

Combat Ready – Clothed With Power and Unquenchable Fire From on High

⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And behold, I am sending the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are *clothed with power from on high*. (Luke 24: 48-49).

⁴Now while staying with them, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father promised – which, He said, “you heard from Me. ⁵For John immersed with water, but you will be immersed in the *Ruach ha-Kodesh* not many days from now” (Acts 1:4-5).

¹¹As for me, I immerse you in water for repentance. But the One coming after me (*Yeshua*) is mightier than I am; I am not worthy to carry His sandals. He will *immerse you in the Ruach ha-Kodesh and fire*.

¹²His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He shall clear His threshing floor and gather His wheat into the barn; but the chaff He shall burn up with *inextinguishable fire*” (Matt. 3:11-12).

Last week I asked: what is the Combat Readiness Status for *Kol Simcha* (KS) on the first of June 2024? Both soldiers and army units have *combat readiness evaluations*. Soldiers are tested annually in the Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT). What is your personal *KS-CFT* score? We note that our *KS-Commander* is *Adonai Yah' Tzva'ot* – which is one of the *Sacred Names of the Father* in the Hebrew Scriptures, appearing over 200 times. It is often translated as *The Lord of Hosts* or *The Lord of Armies*. This Name is composed of two words: *Adonai*, meaning *My Lord* and *Tzva'ot*, meaning *armies* or *hosts*. The name *Adonai Yah Tzva'ot* is significant because it emphasizes *Yah's* power and authority over all creation. The armies referred to in the name are not just human armies, but also the angelic hosts and the heavenly armies of heaven. This name highlights *Yah's* role as the commander-in-chief of all armies, both human and divine. How should we evaluate combat readiness? May I suggest that the best way is that we *examine ourselves* and carefully consider *our ways* so that we *scrutinize our self-will*. It is possible that you are rejecting the *Messiah* in your heart because of self-will. What are the Bible's instructions for *KS Combat Readiness*?

I concluded last week's message by saying that in order for the work of *Yeshua* to go forth, the apostles & disciples (all of them), had to wait for the *Father's Promise*, which is *Immersion in the Ruach ha-Kodesh and fire*. This is the *TRUE Immersion in the HS* which comes with *inextinguishable fire* to burn the chaff out of individuals. Peradventure, hard times, testing and tribulation are necessary to bring about this statement by John the Immerser. What makes us think that that can be accomplished without the *Immersion in the HS*? It is NOT in the Kingdom of Darkness' interest for this work of the *HS* to manifest. Do any of us have the arrogance (*chutzpah*) to ignore *Yeshua's* very words and imagine that we can overcome the enemy (*Rev. 12:11-12*) in our own strength? As for me, my house and congregation we will do exactly what *Yeshua* said and *pray and tarry* until we receive (again is OK) the *Immersion in the HS and Fire* until “*we are clothed with power and unquenchable fire from on high*.” Anything less is surely a trap and this not the time for games. *KS Combat Readiness* is to tarry until the *HS Immersion* becomes a reality.

When a person accepts *Yeshua* as their Savior and is born again from above, the *Holy Spirit* indwells their lives (“*Create in me a clean heart, O God (Elohim); and renew (chadash) a right spirit (ruach) within me*” *Psalms 51:10*). After the resurrection when *Yeshua* appeared to the disciples: “²²And after He said this, He breathed on them. And He said to them, “*Receive the Ruach ha-Kodesh!* ²³*If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; but if you hold back, they are held back*” (*John 20:22*). This took place *after* the *Death and Resurrection*, and it should be obvious to us that the eleven apostles were Believers (saved and born-again) at that time. The Scriptural text makes it clear that it was some seven weeks later (at *Shavuot*) when the full measure of the *Ruach ha-Kodesh* would be fully given to them. Scripture tells us that *Yah* breathed upon the man and he became a living soul. Similarly, *Yeshua* breathed on the disciples, and they also became alive, yet they had to go through the waiting (a process) period until *Shavuot*.

A prophetic type and shadow of *Shavuot* is found in *2 Chronicles 5:11-12* at the *Dedication of the First (Solomon's) Temple*. One hundred and twenty (120) priests (*kohanim*) had assembled in the temple and were sanctified, awaiting His presence. They were all of one mind and accord, and they were praising God

(compare with ¹*When the day of Shavuot had come, they were all together in one place. ²Suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting” (Acts 2:1-2).* Then, the cloud of *Yah* filled the Temple (the *Shekinah*), and the priests were not able to minister.

Yeshua spoke about this supernatural experience during *Sukkot*: ³⁸*Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture says, 'out of his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'* ³⁹*Now He said this about the Ruach, whom those who trusted in Him were going to receive; for the Ruach was not yet given, since Yeshua was not yet glorified” (John 7:38-39).* John states unequivocally that *the immersion of the HS could not be given until Yeshua was glorified and ascended to the Father.* Scripture confirms that *Yeshua* could not give this or any other gift until He became the *High Priest (Kohen Gadol)* seated at the right hand of the Father: ³*For every kohen gadol is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices, so it is necessary for this One also to have something to offer. ⁴Now if He were on earth, He would not be a kohen at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Torah” (Hebrews 8:3,4).* Peter agrees: ³³*Therefore, being exalted to the right hand of God and receiving from the Father the promise of the Ruach ha-Kodesh, He poured out this – what you now see and hear” (Acts 2:33).*

This is proved to be an experience available today in the fact that it continued beyond *Acts 2: (1) those who believed in Samaria received the HS; (2) Seven years after the outpouring of the Ruach in Acts 2, the Ruach is still being outpoured at Cornelius' House; (3) The Samaritans believed and were immersed in water. They received the Holy Spirit afterwards as a 2nd experience in Acts 8:12-17; (4) Paul laid hands on the believers in Ephesus (AD 52-55) and they were baptized with the HS in Acts 19:6.* On the Day of Shavuot Peter said: ³⁹*For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far away—as many as Adonai our God calls to Himself” (Acts 2:39)* so it is 100% available in our day. On the day of *Shavuot* when we are to *be sanctified by the truth and His Word is the truth (John 17:17)*, we need to be *Clothed With Power and Unquenchable Fire From on High.*

Everyone whom God has called, that is, everyone who has been born again has the opportunity to receive this *Promise of the Father* – the *refilling/immersion of the Father's Spirit*. This can happen to Believers *before, on or after* Water Immersion. It can come upon you while hearing the Word, or when the Word is coming forth in the power and the anointing of the HS and in the laying on of hands to bring receptivity with the manifestation of a heavenly prayer language following. It can also happen while lying in bed, driving, walking, in the shower and *wherever and whenever you are ready*. The question is are you ready? Satan does not want you to have this power. Do not continue enslaved: *“My people are in captivity for lack of knowledge” (Is. 5:13).* Therefore, it is imperative that we *Be filled with the Spirit and Fire!*

In May 2020, I wrote: It is easy to have preconceived notions about the Father's Promise given the differing interpretation of what this immersion is about. Can we put away our preconceived notions and simply come to the Father on *Shavuot* and *EXPECT* to get the measure of His Promise that is needed for us here in *Kol Simcha* to be Combat Ready? I was immersed in the Holy Spirit in January 1979. My capacity for the Spirit of God was thimble-sized as a new Believer. Whether indwelt or immersed I was a small vessel! He did fill me completely, but forty-five years later I find that my spiritual capacity is more like a punch bowl (many times the size of a thimble). You would have to agree with me that the size of your capacity for spiritual things (i.e., the size of your *HS Temple*) has *INCREASED* since your early days as a Believer (unless these are your early days as a Believer). Should I expect the *HS of Adonai* to *AUTOMATICALLY* fill the new capacity, or should I ask? We do not want to *ASSUME* anything so *WE WILL ASK*. If I ask the Father for a greater measure of His gift with a pure heart and a cleansed *HS-Temple*, will He not give us *Good Gifts*? He will because *Yeshua* said so in *Matthew 7:11*. We can ask the Father to send *His Holy Spirit* to *TAKE UP THIS EXTRA CAPACITY*. More of His Spirit in our lives means combat readiness in the *Army of Yah*. Would you *COME TO HIM BETWEEN NOW AND Shavuot* AND *ASK HIM TO EMPOWER YOU WITH WHATEVER HE WANTS TO GIVE YOU SO THAT WE WILL BE COMBAT-READY TO DO HIS WILL? Shabbat Shalom!*

ⁱ In *KS* we use *Yah* as a Biblical contraction for the *Sacred Name (Isaiah 12:2)* and *Adonai Yah* as Abraham did in *Gen. 15:2* meaning *My Lord Yah*. We use the *specific Name of the Almighty* (some use *Yehovah*) instead of *Lord* (which is a title).