

TRANSCRIPTION – 7 HABITS of the 144,000 – Part 2

Take these things I'm going to say today to heart, okay, because they're powerful. They're powerful in your life. When I was thinking about it, I think I mentioned last year there's a book by Stephen Covey. How many people have heard of Stephen Covey? He has a book and millions of copies sold, *7 Habits of Highly Effective People*.

And I've heard different things by him and he's dead now. He died I think in 2012, but I like him, he's a good guy. And as I've been going over, I was thinking, "Wow, this almost parallels a lot of the stuff of Stephen Covey." So what I did was I kind of took some concepts from his book with all the things I was teaching and combined it into one to make the 7 habits to become one of the 144,000. So even if you take one of these habits, they're powerful in your life. I mean really powerful in every aspect of your life.

I don't see capitalism as a good thing. Capitalism isn't win/win. Capitalism is there's win/lose but the winners keep moving on and that's what they say, you could take this as a start and nine fails, so what? The one who continues, that's capitalism but it's not the Kingdom of Yahweh.

And I saw a video a while ago, I don't know if you ever heard of man called Glen Beck. Has anybody ever heard of him? I think he's an honest guy. I met him in Israel at one time, he was doing some things. I think he's an honest enough guy but he made a statement, he said and he's supposed to be a believer. I think he's Mormon. He's supposed to be a Christian or some kind, but he said, "If you can give me a better government than America, I will leave America today." I said, "Oh, I wish I could get a hold of you." I wish I could get ahold of him. I can give him a better government than America. I'm not trying to save capitalism. I'm not trying to save the Constitution. And that's for the Kingdom of Yahweh. I got a better way. I got something that's way, way better because in that system there is always winners and losers. And the reason why it's lasted so long is there's always been a lot of people in the middle that really aren't a winner or a loser. And people were satisfied with that.

People are satisfied with being mediocrity. I'm not satisfied with being mediocrity. Yahweh made me better than that. I hope you're not satisfied with mediocrity. We want to excel. *It says whatever your hand puts to do, do it with all your might!* Who wants to be mediocre? Anybody can be that but with the Kingdom of Yahweh we have a better way. We have a way that is always win/win! There are no losers in the Kingdom of Yahweh. It's always win/win. And everything you do in life when you're dealing with other people it's got to be win/win. And since we come from a society that everything is either win/lose or lose/win, one way or the other, we have to reprogram our minds to that. And **we have to make sure that we're always thinking in a win/win mentality.**

Win/lose is way of satan's system of commercial Babylon. Win/win is the Kingdom mindset that we have to live with. And I say this **competition is of the devil**. There's no competition in the Kingdom of Yahweh and we shouldn't be teaching our children competition except to yourself. Competition is good to yourself. You should be competing against yourself to do better but not competing against another human, right? Why would I compete against another human? He's not my Elohim. He's not going to be the one who judges me. What difference does it make? What difference does it make if you're a little bit better than your neighbor if you're both going to go to the Lake of Fire?

No, you want compete against yourself. You want to be better. You want to overcome but it's not about competition to each other. Because again, every time there's a competition than there's always win/lose. And I wonder that sometimes, even I see sometimes believers playing games. I was shocked when I went into Church of God because when I grew up, I grew up from four years old playing sports. I was good at sports and I loved it. I got scholarships. I loved playing. And it's very competitive and I just loved it. I loved the aspect of it because it was something that I excelled at and I enjoyed it. But I learned to get over that.

And when I came into Church of God and I'm thinking you're meeting people that are so friendly and giving and boy, then you get on the basketball court and you want to see people's character change? I couldn't believe it. I was shocked because the competitive nature comes out in people. It's like its not right so why would people opt to that? It doesn't have to be that way.

Think of something as simple as going bowling, right? Anybody bowl before? Why does it have to be that we're all bowling to see who gets the highest score? Why can't you just bowl as a family? And you just combine the scores together.

Me and my daughter we play. Some of the brethren may have different memory games, right? So we don't play the memory game who gets more. We both do it. I flip one card, she flips the second. So there's no completion to it. We're playing as a team. We're playing together. That's the Kingdom of Yahweh. The Kingdom of Yahweh is not winners and losers. **The Kingdom of Yahweh is winners.** Its winners and you have to think this way. We have to think this way on win/win. And you have to think bigger than yourself to be in that kind of mentality. **You have to think bigger than yourself to be in a win/win mentality.**

The earthly mind thinks on scarcity because why do we think on win/lose? We think on win/lose because we're thinking that we're limited in resources, right? Like okay, we're coming over here, there's sandwiches for lunch and let me take three because there might not be enough, right? But if, and that's okay if there's enough food, take four. But are you thinking on scarcity? There may not be enough for me so I'm going take extra. That's not win/win. That's win/lose again. There's one piece of cake left and there's five people, right? We could split it in five ways but that doesn't give you too much. That's win/lose. There's a win/lose mentality that's there and it's everywhere in the world. And I'm telling you it takes a while to break it but it is the most freeing thing in your life when you go to win/win.

Because you want to know something? **The Kingdom of Yahweh is not scarcity! The Kingdom of Yahweh is abundance,** and when we're thinking that way. There's people that will *think* and maybe they don't say it at times, but you're a piano player and somebody else comes in the Congregation who plays the piano. They get jealous. Oh, they might take my job away. They won't take your job away. Isn't it more abundance when we have piano players compared to one piano player? You got to think in that mind set. The Kingdom is a mindset of abundance!

I've seen before, and this is something I don't understand, somebody will be hoping to get a new car and somebody else gets one. Another brother that says, "Hey, I was just blessed to get a new car." And you're jealous of them. Can you imagine? And I say, is there one car in the world? Is there one car that he got a car and you didn't get a car and you're jealous? How on earth can you be jealous?

I've seen people who do when someone is getting a baby. Somebody got pregnant, the woman's jealous that she didn't get pregnant. Is there one child in the world? You can't think too little. You're thinking little. You're not thinking in abundance. You're thinking in scarcity. Where are you going to end up that way? **You have to think in abundance. You have to think big if you want to be in the Kingdom of Yahweh.** Yahweh's is a Kingdom of abundance, not scarcity. You think and live in a mindset of abundance. Isaiah 65 ... Isaiah 65 verse 21:

Isaiah 65:21-23 *And they shall build houses and live in them; and they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. And they shall not build, and another live in them; and they shall not plant, and another eat. For like the days of the tree are the days of My people; and My elect shall grow old to the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain, nor bring forth for terror. For they are the seed of the beloved of YAHWEH, and their offspring with them.*

Wow, that's abundance. You know there's times I'll go on a mission trip to a place like Africa and I see somebody kind of like, I see them eyeing me down. You can tell it. And somebody will spend two, three days figuring out how to get \$20 out of my pocket. They give me every story in the world of this and that. And I say, "Wow, you're really thinking small. You spent two whole days trying to figure out how to get \$20 in my pocket? You know what? If you had a plan of action and you had a budget here. You could have asked me for \$1000 for a business to help the Congregation and I would give it to you right now. Why are you thinking so small? And what are you going to do with that \$20? \$20 is going to come and go, that would mean nothing. But if you had a business, and you were producing mangoes, and you had mango trees, and they kept producing, now you're not only giving to the brethren, it's going to keep producing year after year."

We have to stop thinking in scarcity and think in abundance. I was on the plane one time and I was telling a guy ... I joke when I do this, but it's a true story. You know I'm sitting there and I'm talking to the person and as we were talking about businesses and I say, "I don't really like to tell this to too many people but I actually come from a really rich family." And you'll see their eyes kind of go up. And they'll say, "Oh yeah?" And I'll say, "I don't think you understand. I have a **really, really rich** family. And they'll start, "Do they own corporation?" "No, they own..." I said, "Actually my Dad owns the universe." But it's true! Can you imagine? When we are children of the Creator of the universe and we're worried how to get \$20 out of somebody's pocket? We're worried about little things; how to get your electric bill, how do you do this? Its scarcity. It's not abundance. Yahweh is in abundance. And that's the great part about it, is in community, you have to think this way.

And that's why I say this is a community. If you don't have win/win, you have no community. And that's for me the hardest part of trying to set up a community is to get that in the mind; because anybody can go if you have the money; and you can build houses. You can plant fields and you can put up whatever; but that doesn't make a community. You know how long that will last? It will last a very short time if the people's mindset isn't there. **You have to have that mindset of win/win. You have to have that mindset of love your neighbor as yourself.** And that's the only way it's going to work.

Deuteronomy 28 you got to concept this. **You got to concept how big Yahweh is and how big His blessings are.** Deuteronomy 28 says:

Deuteronomy 28:1-3 *And it shall be if carefully you will listen to the voice of YAHWEH your Elohim, taking heed to do all His commandments which I command you this day, YAHWEH your Elohim shall give you to be on high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings will come on you and overtake you if you will listen to the voice of YAHWEH your Elohim. He will bless in the city, and He will bless you in the field.*

Deuteronomy 28:4-8 *The fruit of your body will be blessed, and the fruit of your ground, the fruit of your livestock, the offspring of your livestock, and the young ones of your flock. Your basket and your kneading-trough shall be blessed. You shall be blessed when you come in, and you shall be blessed when you go out. YAHWEH will cause your enemies that rise up against you to be stricken before your face. They shall come out against you one way, and flee before you seven ways. YAHWEH will command the blessing on all your storehouses and all that you set your hand to do. And He will bless you in the land which YAHWEH your Elohim is giving to you.*

Deuteronomy 28:9-10 *YAHWEH will establish you a holy people to Himself, as He has sworn to you, if you will keep the commandments of YAHWEH your Elohim and in all His ways. And all the people of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of YAHWEH, and they will be afraid of you.*

Wow, they will be afraid of you. Can you imagine? You're a child of the Most High. You're a son or daughter there and this is serious business when you're dealing this. And we have to think this way. Not for yourself, you have to think of

this way for other people. You have to have a mindset of abundance, not scarcity. We're heirs of the universe. Yahweh's way is a give way and there is abundance for everybody. Like I said sometimes if somebody has a gift and somebody else comes in and they might get jealous of it, but when you're looking into abundance, the **more** gifts that we have of somebody, the more people we have that can sing, right? Can you have a choir with one singer? Not really. Can you have a choir with ten singers? Yeah, you know. So the more you have of a gift, the more abundance you're going to have.

In New York City there's different areas, there's different districts and like there's one district called the light district. And you drive up here, blocks and blocks and blocks, every single store is a light store. And I used to work there. I used to work in New York. And somebody that was with me one time and he asked, "How do all these stores stay in business and they're all selling the same thing? Isn't it hard?" "You know it's a community." And he asked, he says, "No, it's the opposite because you know people will come from two states away because they know that light district and they need something that's with lighting, they're going to come there."

So that's the point, when you have abundance you're going to get more people that want that. So it actually doesn't limit them to have fifty different stores. It's a light to fifty different stores that sell clothing, it's the opposite ... it's the opposite; it brings more business to them. And that's the mentality that **we have to understand that abundance brings more abundance**, right? Whatever you focus on becomes most real to you. Abundance brings more abundance and that's the Kingdom mindset; it's always got to be win/win.

The whole is worth more than the individual pieces. I talked about this before. There was a conference I was at in the Knesset a couple years ago. And I just loved that because it's so true that **individually we're only one number**. We're five or two or an eight. But when you put all of us together all of our numbers, the whole is worth more than the individual pieces.

We could do so much more together that's going to be number 6 ... it's going to be synergizing. You know when you synergize you could do so much more together than separately. People that are out there that are against judicial order, right, and they say this, "I'll never follow a man and I don't want to be under that." Is that a mindset of abundance or is it a mindset of scarcity, right? Because there's only so much you can accomplish by yourself. You're limited to what you can do yourself. But as you put these gifts together, especially in unity, wow, it's limitless. Yahweh's potential with us is limitless. The whole is worth more than the individual pieces. This is a Kingdom mindset – **bearing fruit created in synergy, not competition**. To do this, you must train **your mind to be sensitive and have consideration and empathy toward others and to be content and secure in their own abilities and gifts from Yahweh's Spirit**.

So the reason why if I'm a guitar player and someone else comes in that's a guitar player, the reason why I'm jealous is, it's my own insecurity because I'm not secure in my gifts and I'm afraid maybe he'll be better than me. You know what? That would be the best thing in the world because if he's better than me I can learn from him. How am I ever going to get better if somebody is ... I say this with leadership, right, if you're in leadership and the person you're learning from is only a 5 out of 10, out of a leader, you know what that means? That means the best you're ever going to learn is a 4 because you're never going to be above the person who is teaching you. How can you learn more than you're learning?

So you don't want to be learning under somebody that's only a 5 because the best you can be is a 4. You want to be learning from someone who is a 9 or a 10 because you want to get to that ability. So I don't want to be ... I don't want to have the mindset of scarcity that if somebody comes in and they can do what I'm doing, that I'm going to be fearful of them ... I want to be there because I want to learn from them.

I remember when I first started the Bible School in Israel many years ago and the Return to the Land Program and all those things that I was doing with the Ephramites. And somebody came up to me and they were all upset and like, "Elder Don, there's somebody out there and he's trying to do what you're doing!" And I said, "Did you ever read that story where Moses with the seventy men (**Numb 11:25-29**)? And Moses said, "I wish, I wish that everybody was like this." You know that's the same way I would wish. If it was about me maybe I would get jealous. **It's about Yahweh!** So the more people doing it that only re-confirmed my mind that's it's the right thing. If I'm the only one doing it, maybe it's not the right thing, right? So I would wish **everybody** would be bringing people there. And I said, "And by the way, another reason why I'm not worried is because I know nobody can do what I'm doing there."

There was a lot of pastors. I was the only one that I knew, a pastor with knowing the truth that was living there for twenty years. So nobody else did that. Nobody else had the connections and nobody else gave the mind that Yahweh gave me in putting these things together. So why on earth would I be worried for somebody else? And if they had something else that I didn't have than I'd want to meet them! I want to know that person! That's why we went to our school we would bring in teachers from everywhere. And now the Prime Minister of Israel ... you know who he is now, right? The Prime Minister, he was the teacher at our school – Naftali Bennett. He taught at our Bible School. I know him very well. He was the head of the Asher Council. So, amazing.

So, we don't have to fear this. Like I said **it's a Kingdom of abundance and you have to humble yourself to realize you're limited. And if I don't realize my limitations and want people in that have better limitations than me, how am I ever going to learn? How am I ever going to get more abundance to help people get more abundance?**

And this is all ... this is the foundation of the win/win because if you don't get this mindset of win/win; you're never going to do it. It's not a slogan; it's not a catch phrase. It's a way that you have to do every single thing in your life that you have to go by ... automatically, without even thinking about it. When something comes up or something you're thinking about doing, if it's not win/win on both sides; that's not going to work. And a lot of times when we're the winner and someone else is losing, we don't want to think about it. We don't want to think well maybe that's not fair.

I remember one time I was in a supermarket in Israel and the lady overpaid me, I think it was fifty shekels or something. It might have been like \$12. And they're going really fast. So I said, "Mam, mam." And then she says, "What?" I said, "You made a mistake." And she got real offended and says, "Oh I didn't know it was there." I said, "No, no you overpaid me. Here." And she got really quiet and she just said, "Thank you nobody has ever done that before." Because that would be win/lose because I'd get this fifty extra shekels but you know what? She's probably got to pay that at the end of her shift. So what good is that? That's not win/win; it's win/lose.

And **the key is, in the Kingdom it's always win/win**; it doesn't have to be win/lose. And sometimes it's even lose/lose. Sometimes nobody wins. Like when this virus got out; it's lose/lose. Everybody's losing; nobody's going to win who is taking that vaccine. But we have to make sure that we're living in that mentality where everything is a win/win mentality. And that's what brings bearing fruit. It brings synergy and there's so much more that I said for a community. There's no other way a community can survive unless it's win/win.

Being sensitive and having consideration and empathy toward others and being content and sure in our own abilities and gifts from Yahweh's Spirit. Again, think with the end in mind. All of these things, these points we're going over they all go along with each other. Think with the end in mind. And all fruit borne in any given project is collectively gathered by everyone working together for the same common goal. Self and selfish ambition and competition has to go. And our focus has to be on the **collective effort** that we gain together. And that's why it says **one person sowed and another person reaped; and I reaped what he sowed.** You know why? Because it's collective, it's all for the Kingdom. We're all working on the same goal. So that's a good thing ... it's a good thing. We work together, he's reaping, he's sowing and

I'm reaping. And like I said every situation in the community has to be this way. It's the only way a community won't lose.

And I'll give you an example, we had a situation a while ago, they were having a problem in Ethiopia where they had a rule that people that were working off of the kibbutz had to give sixty percent of their salary to the kibbutz. And this went on for a while. And then people were leaving the kibbutz, they said they didn't want to stay there anymore. Then they're contacting me, they're saying, "We can't survive without those people's salary because there's not enough money that we're producing."

So I'm saying something's going on here. So I talked to the people that are leaving and they said, "No, we have parents we have to pay for. We have taxes. We can't afford this if we're giving sixty percent of our money to the kibbutz, then it's not working out." So that's not a win/win situation. So I said, "Okay, what do you think you should be doing?" And I forget what they said ... twenty percent, thirty percent ... maybe it was twenty percent and then I asked the other people, "You know sixty percent is kind of high. We're not the Federal Government here. What do you think?"

And they said, "Well, maybe forty percent?" So they said twenty and they said forty and they came to an agreement at thirty percent. At thirty percent do you think that's fair? Yeah, I think that's fair, you know why? Because even though you're working outside the community and bringing in money, if those people in the community weren't doing all the work in the community for free, you couldn't work outside. Somebody's got to farm. Somebody's got to get the water. So you can't do this, you can't work outside and make that money without them. *You know you're right.* And you people inside you need somebody. You got to buy your grain. You got to buy this. So if they're not bringing money from the outside you can't survive on the inside. *Yeah you're right. Yeah thirty percent isn't that bad. Yeah it seems pretty good! Let's shake hands on it.* Win/win everybody is happy.

And then there's always a way to do that. That's what negotiations are about. It's got to be win/win; **both people have to feel worth. Both people have to feel like they're getting something out of it.** But there can't be a win/win, sometimes it's just people's personality. They don't mind losing. *To keep peace, I'll lose, I don't mind.* And that's not good either because are you're not helping the other person?

And I tell you there's times that I will fight for an injustice, not because I want the money back, because I want those people to know you're not going to get away with this. It doesn't matter if its one penny or it doesn't matter if it's a thousand dollars. If you did something wrong or you're selling food that's tainted or something, I don't want you to do it to somebody else. So I will fight for that! So you see that you're not going to get away with this. That's my responsibility so you don't do it to the next person because some people are just willing to do it. They don't mind losing but that's not good because **then** you're not loving your brother. You're teaching them that they can take advantage of somebody else and they can get away with it and they'll do it another time. **It's got to be win/win. It's got to be where both sides are satisfied in all sides, are winning from it.**

And there's a person that said they come to a seminar like this and it all sounds good. When we're talking and then they came out and said, "But c'mon in a real world this don't work because other people don't look at it as win/win, right? So we're going to be the win/win people, right? We're going to be the honest people and the other side they're just going to take advantage." So this person was in real estate and they thought they would try this technique, win/win. And they go to their meeting, because when you negotiate, you never want to give the first price he gives and the one you really mean, right, because you need a starting point. So let's say something is \$100,000, a house, and I want to buy it and I'm willing to pay 80. I'm not going to start at 80 because they'll counter me at 90. I'll start maybe at 60 or 70, whatever. It depends on the market.

So this person says, "But no let's be honest about it. Let's not play games. Let's go win/win." And he went in, put all his cards on the table, and he got fleeced. And he said, "You see this doesn't work. It's like listen, the world isn't like this they're going to take advantage of me." "What did you just say?" "They took advantage of me." "What did you say?" "They took advantage of me." So it wasn't win/win. It was lose/win. It's not that you always win because you know why? There's times where you just walk away.

I could be honest and I could go for win/win and in the end of the day if it's not going to work, I shake your hand saying, "You know something? You know what win/win is? We don't do a deal." You don't have to do a deal. It doesn't always have to be that way. So it's not going to be realistic; it's reality. It's a reality you have to live in all the time. It doesn't mean you can't negotiate, of course. But **what I'm saying is the end of that negotiation has to be win/win**. So you can't think well if I'm honest, I'm going to get fleeced, then it's not win/win. That's not a win/win situation. It's got to always be win/win because you know why? If this isn't one of your core values, and this is something you're willing to compromise with, **like anything else you compromise once, you'll compromise again**. You have to make everything win/win.

It's got to be something where you will just not allow, number one to take advantage of somebody else where you're winning at somebody else's expense and somebody shouldn't win at your expense. Doesn't mean you can't give to people. Or does it mean that you can't be taking advantage of them because that does not help the other person. It's not a win/win situation. It is not a Kingdom principle. Like I said sometimes win/win is simply having to walk away. No deal is better than a bad deal.

In the Congregation years ago we would have it where we were a real close congregation; and we decided that if something came up that somebody wanted to do, they had an idea, it could be anything ... *hey, as a Congregation to raise some money, why don't we sell pomegranates?* Unless everybody was in agreement, we would just shelve it. If you want to do it privately, that's okay. But if we're going to do it as a Congregation, either everybody is on board or we shelve it because we want win/win. We don't want division.

That's why when remember last year, remember we were going over the Qumran Sect and what was one of the requirements to join Qumran? Everybody had to accept you. So there's 450 people in that community, a new person came in and 449 said yes we want him, but one person said no, he didn't come because you don't want division in your community. It's that simple. And it may start with those two people but believe me it won't stop there. If there's division in the camp, its human nature you start to take sides and the next thing you know the whole community is falling apart. So it's got to be that way. Either everybody agrees to something, and of course we're talking with projects. We're not talking with doctrine. With doctrine there's no debate. That's coming from Yahweh. That's something different.

But like I said, competition is of the devil. It should never be in a community in any form whatsoever. We could play sports without having to keep score. We don't have to have a winner and a loser because that's not a win/win mentality. You could just combine scores together like we said and competition against yourself if you're a runner. Maybe you're running a mile in 6 ½ minutes and you want to get down to 6, that's great. **You should always be doing competition to better yourself, but not against other people**. We're one body and not to pridefully compete to better ourselves at another person's expense. It's just not a Kingdom principle.

Romans 3 in verse 23 ... Romans 3 verse 23:

Romans 3:23-27 *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of YAHWEH, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption in Messiah Yahshua, whom YAHWEH set forth as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in His blood, as a demonstration of His righteousness through the remission of our sins that are past, in the forbearance of Elohim, for a*

demonstration of His righteousness in the present time, for His being just and justifying the one that is of the faith of Yahshua ... I was going over this just on Yom Kippur ... and then verse 27 says ... So Then where is the boasting? It is not there.

So that's the other thing that we think of. **There's no boasting because any gift we have is from Yahweh.** And He could have just as easily given it to somebody else. So I could sit here and I could be Mozart on the piano but it's only because Yahweh put that in my fingers and not somebody else's. And that's why with **everything we do, we do to the glory of Yahweh because whatever we have we want to use to His glory that helps somebody else**, not for just ourselves because it's not a win/win mentality.

And the hardest part of living in community is that it doesn't become so normal that people forget to practice the little things that make a community work. You know like they say familiarity breeds content. And that's the biggest thing you have to watch for in a community, that you're not living together and you're taking for granted the respect that comes; please and thank you's. I used to see this sometimes early on at the Bible School, or other schools that we had, sometimes people get together. Not even if you're having fun that's good, but joking and ripping at somebody's expense ... *aw, I would expect that from you ...* any of these things. There's no place for that. And that's not win/win. It's not win/win of putting someone else down to get a laugh from someone.

So we want to make sure, and like I said, one of the hardest things of living in a community is that it doesn't become so normal, because whatever you focus on becomes most real. And when you're living together very easily it could happen that way. We always want to be thinking about that. **You must stay committed to personal prayer and Bible study daily. Must focus on change and continually work on a being a better believer for the growth of the community.**

This is one of the things I love in the community setting is the daily devotion. You know you get up, each of us have to do our own private prayer and study, but to come together for a group it doesn't have to be long. We used to do in Israel; we used to do it for just fifteen, twenty minutes. And each man would take an opportunity, he could do whatever he wanted to. It could be a Scripture, it can be a Psalm, it can be a little lesson. It could be anything. It could even just be a life story but we would just start the day with prayer and then one of the men would do a little lesson to get the day started with a good principle from something. And it was awesome. I really, really like doing that. And also **in a community you need avenues for people to be able to grow.** Men's club, ladies club, you know things like that. You have to have that. You have to have it. If you're going to grow you continuously have to have these avenues.

And I'll tell you something, at the Bible School I never had it on the initial schedule for the Spokeman's Club, but we did it a lot of times. Most of the times we did it and the men loved it. Just the comradery you would get; the same with the women. You know we're one body and we're diversified, we're here together but there's something special when you get a room full of women or you get a room full of men and then you know you can open up about things that you wouldn't open up in a big setting. And everybody loved it. And then what we would have is at the end of the year, we would have the ladies night where the ladies get to come and hear the final speeches and everything. And we would prepare and cook for the women. It was nice, it was really, really nice.

But you need these kind of things because there's certain things that woman can only work on together this way. Topics, because they're women, there's things that you go through that we don't go through as men. And it's the other way around, there's topics we would bring up as men that you might not bring up with the ladies together.

So it's important in a community that we're doing this. Committees for communal outreach, helping widows and those in need. Personal goals need to be written down and accomplished regularly. So you need to have all this. The bigger the kibbutz, like our kibbutz in Ethiopia that has 700 people, 800 people, it's like a city. And you have to have all kinds of

committees; education committee, finance committee. You know you name it because everybody and everything needs to be cared for.

This is what community is all about. It teaches us **you can't have a community without a win/win mentality. Judicial order is voluntary and reciprocal.** It's win/win. So people that are against judicial order they simply don't understand Kingdom concepts because if they think judicial order is, *I'm in charge or he's under me*, that's not judicial order. Judicial order is just Yahweh has an order and a structure and of course there has to be leadership, but *he who wants to be greatest among you, let him be your servant*, right? You don't see that in the world. And it's voluntary and reciprocal. So the people are voluntarily submitting to the leadership and the leaders are just doing the same back. That's the Kingdom mentality. And anyone that doesn't understand that to have to try to explain it to them; and if they don't want to understand it then they're having a win/lose mentality.

And like I said, some of the worst dictators I've seen in my life are people that are totally against any kind of leadership and judicial order but with their wives and their kids, they're like dictators. And I've seen it; I've seen it a lot of times, particularly in Babylon. So in everything, in our marriage it's always got to be win/win. With our children, it's got to be win/win ... everything. Every situation in life should be that way and that's what's going to bring peace and harmony.

Maturity comes by developing the balance of courage and consideration ... maturity comes by developing the balance of courage and consideration; because it takes courage to do this. So we have to understand this. And that's why I say judicial order is voluntary and reciprocal ... it's voluntary and reciprocal. You have to understand it. And you only have the authority that somebody gives you.

When I go into somebody's house, even though I'm the elder unless that person asks me, says "Elder Don, will you say the prayer? Will you do this?" Then I'll do whatever I'm asked to do. And you guys know this from when I go on mission trips I'm just there to do whatever asked of me. Even though I'm the senior elder, they respect me. I don't come in and tell them ... sometimes they want me to. They come up and this is going on and that's going on. It's like when Yahshua ... remember when the two brothers tell Him, "Tell him to give me my money." "Who made Me Master over you?" But that's not from Yahweh and that's not judicial order. So you have to understand this, to have a win/win situation, you have to understand what real judicial order is; that **every man is the priest of his own family**. So you can't go outside of your judicial order or it's going to be a controlling spirit. It's not going to be from Yahweh. So it's important to understand.

So let me go over now, **we have to work as a team instead of individuals. We got to get this mindset and we have to train our children to learn cooperation, not competition**, like we said. Learn cooperation, not completion. So four points to win/win situation:

Character and integrity. If you don't have character and integrity, you're never going go for win/win. You're always going to go for win/lose. You're always going to want to win at anybody else's expense. So **the first thing is character, integrity. You have to have, like I said the abundance mindset. There's enough for everybody.** Everything starts with one person, one idea to build the mindset - **never compromising on your core values to always have a win/win situation. It doesn't matter what the situation is you don't compromise on your core values period.**

Number two: is the trust level - relationships. If we don't trust each other in the community how could we ever have a win/win mindset? So this is why leadership is so important. And I've been engrained it in our elder's heads for years that it can take twenty years to build up to be a servant of Yahweh and it can take one stupid move to disqualify yourself. So it's important to build trust levels and relationships.

We had a situation years ago in the Philippines, I don't know if you remember, where this is one of the first men in the sacred name movements. I'm not sure if he's even alive today, but he was with us in the Congregation and the brethren would come and say, "I don't want to tithe to elder so and so because I know he's keeping the money for himself." Then we find out that the brethren donated all this money to build a house of worship on this man's property and then he sold the property and kept the money. So again, when you're looking now as a community, how can there ever be a trust level in that kind of situation? How can you ever have judicial order?

And that's another thing that really, really burns my blood because I always see judicial order usually the other way. I've seen people that don't want to follow leadership and people that have too much pride. And that's why it so much burns me when I see brethren being taken advantage of because **he's the elder** and they don't want to talk against the elder; or they don't want to say nothing. So they sit there in a lose/win situation for years ... for years. Like I said, I mean I not a violent person but that's really where I want to choke somebody when I see that because everybody is getting hurt; and they're putting up with it. And we see it happening, look how you guys see in the third world. You see it. You see it where there's leaders and elders that take advantage of the people, they're taking the money and you can't have that.

So again, if we are going to have a win/win situation, beside the character and integrity, you have to have trust levels and it all comes down to relationship. Because if you have enough spiritual bankroll, if you have enough where people trust you then they're going to give you the benefit of the doubt with things. They're not going to be looking to think, oh this guy is doing this wrong, this guy is doing this wrong because they know they trust you.

But if you can't be, like it said in Scripture, if you can't be faithful in the littlest of things, how are you going to be faithful in the most? So community will never work that way. It'll never work. And the problem we had is that we expanded so fast that many of the congregations weren't congregations that I personally started. Because the ones I started someone wouldn't get ordained like that. If they did get ordained and it was found out, they're going to be gone. They're not going to hang around like that.

So sometimes you go there and you get twenty congregations that are joining us and you wonder, he's the elder? This guy? How on earth did he ever get to be the elder? And you see he doesn't know the doctrine. He doesn't have any character and he's a thief! You know on top of it. How on earth did he get to be your elder? And then you got to do damage control. But you have to have this. If there is no trust level, and that's why I say, it's not about to just take one for the team. It's not enough to be quiet because it will be lose/win until the point where you can't take it anymore ... or there's nothing left to take. So there's got to be, it's extremely important that there's trust level in relationship.

Number three: Any agreement made in a community, agreements must be win/win.

When I say agreements, most communities I suggest and most of them have done it. That they have like a constitution. They have things that they believe in or principles that they want to go by. And in agreement like I said, whether it's the agreement of people that are working outside - the community needs to bring money in. It's got to be win/win. You can't have agreements that are not a win/win situation. Because what happens is you start with the kibbutz and there's an agreement that is not satisfactory and nobody says nothing because they don't want to seem like they're a complainer. But like I said within a matter of months, it's ready to split because this can't be sustained. People can't be giving sixty percent of their salary or there's nothing left for their family. So agreements have to be always made on a win/win basis.

Number four: Systems and processes also have to be win/win.

I'm talking about the way committees are set up. It should never be done with nepotism. We see this thing. I'll get an email from somebody and they'll say that we're having a problem here in the Congregation because the man that's the elder got rid of all the elders and it's only his brothers and his brother-in-law's that are in all the committees. Or he said we're buying the grain, his brother-in-law in charge of this, he owns it and he's selling for three times the amount of money that it should be something like that.

So we have to make sure that the systems and the processes in a community are always win/win. There can't be nepotism, jealousy or strife. And the bottom line is who should be in charge of these committees? The ones who have the best qualifications for it. You shouldn't have to put somebody in a committee simply because of whatever reason. It should be who is qualified. It's that simple. The ones who have the best qualifications to do it.

We have to truly incorporate the commands of love our neighbor as ourselves. **Our mind has to work on never accepting an outcome unless it benefits everyone.** Win/win has to be a mindset and a way of life. And like I said this one thing can help you with every relationship in your life, no matter what it is because your mind will always figure out how to make it win/win. And you will not accept anything less even if you're the one benefitting because you know what you're benefitting? It's on someone else's loss then that's not a Kingdom principle. So **this, more than anything** I think is really a point that makes or breaks a community. Because other things can be worked out if you have the win/win mentality.

Number five: Understand before being understood.

And like I said I deal with a lot of things. Two people will come to me one will say black; one will say white, two brown. And it happens more and more. And what's really sad for me is how can two people with the Spirit of Yahweh, both say something totally opposite? And you know what it is a lot of times? Because people want to be understood before they understand.

This is so important. Look to understand before being understood. And people will argue when they don't even know what the other person's point is. They don't even know what they are arguing about. They don't even know understanding more. And sometimes, I've had this happen a lot of times with marriages, they're arguing and they're saying the same thing. They're actually arguing and they're both saying the same exact thing, but they won't stop long enough to just listen to the other person that's agreeing with them. Can you imagine?

It's such a basic thing, love your neighbor as yourself, right? Just simply look to understand before being understood. Think about it, every teacher has to understand the needs of his students before he can teach. What I'm teaching today would I just teach to anybody? Of course not. Would I teach any brethren? No, if you were not an advanced group of brethren I'd be teaching something totally different. So **you have to know as teacher, you have to know who you are teaching to** or what's the point of teaching it?

The same thing with a lawyer, right? If you have a lawyer in a lawsuit, he doesn't just walk into the court and start defending you. He has to do discovery. He's got to find out what the problem is before he can help you in that case. And the same with any doctor, do you walk into the doctor's office and he just hands you a pill? It's like take it, go ahead! You're like okay, what now? What's wrong with you? Of course not! The doctor has to understand the problem or analyze the problem before he can get a cure, right? And what is he doing? Looking to understand before being understood; so that's all the doctor is doing. He's simply asking you, "Well, tell me what your problem is? Where does it hurt? How long have you had this for? Do you have other symptoms?"

And most of the time good doctors, without even x-rays, or MRI's and this or that, if they know what they're doing, they can know ninety-nine percent what they need to give you before it, because **they're asking you**. And that's the problem; too many times people are reversing it. They want to be understood before seeking to understand.

It somehow makes you that it's another principle that can change your life because we're dealing here in the development of relationships. Like I said this morning, everything is about relationships with people. That's what's going to make people happy in life. And **if you really want to have a relationship you have to seek to understand before being understood**. Like I said every good teacher understands the needs of his students before he can teach. Every lawyer must do discovery before he can try the case. And every doctor must understand the problem before prescribing the cure.

How do we do this? We **need to master the art of listening**. You know the old adage why Yahweh gave us two ears and one mouth? Because we should be listening twice as much as we're speaking. **Most problems arise because one or both parties are not listening to the concerns of the other side**. True listening helps you to understand where the other person is coming from and what they need to solve the issue. So by listening it doesn't mean you're agreeing with what the person is saying you're simply listening to understand why he's saying it. And if you're going to be like a doctor, if you have an answer or a cure to give him, you have to know what his problem is before you can tell him. And that's the problem, that interrupting - two words come out and you can never hear what the other person actually says.

How could you give advice if you haven't heard what the problem is? We may **think we know** the problem but we must **understand it from how the other person is being affected**. Because the same thing might affect people ten different ways. So you just can't think how it affects you, you have to think how other people ... you know when we used to keep the feast in Israel this would happen all the time. That someone will come up to me and they'd say, "Oh what are you doing tomorrow?" "Oh tomorrow we're going to go to the Mount of Olives." "Oh, there again! I already been there. I was there three other times." "Well, you know there's 40 people here this that have never seen it before." So Yahweh didn't write Leviticus 23 just for you. People don't think that way. **They're not thinking of how that other person would feel. They're just thinking of what's best for them.**

And many times the issue could be solved because what each party wants is really not being disputed a lot of time, but the parties simply failed to listen to each other and the problem doesn't get solved. Sometimes I'll sit there for two hours with two people there and I don't even know what they're talking about. I don't even know what their argument is because they never got to that, they're just yelling at each other the whole time. They didn't even get to that point yet to even know why you're sitting there. This is what Matthew 18 is all about, right? The Matthew 18 process and that's why you **go to the person directly**. And that's why if the other person doesn't listen then you bring witnesses. This is what the Matthew 18 process is all about.

And like I said this morning **the quality of your life is in the questions that we ask**. Ask better questions, get better answers. But we must **listen to what is being said for us to apply it properly**. We must have the attitude that **every person no matter who they are has value** because that's another thing sometimes. People don't want to listen, like somehow they get frustrated with each other. But we have to think every single person has value.

There's a saying, I forget who did it or something said it many, many moons ago, but it goes: **every man is my teacher that I may learn from him**, right? So you could learn something from everybody even if it's a bad example. Like in the Bible like King Saul; we're learning from him, maybe by his bad example, but we're still learning. So we want to make sure that our attitude is that we're giving everybody value.

So I want to go over 5 ways to listen. These are basically the five ways we listen; not five ways to listen, but the **five ways that people listen**:

The first way – ignoring, not really listening at all. The first way to listen is not to listen. Just basically ignore and you see that happen sometimes. You can see it happening in maybe at a supermarket where you're trying to get the manager and something, and you try to explain to him what happened; and they're just not listening to you whatsoever. And then when they're done and they gave you an answer you're like, "Huh, you didn't hear a word I had to say." So the first thing, ways to listen is just ignore and not really listen.

The second way to listen is to pretend to listen. But the person is just thinking about their response. And you could tell when somebody is doing this, right? They're just kind of like shaking their head, just shaking their head waiting to stop. And the **minute you stop** they're already telling because in their mind they're not even listening. They're just thinking of their response to you. They don't even have a listen. I've had this happen dealing with people with different things ... that Yahshua didn't pre-exist. And they'll ask me, can you tell me and as I'm giving them forty scriptures. They're not listening to a word I say because the first answer out of their mouth is nothing of what I said, it's just something else. So that's the second one, pretend to listen but just thinking about their response.

Number three is to let them listen. You hear what you want to hear. And there may be two people there, right, it could even be marriage counseling. But one person says, "Well you know I really think that you do great at this. You fixed the car really good and I appreciate that you're paying the bills, but the drinking at night and these other things, it's got to stop." And then they'll start again, "You see you said I do good with the car. You said I do good with the car." So **it's selective listening. They hear what they want to hear.**

And I know find it very interesting because I have this sometimes with sermons. Like I give a sermon and somebody will come up to me afterwards and say, "Elder Don that was a great sermon." I say, "Oh, thank you." And then they'll tell me something in the sermon that I never said. They're applying toward something in their life, which is great, but it's something I didn't say. "Oh, okay." That's when you got say, "Were you in the same sermon, the same room?"

So it's selective listening. People hear what they want to hear. And sometimes people just want to be right. So they're just looking for that. And that's why I tell people sometimes when we're dealing in certain situations and a person will be giving a response and the response is very broad and other things. And I say, "Don't do this. Just deal directly with what was said to you." Because you know what's going to happen? The person that does number three is, what they're going to do is, you're going to respond to what they said. And you're going to try to explain it in a broader sense. And then they're going to start responding on not what you said, but on your broader things that you said. And then like I said before you know it you're arguing about things that you don't even know. So **stick to the main point.** Just stick to the point of it because if people have selective listening it's not going to happen.

Number four is attentive listening. And you're really listening. You really want to hear what's being said. It's a serious listening to what's being said, attentive listening; which is good, but the best one is number five, the last one.

Number five – emphatic listening ... emphatic listening. Emphatic listening is your literally trying to get into the head of the person who's talking. You're not thinking about what advice you're going to give. You're not thinking about what to say. You're literally just trying to **feel** what this person is feeling what they're going through. You're trying to get into the head and the heart of the person; **understanding why they're saying what they're saying.**

And **the key to listening is with eyes and the heart and body language.** Words is only twenty percent of what we say – the communications with the words; eighty percent is with our body language and our emphatic speaking with it. So

you're literally watching the person and you're trying to understand and into the eyes and the heart, the head and the heart of a person who is speaking. Only asking questions to truly understand the **feelings** of the one speaking; to try to understand his feelings better is why you are asking questions.

So like I said **the key to happiness in life is the quality of relationships**; it's not money, it's not things. It's not knowing how many scriptures you can memorize, but it's in the quality of our relationships. **And that's based on our ability to listen.** If you don't have the ability to listen, your relationships are going to be real bad. In work, it's essential because you won't hold a job then if you're not able to listen.

So if you're a doctor, you have to analyze the problem before getting a cure. And this is a problem a lot of times with our children. That what we're trying to do is we're trying to show them where they're wrong before we understand why they believe that way. So when you were saying to me is very good for part 2, but in part 1 you got to understand what's going on. You got to understand why that person feels that way. You got to understand what is, even if he's totally wrong.

A lot of times you got to look at **not the action, but you got to find out why is that person feeling that action.** And particularly with kids because what's happens with kids? They don't want to open up. They don't want to open up why they feel that way and they don't feel like they're going to be hurt. So it's not that you're going to agree with what they're doing. And it's not that you're not going to give them solutions what you think, but the first thing is; **you have to understand the heart.** You got to get in there. You have to understand.

So in a situation like this, the things to be asking, like, "Well, tell me is something that just came up or is it something you're feeling a long time?" "Oh, I've been feeling this way for a long time." "And tell me exactly why. Why are you feeling this way?" "Well, at church I feel like the way everyone talks to me, I feel like I'm not even there. They're not even involved with me." "And are there other reasons? Are there other things that are also making you feel this way?"

You're trying to get into that heart and mind of the person to understand **why they're feeling that way** because usually they're response, like the response of quitting is just a cry out. Just like suicide; they say that most people that try to commit suicide, you don't try to commit suicide. You do or you don't. And if you slit your wrists straight down you can kill yourself. And if you cut yourself across, you're probably not going to die. But most people that do it, they're not trying to kill themselves, they're crying out. They want help; and that's what they're looking for.

And this is the point with listening. And again, there is a point where you **want to give.** And you know there's times ... like I said I counsel hundreds of people a year and you don't know how many times that somebody ... sometimes they'll even like touching my head, "So and so's got to get in touch with me. It's life and death and la, la, la, la." And I'll talk to the person and you know something, they don't even ask me one question. I barely got to go on. And I just listened for an hour and they say, "Wow, thank you Elder Don." They saw that I talked to them. I'm thinking, "Okay, if that worked. That's great." They just wanted someone that would listen. You know somebody that would listen to them that **they felt that was listening to them.** Not always do people want advice. Sometimes they do and they want it you give it. But sometimes they just want to **feel like they're being understood. They want to feel like they're being heard.** So like I said, **think about this because it's really powerful because it's the basis for our relationships with everybody.** To be understood before you're looking to be ... to understand better, before you're looking to be understood. Just to understand where that person is coming from.

And one of the things is why I like that better. Like if I'm going to go Greg, I got a problem with Greg. "Okay Greg, me and you are going to talk this out." By allowing him to talk to me first and understanding him it will change everything I

was going to say to him. It might change absolutely everything I'm going to say. And I might save myself from saying some things I would have said that now I won't. *Oh, now I understand.*

There was one time where years ago Church of God was very strict with wearing suits and ties. And I was working with a lawn mower and my arm went on the muffler of the lawn mower. And literally the skin burned off. So when I came to services I was wearing a leather jacket, but I wasn't wearing a suit jacket. And I saw the elder in the bathroom and I said so and so. And the first thing he says to me, "Oh I see you're not wearing a jacket." I said, "Yeah, actually I'm sorry. I burned my arm." And he didn't say nothing, he just walked out.

And I'm thinking, he didn't even ask me if I was okay. I had a serious burn. He didn't say nothing about that. And there was one elder there, the one guy I was telling you about that I really admired. But I always prepared because one thing I wanted to say to him before leaving, "Mr. So and So, I really admire you as a leader and you have a lot of really good talents. You taught me a lot. And in certain ways, I really try to aspire you, but the one thing I have to say is I never felt love from you as a leader. I just never felt love." And because I felt I could help him. He wasn't a bad person. And sometimes **by listening, by understanding, that's what helps us.** And we got to get to that point because we don't just want to be number four, attentive listening, that's good to really, really listen. We want to be emphatic listening. We want to **see from the heart** why is this person doing what they're doing? What is the reason behind it?

And as bad as it might be because if what happens is, if we come too quick with the answer, even if it's the right answer, in that person's mind, it becomes confrontational now. "Oh, he's not going to help me." And in my mind in the end, it might not help anybody. It depends on the relationships again, like we talked about before when we're dealing with trust levels and relationships. The higher the trust level, the more investment you have in that person that they might listen. The less the trust level it's going to take time, but it's got to start somewhere ... it's got to start somewhere.

So this is extremely important and I'll leave on this point with one other thing to say. Somebody said one time, "You know I just don't understand my son. He doesn't listen to me at all." "Can you say that again?" "I just don't understand my son he just doesn't listen to me at all." "Say that one more time." "I don't understand my son. He just doesn't listen to me." "I thought to understand somebody you listen to them, right?"

Isn't that a contradiction? I don't understand my son. He won't listen to me? That would be he doesn't understand you. **If I want to understand my son then I should listen to him, not him listen to me.** And this is why; this is why like I said with relationships we hit this point. And it really like I said, as the elder, the pastor, there's nothing that frustrates me more to see brethren like this that can't sit down, and especially when it's leaders that are like at each other's throats. And I say to myself, and I've even said this to a leader, "You know you can keep the Sabbath perfect. You can do all these other things. This is crazy. This is the basis of what our whole calling is about in loving each other!" That's the basis of it.

So all these other things, we're like Pharisee's then if we can't do the basic thing and it starts with this. It's a lost art because of the day today, one of the problems is that satan has given us so much clutter in our life. And I think I was telling one of my lawyers, good friend of mine in Israel. I really like the guy. He's helped me a lot. But wow, I feel so bad for this guy. He's a young guy, he's probably in his mid-forties, really, really nice guy. His father-in-law was the Secretary Prime Minister before. And to go and see him it's like it takes a miracle. I mean I could always go in there but to actually have him listening, he has three or four phones going on a one time. He's always on it. Who could live this way? How could he hear anything you have to say? I say if you have too much clutter in your life, even if you're a good person with good intentions, how can you listen? You got to be able to take that clutter out.

Number six: Synergizing. Synergizing – **the sum is worth more than the individual pieces.** We talked about this before. By going for win/win listening to each other, you can synergize something better than you could have done alone.

So I love this aspect because whenever I'm doing a project or we're doing something with the elders. Like now, we're working on these kibbutz's and doing things. I get ideas and I'm like a planner, I am an idea's man, but I'm not always the detailed person. So you know you come together. You're going over things and somebody that will have more intellect or certain thing, I'm like, "Yeah, yeah we can do that. We can do it this way." And if you brainstorm together – two, three, four, five people, you come up with a synergy that is way more than could ever been done on your own. Like we said the sum is worth more than the individual pieces.

So if you look at a compromising situation, in a compromising situation: one plus one = one and a half. And I've had that too where I'm working with people where there's not that synergy. And you're like, "Oh I wish I would have done this on my own!" Because it's actually taking away from it. So in a compromising situation, one plus one can equal one man. In a negative synergy, if you have negative synergy, one plus one can equal a half. You can actually lose if there's negative synergy there. But if you have positive synergy, one plus one can equal three, six, sixteen, six hundred, you don't know. You just don't know. When there's positive synergy, that's the Kingdom principle of abundance, right? There's no limit to it. So this is why it's important. This is why Yahweh made us as a family name and as a Congregation. We're not islands to work alone. We need to work together because as we work together, one plus one can equal anything.

Community living is based on the principle of synergy, working together to multiply our efforts. We have to **value diversity and differences.** You have to value diversity and differences. This is what gives strength to the community, right? As long as you all have the same kind of goal. **And when you outsource something, you outsource it to somebody who can do it.** And I always say this, when you're talking about time management, if somebody can do something eighty percent as good as you can do it, outsource it. And that way you can be doing something that you master in. But once you outsource it let the person do it. You can't micro-manage or there's no sense; there's no synergy that's go to come from micro-managing.

We have to value diversity and differences. Somebody may have done it different. Like I might outsource to somebody to decorate this room tomorrow for the conference and you could have decorated a certain way. And I say, "Oh I don't think I would have done it that way." "But you know what? I should have did it myself." Is there anything wrong with it?" "No, it's just I kind of like something different." "Well, I should have done it myself."

But once you outsource, let the person do it. That's the whole point of it. We have to embrace diversity. That people **can do** something different. **You have to value diversity and differences if you strengthen the community as long as there's a common spirit, purpose and goal.** You don't want something that is against a Kingdom principle. But how can the community prosper if everybody only had the same gift I have? So we have to learn that and that's the whole point of synergy. 1st Corinthians 3 in verse 5 ... 1st Corinthians 3 in verse 5 it says:

1st Corinthians 3:5-9 *Who then is Paul? And who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, and each one is gifted as YAHWEH gave him? I planted, Apollos watered, but Elohim produced the increase. So then neither he who plants, nor he who waters deserves the credit, but Elohim gives the increase. Thus the planter and the waterer are equal, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we labor together with Elohim, and you are Elohim's work, and you are a building of Elohim.*

Right, so one might dig up the dirt, one might plow, one might sow the seed, and one might water but at the end **Yahweh gives the increase. We're all working toward the same goal of the Kingdom.** We all have diversity and gifts, like it talks about in **1st Corinthians 12** and that's what's going to bring more fruit for the Kingdom. So we have to look to embrace that. **Only lasting accomplishments are collective** for the Kingdom.

And the last point ... last point **Number seven is called sharpen the saw** ... sharpen the saw. We need to practice these things. Like I said if this is only a seminar that you learn a book and you close that book until next year, it doesn't mean anything. You know I always say that when you people go, "Yes, it's a really good sermon you gave." I say, "It's only good if you apply it." So we have to sharpen the saw. **Being busy isn't necessarily being productive.** We have to streamline our life. We have to **learn better processes.** We have to sharpen the saw. So as you learn these things. As you go along you should be doing them better. And it doesn't matter what it is, **everything you do in your life should be streamlined and done better.** You should be able to do it more efficiently, more effectively; whether that's changing the oil on the car or cleaning the gutters of your house. We're always thinking of being more efficient, more effective.

There was a guy one time who was working really hard there; he was cutting a tree, big, big tree. And he's sawing and sawing. So say, "How long have you been working?" "Oh man, I've been working for four hours." Then you look and you see that the saw is kind of bent and you say to the guy, "Well, don't you think sharpening the saw?" "Can't too busy. Can't sharpen the saw, too busy." So but that's our life sometimes, right? Our life sometimes because it gets into chaos, it gets out of order. We're so busy we don't stop to sharpen the saw. Where you think this guy is working four hours and if he would have sharpened the saw, he would have been done in two. But he's **so busy sawing he can't sharpen the saw.**

So sharpening the saw is extremely important. Most successful people in the world, most financial people and successful people, you would think, well they've made it. You know they meet every year and they brainstorm off each other. They have these meetings. That's why I say, men's meeting, ladies meeting. We constantly have to be sharpening the saw. Our minds are made that way. And that's why reading, I love, I love reading. I don't read just anything but like I find these books that I look at like pearls, like jewels. Like Ernest Martin's Temple book or the Rabbi Akiva's Messiah; books that are like really, really good because they sharpen the saw. You're learning something. You're learning something that you didn't know before and you're learning from it. So we need to be doing this, brainstorming and bettering ourselves with it.

Now what's the opposite of sharpening the saw? We're back to the no-active person what we talked about in the beginning. They're not a bad person. They could be smart. They could be diligent. They could be responsible. They just never think about tomorrow. And like I said when you telling them about this, they'll say, "Oh no, it'll get better. It'll get better." But they never have a plan for it to get better. And like I said everything can go great in their life because they can be very talented, maybe a lot of money until the bottom falls out and they lose the job. And then that's it, they don't know what to do next because they never sharpen the saw. They never kept moving.

And I'll you something, in almost every industry in the world, if you don't sharpen the saw, don't use that person. You look at even like somebody as basic as a mechanic. Cars are completely different today. And if that mechanic isn't going and learning the different engines and the different, he's useless. A doctor, can you imagine a doctor who's not sharpening the saw as they're coming out with new technologies all the time. He's giving you the technology from twenty years ago that maybe didn't even work that good then. He just leaves it alone until it breaks. Never mind not even sharpening it, he just keeps going until the thing busts.

Many don't think of the future to just keep sharpening the saw until it breaks. Then they panic with no plan in mind. Like I said, they're not lazy people. They're just not pro-active. And that's why when the saw finally breaks and they realize it isn't getting better, then they panic because they have no plan. They don't know what to do with that.

Sharpening the saw is the concept of **continual learning, always bettering the self and growing in spiritual gifts.** The founder of McDonalds, Ray Krok, probably heard of McDonalds. I don't know if you know his name was Ray Krok, the Founder. But when I graduated in high school you have to put a saying next to your name. And I kind of put the saying

from him and his saying was: as long as you're green, you're growing. As soon as you're ripe, you start to rot. For some reason they wouldn't let me put that in the yearbook. Don't ask me why they wouldn't let me. So I put: whatever the mind can believe and conceive; the mind will achieve. That was my motto back then. But Ray Krok, I like that saying, you know why? As long as you're green, you're growing. As soon as you're ripe you start to rot. Think about that like a plant on a tree. As long as it's green, a piece of fruit, it's growing like a mango. The minute you pick it, it starts to rot. The minute you picked you have a gestation time now. Once you pick that fruit some of them can be days, some of them can be a week, but the minute you pick it. And an avocado is the only fruit that only starts to ripe when you pick it. So if you left it on the tree it would never ripen. **So as long as you're green, you're growing. As long as you're learning. As long as you're studying then you're green.** The minute you think, "Oh, I've done that. Ah, we learned that before. Ah, he's teaching again?"

There was a pastor one time and he was preaching a sermon on unity in the congregation. And then the next week he preached similar, then the third week and by the fourth week when he went up there and he preached the same sermon. One of the deacons or something came up to him and he said, "You know pastor I don't know if you noticed or not." They thought maybe he was getting senile, "Did you notice that you preached the same sermon for four weeks in a row? So how long are you going to do that?" "He said until you learn the lesson." Until you learn the lesson.

So that's the point of it. We **never, until Yahshua's feet touch the Mount Olives, we haven't gotten to the top of Mountain yet. We always have to be sharpening the saw.** So I know with myself, even something like, they consider me like with the Temple Mount, like an expert. I've done television and did interviews and different things. But you want to know something? I read Ernest Martin's book at least once a year. And I will never go on the television program or have an interview I know without preparing myself because I want to sharpen the saw. I want to learn something new. There's things I might have learned in that after the fifteenth time reading it that I didn't learn the other fourteen times.

It's the same with Bible. Every time I read the Bible it's like I never read it before. There's something new that pops out of there. And we have to feel that way. **We always have to be growing.** We always have to be going back and sharpening the saw. There was a ... and it's really, it's the way you become a master at something is by repetition by doing it over and over and over again.

If you ever heard of a man called John Wooden, has anybody ever heard of him? Famous coach from UCLA, dead now but was an old man, greatest coaches in college history. And you had these guys like Michael Jordan coming out of high school and going into the college. And they're going to be a star and they're going to do this and they're going double all. And John Wood would take them and he'd say, "Okay, stand here," And it's called chimney, it's like the easiest shot. He said, "Do a 1000 of them, or a free throw, another easy shot. Do a 1000 of them." And they say, "Hey man, c'mon I'm the best in the nation. I didn't come here to do that!" And he said, "When you master that come back to me."

That's the problem today. Everybody thinks they're a master. **Every man is my teacher that I can learn from them.** And there's too many cooks in the kitchen and people aren't masters. That's why you have all this chaos. Anybody can slap up a website and put anything there, but they're not masters at what they do. They're not masters at what they teach. But everybody wants to get there without putting in the work. And you have to put the work.

Can you imagine going to a doctor and you got a pain in your side and you never went there before; and you say to the doctor, "How long have you been practicing?" "Today is my first day." "Oh, you mean you just got out of school?" "No." "Didn't go to school?" "I mean I'm practicing."

C'mon you got to sharpen the saw. You have to keep doing this. Three ways, and we'll end on this ... three ways to maintain a plan for continual growth and sharpening the saw in your life.

Number one: Physical – Physical. I mean you know the Spirit is willing and the flesh is weak. And when your body is not working as much as you want it to, it's very hard. So we need to, if we're going to sharpen the saw, we need to **physically try to stay in good shape** – exercise, nutrition, stress management, right? 1st Timothy 4:8 says:

1st Timothy 4:8 *bodily exercise is profitable to a little, but righteousness is profitable to all things...*

So it didn't say bodily exercise is not profitable for all; it's profitable a little. So we don't want to spend hours and hours and hours a day on physical exercise but we should spend some. We should spend a little bit. Because like I said, it's very hard to mentally be spiritual if your body is not working.

The key to anything in life is consistency. You know walking daily, cardiovascular exercise, the food we eat is going to affect the quality in your life and also the length of it, of course. When we're dealing with stress, I believe faith is the greatest way while we're stressed. The more faith you have, the less stress you're going to have. Because where does stress come from? **Stress comes from the unknown.** It doesn't come from having faith in Yahweh, when you have faith in Yahweh you don't have to worry. It comes from the unknown; which comes from not having enough faith. So if **the more faith you have, the less stress you will have; trusting Yahweh in everything.** Like I said, we read the Book, we win in the end! So you have to believe it though.

Part of faith is **not worrying about the things you can't control but taking care of the things you can control.** And that's where stress comes from; it's the things out of our control that we're worried about – losing a job, getting kicked out of an apartment, vaccine passports. These are things you can't control so why worry about them? All the worrying in the world doesn't change any of it. What you want to do is put your focus, because whatever you focus on becomes most real. **Put your focus on what you can control. What you can do about it? Where can you go.** Okay, I'm not going to be able to buy food, so let me get food now. So part of faith is not worrying about the things you can't control but taking care of things in your control. And that will keep your stress at normal because the things you can control will be your focus and then you're going to feel good because you're controlling them and you're getting them done.

Always have your life and time in meaningful activities. Always have your life and time in meaningful activities. You know and I'm not against the idea of a vacation. I think people work hard and might take a vacation or take time off, that's fine. But the reason why I don't like a vacation is, because I don't ever want to leave my work. So to me, I don't look at work, hard work as this. And this is leisure time where I'm having fun. I look at my work as my leisure. I love my work.

So we might do something like when we went to Patmos, a couple of years ago. It wasn't a vacation but it was fun. We enjoyed it and I was still working there. Because when you leave your work, like there's been times where I would get back from a mission trip after a couple of months or end of the school and I'm just so whooped out, I said, man just let me take a day of rest. And that's the worst thing in the world I could do because once I take a day off, I don't know where to go from there. I lost my whole vision. I lost my goal, I lost everything! So I don't like the idea of a vacation.

There's no idea in the mind of a believer of retirement. How do you retire from being a believer? You retire when you sleep in the ground. That's when you retire. You may change what you do. You might not do the same thing as you get older. But that's why like I said; always have your life in meaningful activities. And this the way you keep yourself sharp and it helps.

The second thing is less physical. The second thing is mental. Meditation on the Word daily, keeping your relationship with Yahweh strong; focusing on your core beliefs, long term goals, relationship with people. And you have to keep your mind alert, sharp, alive and active. **You have to keep your mind, alert, sharp, alive and active.**

And they got tests on this and there's different aspects of your mind and when you watch television your mind becomes passive; the active part becomes passive. Not to say there's never a time to watch something but you have to understand what that does. Nothing else has to happen again. You want to keep your mind alert, sharp, alive and active.

And the third is spiritual. And with the meditation part you're thinking about it your relationships. You're thinking about your relationship with Yahweh and people. You're thinking about things I'm talking about today because a lot of how you instill about what we're talking about today is **mentally being aware of it.**

Like I say sometimes even with breaking patterns, with anchors and breaking all anchors. Sometimes just awareness is enough to break it that someone doesn't know they're doing something. *Do you know you bite your finger nails?* No, I don't ... no I don't ... oh I do! And just that awareness sometimes is enough to break that habit. So meditation helps you to think about these things. It helps you to instill.

So the third part is the spiritual: reading your scriptures daily, but also books that inspire like I said. You know I have an Amish book that I'm on the third time around and I love it. It's all the stories that I put in Remnant's Walks from there. I just really ... because the Amish, even though they're simple people, they really make you think. They really have deep things what they say. And I really enjoy that. It's almost like reading Proverbs to me by reading that. And reading the book of Proverbs is another one that I'll do in these things; listening to sermons that uplift. But the spiritual is not just Scripture and prayer, that's the core of it. But like I said its other things that are going to make you understand the Scripture and help you grow a lot better and motivate and reinforce your value system.

Strong spiritual friendships that inspire help you challenge yourself and grow in Spirit; keeping your relationship with Yahweh strong through prayer, fasting and speaking with Him daily. **Romans 6:16** says: *You are the servant of what you obey.* And **always remember private victories help to win public victories** ... private victories help to win public victories. So if there's things in your life that you haven't overcome, no matter what it is; it could be greed, it could be lust, it could be anger, by winning that private victory, it helps you to win public victories because now you're going to serve better. You're going to be a better friend. You're going to be a better husband. You're going to be a better teacher, whatever it is. So private victories help public victories. Must overcome because **what you don't overcome is going to overcome you.** It's that simple. Whatever you don't overcome it's going to overcome you.

And what we'll pick up tomorrow, there's no shortcuts. **Repetition is the mother of skill and there's just no shortcuts.** Like I said because Yahweh made us as creatures of habit, by instilling this in our nervous system over and over and over again. Our spiritual life can be reinforced that way. We want it to become a habit. And repetition is the mother of skill. **The way that you change is to make your belief system a way of life; and you have to master in the basics.** You have to master in the basics. Study the Word, memorizing doctrines to become master yourself. And that's why once you have that foundation, the Holy Spirit, and everything you read, the Holy Spirit can bounce off you what it needs to tell you. But if you don't have that foundation you can't do it.

So when we're looking at the idea of a habit, what is the definition of a habit? It's what we do repeatedly, right? A habit is something you do repeatedly. It tells you what? **Excellence is not an act but a habit.** Excellence is not an act, but a habit. What do I mean by this?

When you see in the Olympics and *here he comes he's running, he broke the world record. He broke the world record. He ran the mile in five twenty nine.* It was a habit. It wasn't an act. You think that guy just came out of the stands. *Ah, you need a runner? Right, I'll try.* No, that guy spent his whole life, like those gymnastic people, they spent their whole life year after year and week after week and hour after hour for that one time. The boxer that's in there, pro-boxer, and it

might not look hard. The guys there three minutes around, fifteen rounds, fighting somebody, but wow, do it. I did amateur boxing when I was younger and you get tired really fast.

So excellence is not an act, it's a habit ... it's a habit. It's what you train your mind to do over and over and over. You have to repeat your habits daily to confirm and strengthen, like I said on core beliefs and our values and not contradict them.

Okay we are going to stop there for today.