

## Buscadme y Viviréis (Seek Me and Live)

*"♪You will seek and you shall find me, when you search for Me with all your heart. You will come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And I will be found by you, and I will restore your fortune, and I will gather you from all the places where I have driven you ♪" (Kol Simcha, 1977) ... "12Then you will call on Me, and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13You will seek Me and find Me, when you will search for Me with all your heart. 14Then I will be found by you," says Adonai ..." (Jer. 29:12-14a)*

The promise in *Jeremiah 29* was affirmed by *Messiah Yeshua*: *"Ask, and it shall be given to you. Seek, and you shall find. Knock, and it shall be opened to you"* (Matt. 7:7). Do you believe this? The Lord uses music to stir up my spirit and to give me direction. After my PT Wednesday we went to Wards and Marilyn got a bottle of wine from Spain (for a terrific price) named *Antaño*. When I saw that name on the bottle immediately, I remembered a song from the past had that specific word in it. After some memory juggling, I asked Marilyn to type the artist's name in the Amazon Music App and she found it and started playing it in the car as we drove home. We listened, we cried, and had a precious worship moment. I found a YouTube version with lyrics in Spanish & English and let us now play it for you. It is from Spain's Marcos Vidal, and he wrote and recorded it in 1990. It is one of the most powerful songs I have ever heard. Dr. Jose Diaz, a Spaniard citizen who did his PhD with me at UF, said: *"Marcos Vidal is more than a singer/song writer, he is a poet."* Please listen with your heart. Let us ask the H.S. to open our hearts as we listen. (Play the song *Buscadme y Viviréis*, Marcos Vidal, 1990, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KtgqQUy7HsU>).

In last week's message I shared a Biblical Five-Step procedure to overcome surrendered ground where Satan has built strongholds and has taken some partially (or fully?) captive in life areas. I spoke about anger in particular, but the principles apply equally to any destructive behavior/habits for which the ability to overcome has become a deep struggle. The specific wording was *consequences: when anger is allowed to turn into wrath, it becomes an immense spiritual problem. Willpower is no longer sufficient to succeed; we have to engage in Spiritual Warfare in order to overcome*. The hope was that many of our people would become *free from destructive habits* and *gain genuine freedom* in *Messiah Yeshua*. On this surrendered ground in our soul the Adversary has legal rights to build strongholds of false ideas and use these as a base of operation to torment us in multiple areas with destructive emotions such as unfounded fears, tension, depression, pride, habits, unexplained anger, wrath, lust, self-rejection, insomnia, HBP, heart disease, etc. Sometimes the surrendered ground comes as the result of a wounded spirit (especially in your youth by your parents or a family member or friend) and it is buried and sealed deep within our soul. I have spoken many times about my bitterness towards *Adonai* for my father's death and my cluelessness about this in my life until I went to the Basic Seminar in 1990 and forgave *Adonai* for taking my dad away from me (I will share a small portion of this testimony to juggle the audiences' memory).

Neither Marilyn nor I were exempted from destructive habits based on surrendered ground, even though we were both ordained into the ministry in 1981. In fact, many Believers are clueless about working in this Spiritual Warfare area. *Adonai* does have a *method* to recover this yielded or surrendered ground, but it is *not automatic*. Removing the enemy's rights from surrendered jurisdiction in our soul requires a *legal procedure*. I shared a Biblical Methodology last week in the hope that many of us would become free from destructive habits and gain genuine freedom which is our inheritance in *Messiah Yeshua*.

Genuine freedom requires a clean conscience. A clear conscience is defined in terms of answering the question: *can anyone point the finger at you and say you did not make things, right?* An important part of this process is that we must humble ourselves (*"Humble yourselves in the sight of Adonai, and He shall lift you up"* James 4:10) and annihilate any vestige of pride in order to succeed. Another way to say this is to say that you must be *desperate for freedom*. Anything less often fails miserably. Be aware that you are fighting a *principality and power* and you must be armed properly (with all your armor on) and have the right attitude. *Yeshua* gave everything for us, we should be prepared to give up everything to gain Him and

His Redemption. Pride gets in the way and also results in being resisted by *Adonai* (“*And all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for 'God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble'”* (1 Peter 5:5)).

I have also discovered that in the ministry *Kol Simcha* people are super reluctant to engage with Marilyn and I (individually or together) in any sort of counseling. My first specific responsibility (after my own family) is the KS Leadership Team. *Yeshua* gave his energy in a greater measure to the 3 (Peter, James, and John) and then to 12. He ministered to everyone, but He definitely gave way more time to this inner circle. I also have a unique responsibility to invest and counsel the Elders and Shamashim in *Kol Simcha*. My experience in 30+ years at KS is that this activity seldom happens. Leaders tend to be private people and KS is no exception. It is so hard to humble ourselves to one another in leadership teams. But that we must do. For those of you not an elder or shamash your first line of interaction is with shamashim and elders. I have observed that it is also VERY difficult for people to let those with oversight over them hear their faults (I did not say see their faults because in reality everyone sees our faults anyway). This amounts to a manifestation of pride and the Scripture in James is absolutely applicable. *Yeshua* stripped Himself of everything when He chose to obey the Father and went to the cross – anything less would not do for Him or for us!

In our reading for this week (*Parashat Pinchas*) the *Torah* celebrates *Pinchas the Kohen*'s zeal when Israel fell prey to the sin of immorality and idolatry (as a result of Balaam's evil work, see *Deut. 23:5b-6*). What is exactly meant by zeal? The dictionary renders the meaning of zeal as: *fervent or enthusiastic devotion, often extreme or fanatical in nature, as to a religious movement, political cause, ideal, or aspiration; fervor for a person, cause, or object; eager desire or endeavor; ardor*. It is a really good thing to have *fervent or enthusiastic devotion, eager desire, endeavor, and ardor* for the Almighty and His Ways. Anything less is unacceptable. I urge you to seriously consider what today's message was about. The conclusion of the song is *Buscadme y Viviréis (Seek Me and Live)*. We talk about life and life more abundant which is our promise, but if we are honest with ourselves, we fall short. What is in your closet? (Like the commercial what is in your wallet?) I know the HS wants to possess all of our heart, but “*♪ in a secret corner of my heart, there's a kingdom that would not fall...Lord, we want you to rule our kingdoms, both great and small. 'Cause if You are not Lord of everything, then You are not Lord at all ♪*”.

*Shabbat Shalom!* (Play <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=noIsb8nt6JU>)