

Newsletter

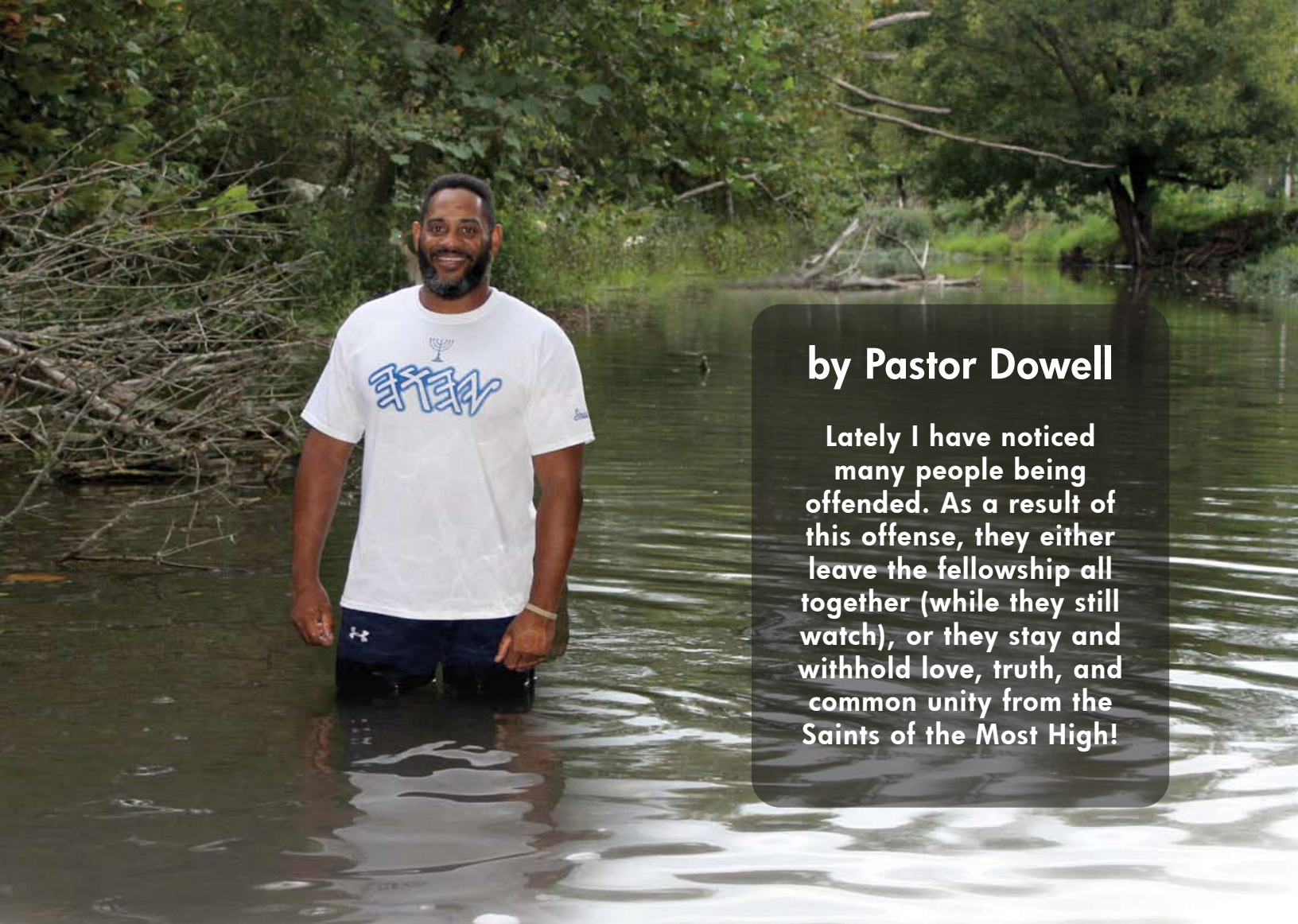
Straitway Truth

JAN | FEB | MAR 2013

JUDGMENT



S t r a i t w a y T r u t h . c o m



by Pastor Dowell

Lately I have noticed many people being offended. As a result of this offense, they either leave the fellowship all together (while they still watch), or they stay and withhold love, truth, and common unity from the Saints of the Most High!

This is being written to let us all know that He sees us all very clearly. Let me provide an example, so that there will be no room for confusion. This is what the prophet Samuel said:

*Behold, here I [am]:
witness against me before אַתָּאֵל,
and before his anointed:
whose ox have I taken?
or whose ass have I taken?
or whom have I defrauded?
whom have I oppressed?
or of whose hand have I received [any] bribe
to blind mine eyes therewith?
and I will restore it you.
And they said,
Thou hast not defrauded us,
nor oppressed us,
neither hast thou taken ought of any man's hand.
And he said unto them,
אַתָּאֵל [is] witness against you,
and his anointed [is] witness this day,
that ye have not found ought in my hand.
And they answered,
[He is] witness.
(Shemu'el Aleph (I Samuel) 12:3-5)*



It is inevitable that there will be disagreements and disputes among us, yet the Torah, and especially Jesus/Yahshua, has given us a blueprint for handling these matters.

scriptural judgments since Moses

Some have thought that they had a very special place in their hearts with me, and, as a result, they did not believe that they were actually trying to bribe a judgment in their favour because of a close relationship.

Over the years, I have seen many people come and go simply because in their minds they believed themselves to be right. However, they refused to handle all matters after Scriptural judgments. While our people had the priesthood, Jesus is now our High Priest. He left us a structure whereby we may continue righteous judgment—Pastors & Elders.

*And אַזאַז said unto Moses,
Gather unto me seventy men
of the elders of Israel,
whom thou knowest
to be the elders of the people,
and officers over them;
and bring them
unto the tabernacle of the congregation,
that they may stand there with thee.
And I will come down
and talk with thee there:
and I will take of the spirit
which [is] upon thee,
and will put [it] upon them;
and they shall bear the burden
of the people with thee,
that thou bear [it] not thyself alone.
(Bemidbar (Numbers) 11:16)*

Without knowing it, most Yisra'elites would rather that I, the Pastor, handle every judgment and every matter concerning them, yet even Moses appointed Elders to judge the smallest of matters among the people. The instructions and guidelines teach us אַזאַז's order, and the Elders were to help Moses bear the burden of the people - they brought the weightier matters to Moses.

Saints, please take your time with this next passage of Scripture. Read it very slowly and meditate upon it. You must understand, the Elders actually want me, Pastor Dowell, to stay around as long as possible in this work of the Most High. You must read and understand:

*And it came to pass on the morrow,
that Moses sat to judge the people:
and the people stood by Moses
from the morning unto the evening.
And when Moses' father in law saw
all that he did to the people, he said,
What [is] this thing that thou doest to the people?
whysittest thou thyself alone,
and all the people stand by thee from morning unto even?
And Moses said unto his father in law,
Because the people come unto me to enquire of God:
When they have a matter, they come unto me;
and I judge between one and another,
and I do make [them] know the statutes of God, and his laws.
And Moses' father in law said unto him,
The thing that thou doest [is] not good
Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou,
and this people that [is] with thee:
for this thing [is] too heavy for thee;
thou art not able to perform it thyself alone.
Hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel,
and God shall be with thee:
Be thou for the people to God-ward,
that thou mayest bring the causes unto God:
And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws,
and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk,
and the work that they must do.
Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men,
such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness;
and place [such] over them,
[to be] rulers of thousands,
[and] rulers of hundreds,
rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens
And let them judge the people at all seasons:
and it shall be,
[that] every great matter they shall bring unto thee,
but every small matter they shall judge:
so shall it be easier for thyself,
and they shall bear [the burden] with thee.
If thou shalt do this thing, and God command thee [so],
then thou shalt be able to endure,
and all this people shall also go to their place in peace.
So Moses hearkened to the voice of his father in law,
and did all that he had said.
And Moses chose able men out of all Israel,
and made them heads over the people,
rulers of thousands,
rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.
And they judged the people at all seasons:
the hard causes they brought unto Moses,
but every small matter they judged themselves.
(Shemoth (Exodus) 18-12-26)*

submitting to biblical terms

At times you may not like the judgment of the Elders among you, yet, they are Elders! If you are so sure they are wrong about a judgment concerning you, and you are part of the Body of Christ, you should submit to Biblical terms and allow the process Jesus gave us to play out. There are clear steps and a clear chain of command we must all use:

Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone:

if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

But if he will not hear [thee, then] take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell [it] unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.
(Mattithyahu (Matthew) 18:15-20)

It is sad to say, but many never even make it to these righteous steps. Many will go and seek out someone they are so-called “close to”, which, I might add has nothing to with it at all, and tell them the matter. Believing, for some reason, that if we include them, we better strengthen our position! What we do not see is that we are causing a root of bitterness to enter in among the people to whom we tell the matter, and causing many to be defiled!



“ *if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.* ”

Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble [you], and thereby many be defiled; Lest there [be] any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.
(Ib'rim (Hebrews) 12:15-17)

Over the years, I have watched many, who would not submit to Biblical judgment, fall away in their own self-righteousness and they have never repented for the wickedness of their heart. Sure, they go away justified—but only within themselves. If you watch them very closely, it's only a matter of time until you see them, who were once washed and clean, return to their own vomit again—life prior to conversion!

using your position

Many times we are actually fulfilling the Word to the letter in our lives without even realizing it. Love your brother and sister enough to not offend their weak conscience.

Most people, if they are close to you, will take your side without knowing the entire story simply because they do not want to lose your love. But is it really love, or are you seeking to use your position with those whose ear you have, to offend and divide?

running away mad



The attitude of some has come to the point where their conversation now genders to leaving the Church. Of course, this is always the answer here in America: if we do not like something, we just leave!

You cannot run away from everything in your life. The answer is not running away or ignoring the issue. Once you start this attitude of running, you will never stop! You will be a vagabond on the earth. This is why there are so many failed relationships, failed marriages, Churches and Assemblies splitting, and hardly anyone wants real accountability. Listen to what Peter said about the matter:

*These are wells without water,
clouds that are carried with a tempest;
to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever.
For when they speak great swelling [words] of vanity,
they allure through the lusts of the flesh,
[through much] wantonness,
those that were clean escaped
from them who live in error.
While they promise them liberty,
they themselves are the servants of corruption:
for of whom a man is overcome,
of the same is he brought in bondage.
For if after they have escaped
the pollutions of the world
through the knowledge
of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
they are again entangled therein,
and overcome, the latter end
is worse with them than the beginning.
For it had been better for them
not to have known the way of righteousness,
than, after they have known [it],
to turn from the
holy commandment delivered unto them.
But it is happened unto them
according to the true proverb,
The dog [is] turned to his own vomit again;
and the sow that was washed
to her wallowing in the mire.
(KēphaBēt (II Peter) 2:17-22)*

So through a deceived heart, Satan has gotten another one to fall away. This is simply because they will not submit to the law of the Scriptures and use the blueprint Jesus has given us.

*Ye have heard that
it was said by them of old time,
Thou shalt not kill;
and whosoever shall kill
shall be in danger of the judgment:
But I say unto you,
That whosoever is angry
with his brother without a cause
shall be in danger of the judgment:
and whosoever shall say to his brother,
Raca, shall be in danger of the council:
but whosoever shall say,
Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.
Therefore if thou bring
thy gift to the altar,
and there rememberest that
thy brother hath ought against thee;
Leave there thy gift before the altar,
and go thy way;
first be reconciled to thy brother,
and then come and offer thy gift.
Agree with thine adversary quickly,
whiles thou art in the way with him;
lest at any time the adversary
deliver thee to the judge,
and the judge deliver thee to the officer,
and thou be cast into prison.
Verily I say unto thee,
Thou shalt by no means come out thence,
till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing.
(Mattithyahu (Matthew) 5:21-26)*

judgment is אַיִן's

America, and all of its deception,
affords us the so-called "right" to kick the traces,
yet nobody is going to escape the judgment of אַיִן,
not here, nor in eternity!
You will pay the uttermost farthing (penny).
None of us should grade on a curve.
None of us should pervert judgment
simply because we are fond of someone,
or they are personal family members.



I cannot tell you have many times over the years people have just left (some very upset) and have spoken all kinds of judgments against me "Pastor Dowell". They accused me of evil things and have just outright lied on me. They have said, "אַיִן is going to bring you down!" Of course I do not have a problem with this at all—He is the one who puts up and pulls down. If He chooses to bring me down, so be it! However, as I have seen over the years, everyone one of them get brought down without fail! Listen to me if you can; if this work is not of אַיִן but of men, it will come to nought. But, if this work be of אַיִן, it cannot be overthrown by your personal judgment or by men!

Yet I have watched every single one of them come to nought as I continue to grow in His Grace and Knowledge. The Book of the Acts of the Apostles says it like this:

*After this man rose up
Judas of Galilee in the days of the taxing,
and drew away much people after him:
he also perished; and all,
[even] as many as obeyed him, were dispersed.
And now I say unto you,
Refrain from these men, and let them alone:
for if this counsel or this work be of men,
it will come to nought:
But if it be of God,
ye cannot overthrow it;
lest haply ye be found even to fight against God.
And to him they agreed:
and when they had called the apostles,
and beaten [them],
they commanded that
they should not speak in the name of Jesus,
and let them go.
And they departed from the presence of the council,
rejoicing that they were counted worthy
to suffer shame for his name.
And daily in the temple,
and in every house,
they ceased not to
teach and preach Jesus Christ.
(Ma'asei (Acts) 5:37-41)*

America, and its mindset, have caused a great offense among true Yisra'elites and those who are being converted to the faith, "The Way". All of us must submit to His righteousness and His judgments. אַיִן has given to us many examples and laws in how to handle matters. The problem comes in when His people will not submit to His laws. Bitterness and hostility enter in and defile and cause many to hold back and some to fall away from the faith all together. This is a very dangerous game to be playing. Consider this, the Elders will not judge your concern based upon the way you present it—they will hear from all parties involved in the matter and judge according to righteous judgment.

Many of you think in your hearts that when you reject the judgments of the Elders, your quiet rebellion (which you show by the things you do and do not do) is affecting the ministry. In this case you are seriously deceived and you will be the one suffering in your lives because of failure to submit to אַיִן's way.

If you believe a judgment is not according to the right way, then the final judgment of the matter is before the whole counsel. This is where the entire Church/Assembly hears the matter. Every ear will have the chance to hear the complete matter openly and the entire Assembly and אַיִן's law will be final.

heart waxes cold

The sad fact is the majority of cases among Yisra`elites never actually make it to this stage. Many times because of offense, we hold bitterness against our brothers and sisters and we withdraw our hearts and spirits from the congregation of Yisra`el. As a result, time goes by and the heart grows darker and further away from אֱלֹהִים.

Private duties of prayer, fasting, and reading the Scriptures, all begin to take a back seat in our lives. We continue for a short period of time and slowly become a “shell” of a man or woman. Your heart has now waxed cold. Take heed to wise counsel and avoid this kind of heart.

no favoritism

As the Pastor of this Assembly here at Straitway and the home fellowships, it is my hope that all of us will be content to follow אֱלֹהִים's way. I will never take any bribe nor will the Elders! I will never show favoritism towards any because of my relationship with them. Many have tried countless times over the years and they all have failed.

You may not like it, but we will always give just and fair judgment in and among Yisra`el. We do not have all of these years of living a set-apart life to not know what we are doing. Also remember we are brethren as well and may the Grace of Yahshua Ha Mashiyach be with you all.

final words

Here are some final admonitions for you to meditate on: Your natural family has a special place in your heart, as they should, because they are yours. However, remember the Spirit (which is thicker than blood), meaning your spiritual family; these are the ones that will be with you in eternity—forever in the Kingdom.

אֱלֹהִים does not see things the way you see them. It is as equally important that your brothers and sisters in the Household of Faith know that you can be a trusted Saint. Every single one of us must secure our love towards each other.

Many of you cannot be trusted simply because you favor your family above the Word of אֱלֹהִים!

Wives: do not go to other men, the elders, or even the Pastor, with any matter or question without your husband's consent!

The Way, the Truth is not for the faint-hearted; yet it is the foundation of all righteousness.

Your Elders in the Dispora

Brother Shane/Teacher
Elder Doug/Straitway
Brother Spinny/Straitway
Pastor Fox/Shofar Mountain
Elder Pena/California
Elder Rufus/Georgia
Elder Donnie/Louisiana

Other Heads of Fellowships

Brother Austin/South Carolina
Brother Randy/New Jersey
Brother Mitchell/Texas-Houston
Brother Josh/Texas-Dallas
Brother Vernon/Michigan-Ohio
Brother Frank/Southern Georgia
Brother Mike Holland/North Carolina

Shalom, Pastor Dowell



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This article is subject to change as **אדני** gives me new understanding and as we advance in this diaspora.

So much has been lost and covered up over the centuries; our history, heritage, culture, and language.

He is restoring all that has been lost and all that has been kept from us, His people.

I thank him for Salvation. I thank Him for Jesus Yahshua.

All Scriptural Text is from the King James Version of the Bible.

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shalom
Pastor Dowell