



PRAYER OR REBUKE?

There is no question about how great prayer is, but it is common to hear people ask one another to pray for each other without realizing it may not be prayer they need, rather it is repentance they need. Many people bounce around all over asking people to pray for them rather than dealing effectively with their situation. Many have the impression one persons prayer is better than an-others and the more people you can get to pray for you the better. While this is partially correct, it is generally misunderstood.

If someone complains about the terrible circumstances of their life, almost everyone will volunteer to pray for them, but only so they can escape from the inquiry into WHY such trouble came. If, as is usually expected, there is no answer to their prayer, they can remember that they prayed, and excuse themselves from any further involvement. Even if the connection between this person's sins and the consequences of his sins are clearly seen, there will probably be no open rebuke for fear of reprisals. If they face this troubled person again, they can always reassure them that Yah loves them, thereby making it "all Yah's fault", who supposedly, didn't do anything to help. But what we really have here, is the case in which Yah did intervene by placing the word of correction in YOUR heart and mouth, even though He knew you wouldn't risk that other person's wrath by confronting them. So, in the end, you are judged as unfaithful and cowardly for failing to confront your brother, and the word of reproof is denied to the brother who needed to hear it because

he was unteachable. Besides, it is now commonly held, that anyone who would be so bold as to point out to someone else their sins has no love, or is guilty of unrighteous judging.

Prov. 15:31 *“The ear that heareth the reproof of life abideth among the wise.”*

There is no such thing as the fellowship of the saints without the reproof of life. Without it, all that is left is deception, guile, and alienation, which are then relabeled as "patience, mercy, and tolerance". If you look closely in most Christian churches you will find everyone is careful not to step on anyone else's toes, lest they be accused of "the pot calling the kettle, black." Hence, you and everyone else are left in your sins and errors for years, while you excuse yourselves in the knowledge that "nobody's perfect". What then? Is mercy nothing more than the self-serving willingness to wink at evil, dishonesty, hardheartedness, pride and stubbornness? Is the silent tolerance of one another's faults the expression of the love of Yah? Or is it rather, that all correction is grievous to you, and you hate reproof? Yeshua described the reality of the matter when he said: **John 3:19** *“And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because **their** deeds were evil”*. Notice the word “their” in that verse.

That which makes manifest, is light. Therefore, one who walks in the light seeks to be exposed, and seeks also to surround himself with others who will speak the truth to him rather than flatteries. Those who seek for the kingdom of Yah and His righteousness do not despise the reproof of life: neither the giving of it, nor the receiving of it. Those who hunger and thirst after righteousness will heed the Words of our Saviour, who commanded us to love one another even as He loved us. In His own Words, He said, **Rev. 3:19** *“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten.*

Certainly, if you go about sticking your nose into other people's business, you are inviting them to do the same to you, but Yeshua also said, **Matt. 7:12** *“All things therefore that ye would that men **SHOULD** do to you, do ye even so unto them, for this is the law and the prophets”* And to many, this means, "I'll leave you alone, so that you will leave me alone". You refuse to confront others about their sins and errors, because you refuse to receive reproof yourself. But, if you love Yah with all your heart, mind and soul, and your neighbor as yourself, you will turn your ear to receive reproof, and you will do your utmost to extend the rule of Truth over all those around you, even if you can only do so at the risk of rejection and slander.”

The sad truth is that many proclaimed christians are simply NOT Believers in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob even though they claim to be. They have been sold a lie by the masses and think that all they have to do is say a few words and they are born again, saved, and have eternal salvation. Most of these people are not told the truth about salvation being an ongoing process. Most are told they need to do nothing more to be saved. Then they wonder why their prayers aren't being answered. It can be wrapped up with one simple verse that you will NEVER hear in a proclaimed SUNDAY church.

Prov. 28:9 *He who turns away his ear from listening to the law, even his prayer is an abomination”*

(Mar 19/16) Jerry Hennig