with SAM from our beginning in 2000 as well as being a regular Life Model participant and one of the voices you hear on our Maturity in Prayer Life cd. If you'd like a reminder of the [Biblical definition of "kadosh", also translated as "holy" and "set apart"](#) please check a [word study](#) which is also provided as a link in our articles section of the site.

Our **January For Women Only teleconference** was just completed this morning. We welcomed two new ladies and found ourselves addressing the issues that come with new understanding of our Messiah, and of the prompting many of us are feeling toward celebration of the monthly New Moons. (Watch for the recording to be made available on our site.) Part of our rehearsal for His return! The next one is scheduled for February 24th.



We were so pleased to hear about the joy filled outcome experienced by **Waterfall of Grace** community in California, as they set apart 10 days to focus on the development of individual and community joy, maturity and Torah understanding. They used the Life Model and related materials that we have found so helpful in our own community. They pursued it over this short intense time, with great joy and comfort along with emotional and spiritual release for many participants. They are currently working to ensure the foundation laid will be followed up with regular community building and prayer much as we have done. We had an initial time period of intense weekly meetings over several months; now followed by twice

~~~~~ Up the Ladder of Set Apartness

*Part 1 of 4
by Marsha Van, G.N.*



I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside: it shall not cleave to me. Psalms 101: 3 (KJV)

Recently, when I was sick in bed for a time, I found myself spending a lot of time in front of my television. I don't have cable so I played most of the movies I own with brief interjections of local television programming. During one commercial I heard the words, "Don't miss the greatest event of all time," and I chuckled a little at its unintended humor, what event could man produce that could even begin to compare with the return of our Messiah?

monthly meetings for nearly 7 years. (The use of these materials is part of our recommendations when we come alongside a developing Messianic fellowship.)

We have prayed and continue to pray for others to share our vision of the need for joy and relationship as we grow up into Messiah.

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**The realization that we really can't grow up or walk in Torah without community is the message we hope more of His people will heed.**

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It is also true that a community needs leaders and followers: those equipped at the parent or elder level to be wise and discerning as they shepherd and those who recognize and know how to walk both in and under authority. We also note that a fellowship needs shepherding! "Sheeple" just don't do well without care and structure. That leadership we find, is often best when the three strand cord so often seen in Scripture is emulated.

A participant in our **Messianic Community Development Leadership Teleconferences** had an appropriate yet wry comment:

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**"As usual, many people aren't interested in swimming lessons until they're drowning."**

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Our goal is to reach out, and prayerfully coach and encourage Messianic fellowships BEFORE they find themselves in the deep end of the pool, though we are not adverse to throwing out the lifesaving ring when necessary, too!

With so many small bodies of Believers hearing the Call of the Ruach to return to the Ancient paths, we are glad for every person and group He equips to extend the message to more. Though we also caution that equipping IS necessary.

We are pleased, too, to be working with **Dave Gipson of Sheep of Israel Ministries** as we all listen for our Father's directions on how, when and where to exercise our giftings and talents in preparation for His return.

Indeed, as we prayerfully develop relationships that have their unity in Him, we find this IS the path to the echad He desired for us.

Furthermore, He gave some people as emissaries, some as prophets, some as proclaimers of the Good News, and some as shepherds and teachers. Their task is to equip

As I continued to meditate on this phrase my humor turned to sadness as I thought about all who would miss that great day and the words of Matthew 7: 23 came to mind:

Then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from me, you who practice lawlessness." (NASB)

And I remembered Psalm 101: 3 (as above) This set me to thinking about all the movies I had watched and what images had passed before my eyes over the preceding days and I began to pray for YHVH's discernment in this matter.

My current movie collection is what is left after years of pruning. Initially I leaned on my understanding but eventually moved into purposeful prayer for discernment. As praying became a continual action, the pruning process did also. Each pruning brings me up one more rung on the spiritual ladder of set apartness. With each pruning my collection becomes more acceptable to

*God's people for the work of service that builds the body of the Messiah, **until we all arrive at the unity implied by trusting and knowing the Son of God, at full manhood, at the stand of maturity set by the Messiah's perfection.***

We will then no longer be infants tossed about by the waves and blown along by every wind of teaching, at the mercy of people clever in devising ways to deceive. Instead, speaking the truth in love we will in every respect grow up into Him Who is the Head, the Messiah.
Ephesians 4: 11-15

The fullness of maturity is Echad!

In Service to Him, the Gatherer of the Flock;

Barb Klika

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At last! My "3 month project" begun in spring of 2006 is complete! I offer excerpts from the introduction for your review [here](#).

### Christians and Depression: Real Questions & Real Answers

By Barbara L. Klika, MSW, LCSW, Personal Life Coach

In these pages, we will take a look at questions that real people have about being both a Christian and one who is struggling with depression. As an experienced clinical therapist in private practice, I have evaluated and treated many people with depression. I know that there is often some kind of faith struggle for those who profess belief in Jesus of Nazareth yet feel depressed.



I will address the issue of maturity and how it--or the lack of it--impacts our understanding of depression, faith and the quality of relationships. You know, there are many people who have grown older without also growing wiser. Sometimes our own lack of wisdom hinders our well being, but just as often, it may be the immaturity of others.

As a personal Life Coach, I stand with people who recognize a problem area in their life that needs attention. I don't provide evaluation and diagnosis of a medical problem but instead help them focus on their own strengths, even in the midst of struggle. Personal

YHVH, and so do I.

When I was a small child I didn't understand the concept of set apartness but I did understand that there was a right and a wrong way to act. Good behavior was rewarded while bad behavior resulted in discipline. I didn't like being disciplined but liked the rewards and consequently developed a desire to please my parents. As I grew, I began to understand there was something outside of my parents that influenced their understanding of right and wrong. That something was YHVH and His book of instructions was the Bible. As my understanding of the Bible grew, I developed a sense of justice and virtue and wanted to please YHVH as well as my parents.

In adolescence, a great deal of my behavior came under the influence of social and peer pressure, but I still held to some of my parents' ideals. However, by the time I reached my teens, I had decided I was smarter than my

strength and resilience can be easily forgotten in the whirl of treatment options.

In this e-book, I have gathered the questions that real people were kind enough to provide in an online survey during early 2006. My survey question:

### **What is your single biggest concern about Christians and Depression?**

Here is a summary of some of the responses:

- Is it true if we get depression then we are failing God?
- Do Christians choose to be depressed i.e. is it their will, or are they being put to the test by God the Father?
- Why do we feel alone, why has God left our presence and shut the door? How do we depressed get back on gods side to have faith to survive instead of just wanting to exist or wanting to die?
- How can I share with my family in a constructive way about the struggles with depression, without "dragging" them down, as I desire to model a life pleasing to the Father?
- WHAT CAUSES A SOUL TO DROP INTO THE PIT OF DESPAIR? IF THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST DWELLS IN HER, NO DARKNESS SHOULD EVER ARISE.
- How can I know I'm going to hell and live a happy life?
- If I take medication for depression is that the easy, soft way out?

These are some of the questions addressed and I believe they represent the heart cry of many Christian Believers today. Depression is among the most commonly diagnoses illnesses in American. A mixture of life circumstances, health problems, relationship problems, and fears about God's view of them seem to fuel these fears to such depths of intensity that people arne't sure how to recover. In another day, there may have been people close by who had the time and wisdom to walk their family members or friends through such dark days. Today, so many people lead busy, hurried lives,that they may not see the concerns in others and take time to encourage them. They maya be busy because they are trying not to slip any further into their own fears.

Since depression is so common, should we be surprised that people who identify themselves as Christian Believers struggle with it as well as non

parents, and God, and was capable of choosing for myself what was right and wrong, and I rebelled.

It wasn't until I started having children of my own that I started back on the journey to set apartness. As a mother, I was responsible not only for myself, but for my children as well, and not just their physical well being but also their spiritual well being. I did my best to teach them what I understood they should know and I took great care in selecting TV shows and movies they should watch.

When I look back now I am appalled at what I thought was acceptable then as compared to what I call acceptable now.

I expect to be just as appalled at some of my current movie choices in the future.

When I first recognized the need to scrutinize my video collection, I had to get to know YHVH all over again. Thankfully, He met me with grace and revealed to me what was detestable to Him.

believers?

Yet because of the nature of faith, and the assumptions that go along with it, people who are depressed and who are Christian, often combat unique prejudices and fears, whether from people around them or from within themselves.

The clinical diagnosis of a problem can be a relief when it brings together the right mixture of information, medication, prayer and hope. It can also bring problems; mental health diagnosis has been used as a reason to deny insurance benefits, employment or child custody. Among Christian Believers, there is a wide range of understanding about people who suffer depression. There may be support, yet also, at times, misunderstanding which leads to condemnation. I intend to help make sense of these matters with real, practical ideas and information.

These terms "Christian" and "Depression" at first glance, may seem very obvious and easy to define, but in truth, there are many different ways to understand each of them. It is also true that the maturity of the people involved will affect understanding as well.

To be sure that we are talking about the same things, I will provide some background information first. After defining both terms and providing information on maturity, I will generally move from the most frequently expressed to the least voiced concerns.

You will find resources to do some checking of your own about diagnosis and treatment for depression. It is certain that you will not agree with every observation made. Rather than debate, I will celebrate that these comments stirred up thoughtful responses, and with you, agree to defer to Messiah in all things, looking forward all the more to the Day He will return and settle all division. Where Scripture is concerned, I strongly urge you to check out anything I have written here and compare it to the Word for yourself.

*Study to show yourself approved to God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth. II Timothy 2: 15 NKJV*

It is my hope and prayer that these words will help you to ask good questions and find reliable

*To continue Marsha's story, [click here](#).*

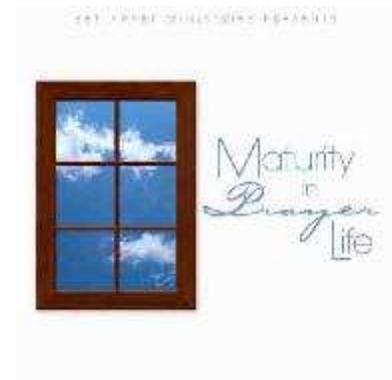
*Next month, Marsha continues her story with [part 2: Sex in the Cinema](#).*

### Quick Links

[Fellowship Consultation Info](#)

[Newsletter Archive](#)

[More On Us: Our Organizational Goals](#)



### Our Maturity in Prayer Life CD

is now available for sale through our website. Verbal responses to the material have been positive all around. Your assistance and help getting this resource made known to others would be greatly appreciated. Our prayer and hope is that the material found here will encourage the development, joy and growth in prayer for those who hear.

answers about depression.

- meet you where you are, and help you to understand relationships more fully.
- take you more deeply into the Word and relationship with our Messiah.
- encourage you as you encourage those around you.

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Well, that's a good portion of the first chapter for your review.

Marilyn and I look forward to hearing from those of you who would find this a helpful resource. The introductory price is \$25.

You can obtain a downloadable PDF version of the entire 168 page book within minutes. Instructions for working with an e-book format are included. When the book is available through the sites, we accept payment with major credit or debit cards through PayPal. You may also contact us at the office to discuss payment and delivery options before then. email address: info@stillwatersgb.org OR info@setapartmingb.org OR (920) 336-7005.

Teleconferences

FOR WOMEN ONLY

Our next monthly teleconference will be held on February 24, 2008 at 9:00 am CST. Watch for the announcement in your email box or contact us if you'd like to receive an invitation.

info@setapartmingb.org and ask to be included!

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#### **MESSIANIC FELLOWSHIP LEADERS TELECONFERENCES**

We have one current teleconference group with the Messianic Community Development Leaders group, though we will not be taking new members in that group for the near future.

This daily reading devotional resource is now available through our [website homepage!](#)



*My Utmost for His Highest*

by Oswald Chambers

This is a classic devotional and one that is deeply challenging for all who desire to get to know our Messiah ever more fully.

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[You may also be interested in these audio programs on our website.](#)

What to Say when They say, "So, You're Jewish?"

How the Ruach works through us in Creativity

Theresa Bates of Adonai Dance Ministries and Shirley Reese of Perigrinnati

Go Through the Gates discussion

[Click here for more information.](#)

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Blessings of strength and peace to you all!

Barb Klika & Marilyn Zierhart

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