

Notes: November 28, 2015

Start: 10 AM

Order of service:

1. Meet and Greet
2. Introduction (if new people)
3. Ma Tov
4. Open in Prayer for service
5. Liturgy – Sh'ma +
6. Announcements
7. Praise and Worship Songs
8. Message
9. Aaronic Blessing
10. Kiddush
11. Oneg

Children's Blessing:

Transliteration: *Ye'simcha Elohim ke-Ephraim ve hee-Menashe*

English: *May God make you like Ephraim and Menashe*

Transliteration: *Ye'simech Elohim ke-Sarah, Rivka, Rachel ve-Leah.*

English: *May God make you like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah.*

Introduction: Application and Apologetics – The “AA” Believers Need to Pay Attention To

When I say “AA” to you likely one thing comes to mind, maybe two, or maybe something that I haven't thought of.

AA is the abbreviation for American Airlines.

AA is known by many as Alcoholics Anonymous...

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) is an international mutual aid fellowship founded in 1935 (two years after the end of prohibition in the United States in December 1933) by Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob Smith in Akron, OH. AA states that its primary purpose is to help alcoholics "to stay sober and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety"

A **twelve-step program** is a set of guiding principles (sometimes accepted by members as being 'spiritual principles') outlining a course of action for tackling problems including alcoholism, drug addiction and compulsion. Originally proposed by Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) as a method of recovery from alcoholism, the original Twelve Steps were first

1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God *as we understood Him*.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory, and when we were wrong, promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God *as we understood Him*, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to other alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

When we look at these 12 steps, we find that they are most certainly influenced by Scripture, but are generic in terms of God and how this relationship is to happen.

“A Power greater than ourselves can restore us” sounds like Sha'ul's statement to leaders in Athens...

Act 17:22 Sha'ul stood up in the Council meeting and said, "Men of Athens: I see how very religious you are in every way!

Act 17:23 For as I was walking around, looking at your shrines, I even found an altar which had been inscribed, 'To An Unknown God.' So, the one whom you are already worshipping in ignorance — this is the one I proclaim to you.

These men have recognized there is “a God” whose name know one in Greece knows, yet have erected a statue to him.

To recognize that God exists is not sufficient for a relationship.

Do we truly have a relationship with someone who we know exists but don't actually interact with them?

Then with step 3 this can be very dangerous because it comprises a subjective element...

Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.

As we understand Him...

Here in lies a problem.

You have the ability to create your own God.

Are there certain attributes that you believe God has?

Are there certain attributes that you don't like and therefore you don't believe are part of your God's character?

This is an extremely dangerous element if there is no guidance involved. And I am not talking just any guidance but that of a believer who walks the walk and talks to talk.

These are steps that involve a process for a person to regain control of their lives that were once out of control, or I should say being controlled by the intoxicant and not the individual.

As important an organization AA is in helping people return to sobriety, I want you to think of AA in a much different manner as a believer that will help you as a believer in Yeshua remain in the sobering truth of who He is, what He has done and how it impacts our life.

As a believer who is a recovering from the impact of your old nature and the reality that your old nature remains with you, there is another AA that you need to pay attention to.

There are not 12 steps but rather what I consider 2 primary elements every believer in Yeshua requires.

The first “A” is Application:

Application - the action of putting something into operation. (noun)

To apply - be applicable or relevant. (verb)

How is Yeshua Applied to our lives?

How is Scripture Applied to our lives?

Application is important.

Without it, you in essence have a generic and subjective relationship that doesn't really exist.

There is this current “word war” going on in the Presidential debates regarding “radical Islam”.

One side refuses to use this term because they don't believe our challenge is with Muslims, but identify them as jihadist terrorists.

The other side uses this term to identify a specific threat, believing that you can't defeat who you haven't identified.

Two very different ideologies and “spin” used in the world of politics that are applying their own terminology to something, creating a subjective perspective of relevance.

Application goes beyond any generic relationship. Adonai is looking for more than a generic relationship.

He certainly didn't have a generic relationship with Israel.

It was up close and personal.

For Adonai it was a roller coaster of ups, downs and sharp bends. Even though there were times when He wanted to be done, He remained faithful to His promises.

Some of the people truly applied what was given by Adonai to their lives, while others applied only lip service.

Deu 30:10 "However, all this will happen only if you pay attention to what Adonai your God says, so that you obey his mitzvot and regulations which are written in this book of the Torah, if you turn to Adonai your God with all your heart and all your being.

Deu 30:11 For this mitzvah which I am giving you today is not too hard for you, it is not beyond your reach.

Deu 30:12 It isn't in the sky, so that you need to ask, 'Who will go up into the sky for us, bring it to us and make us hear it, so that we can obey it?'

Deu 30:13 Likewise, it isn't beyond the sea, so that you need to ask, 'Who will cross the sea for us, bring it to us and make us hear it, so that we can obey it?'

Deu 30:14 On the contrary, the word is very close to you - in your mouth, even in your heart; therefore, you can do it!

These are not words that speak of a generic God or a subjective relationship, but one that is active and direct.

This same relationship is not only for Israel but for anyone who calls upon the God of Israel – the God of Avraham, Yitzchak and Ya'akov.

Nations will come before Him and worship Him.

Nations that were once far off will be brought near.

This is all in the first “A” Application.

Another important element of application that is often ignored or made to be subjective is “Context”

I have talked many times about context, which if applied incorrectly creates errors in understanding, that can ultimately lead believers down the wrong path.

Ignoring the Jewish context of the New Covenant when applying understanding to it suppresses its true understanding.

One need look no further than Acts 20:7

Act 20:7 And upon the first *day* of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight. (KJV)

This passage is used frequently by Christian theologians to support the “transformation of the Sabbath from the seventh day of the week to the first day of the week (Sunday).

Yet, mere reading of this verse with a non Jewish context has led to an erroneous outcome. To the point where people adamantly defend this position, even though what they justify is incorrect.

In the most recent Levitt Letter, their “Ask the Chaplin” section addressed this very subject to the point where many of the points that were made were incorrect.

This was a result of context being applied incorrectly. The context of the time (historical), the Scriptures and the perspective were all misapplied.

The question that was asked was...

“Do you believe that the Saturday Sabbath should still be followed? The Scriptures clearly say that it is for all generations and forever. Most Christians I talk to say its been changed to Sunday, but I can't find in the New Testament where God changed it to Sunday.”

The responder uses classic Christian perspective to defend Sunday, while ignoring the p'shat of Scriptures. In addition, a common theology involves the separation of Israel from the Church, which is the only way that one can truly make such claims.

Citing the following Scriptures in addition to Acts 20:7, are part of a common response to justify this position:

Colssians 2:16-17

Acts 18:6

Galatians 4

Yet when applying these Scriptures people ignore...

The context for Colossians 2:16-17 comes from verse 8

In relation to Acts 18:6 the premise is that in relation to Sha'ul saying that he will now go to the gentiles, meaning that he will no longer “preach” to the Jews, yet in Acts 19, Sha'ul goes to the Synagogue in Corinth.

Act 20:7 On Motza'ei-Shabbat, when we were gathered to break bread, Sha'ul addressed them. Since he was going to leave the next day, he kept talking until midnight. (CJB)

Which leads us to the second “A”...

Apologetics - reasoned arguments or writings in justification of something, typically a theory or religious doctrine.
(noun)

I am not a fan of the terms theory or religious doctrine when used in relation to Adonai.

He is not a theory but a fact.

He is not a belief or set of beliefs held and taught by a church, political party, or other group.

He is not confined by our our understanding, but in essence transforms our understanding.

Apologetics is taking the Application of Scripture a step further. You are not applying it to your lives, but you are applying your understanding as directed by the Ruach ha Kodesh in supporting and promoting your beliefs.

It is not our reasoning, but the Word of Adonai, in context and rightly divided that justifies His position, not ours.

Apologetics requires a direct relationship with Adonai, in that how can you truly express what you believe about Him and who Yeshua is, if your relationship isn't active. Meaning that you are living what you believe.

This is where Know what you believe, why you believe it and be able to support it comes into play.

Getting back to the original AA...

There are aspects in the 12 steps that are based on Scripture...

- Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs. - (T'shuvah)
- Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character. - (Prayer)
- Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings. (Prayer)
- Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God *as we understood Him*, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out. (Prayer)
- Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to other alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs. (Evangelism)

The elements for a relationship are present, but...

I want to close with Sha'ul's words to Timothy...

2Ti 2:1 So then, you, my son, be empowered by the grace that comes from the Messiah Yeshua.

2Ti 2:2 And the things you heard from me, which were supported by many witnesses, these things commit to faithful people, such as will be competent to teach others also.

2Ti 2:3 Accept your share in suffering disgrace as a good soldier of the Messiah Yeshua.

Examples of application:

2Ti 2:4 No soldier on duty gets involved with civilian affairs, since he has to please his commanding officer.

2Ti 2:5 Also an athlete can't win a contest unless he competes according to the rules.

2Ti 2:6 The farmer who has done the hard work should be the first to receive a share of the harvest.

2Ti 2:7 Think about what I am saying, for the Lord will enable you to understand everything.

2Ti 2:8 Remember Yeshua the Messiah, who was raised from the dead, who was a descendant of David. This is the Good News I proclaim,

2Ti 2:9 and for which I am suffering to the point of being bound in chains — but the Word of God is not bound in chains!

2Ti 2:10 Why do I persevere through it all? For the sake of those who have been chosen, so that they too may obtain the deliverance that comes through the Messiah Yeshua, with eternal glory.

2Ti 2:11 Here is a statement you can trust: If we have died with him, we will also live with him.

2Ti 2:12 If we persevere, we will also rule with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us.

2Ti 2:13 If we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

2Ti 2:14 Keep reminding people of this, and charge them solemnly before the Lord not to engage in word-battles. They accomplish nothing useful and are a catastrophe for the hearers!

2Ti 2:15 Do all you can to present yourself to God as someone worthy of his approval, as a worker with no need to be ashamed, because he deals straightforwardly with the Word of the Truth.

The AA that every believer should be associated with is Application and Apologetics.

The wisdom for incorporating these to your lives comes from Him.

Pro 22:17 Pay attention, and listen to the words of the wise; apply your heart to my knowledge;

Pro 22:18 for it is pleasant to keep them deep within you; have all of them ready on your lips.

Pro 23:12 Apply your mind to discipline and your ears to words of knowledge.

Consider the second part of chapter 2 by Sha'ul to Timothy:

2Ti 2:16 But keep away from godless babbling, for those who engage in it will only become more ungodly,

2Ti 2:17 and their teaching will eat away at people like gangrene. Hymenaeus and Philetus are among these;

2Ti 2:18 they have missed the mark, as far as the truth is concerned, by saying that our resurrection has already taken place; and they are overturning some people's faith.

2Ti 2:19 Nevertheless, God's firm foundation stands, stamped with these words: "The Lord knows his own," and, "Let everyone who claims he belongs to the Lord stand apart from wrongdoing."

It is God's firm foundation – a foundation that is stationary, not moved, stable. There is no subjective aspect in God's foundation.

Acknowledgment through application sets us apart.

2Ti 2:20 In a large house there are dishes and pots not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay. That is, some are meant for honorable use and some for dishonorable.

2Ti 2:21 If a person keeps himself free of defilement by the latter, he will be a vessel set aside for honorable use by the master of the house and ready for every kind of good work.

2Ti 2:22 So, flee the passions of youth; and, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart, pursue

righteousness, faithfulness, love and peace.

You don't see these aspects in a generic and subjective relationship with Adonai. Everything that Sha'ul identifies in verse 22 speaks of an active relationship and requires an application of Scripture as directed by the Ruach ha Kodesh and under the authority of Yeshua.

2Ti 2:23 But stay away from stupid and ignorant controversies — you know that they lead to fights,

2Ti 2:24 and a slave of the Lord shouldn't fight. On the contrary, he should be kind to everyone, a good teacher, and not resentful when mistreated.

As a result of application, we should see the following manifestation revealed in those who teach.

2Ti 2:25 Also he should be gentle as he corrects his opponents. For God may perhaps grant them the opportunity to turn from their sins, acquire full knowledge of the truth,

2Ti 2:26 come to their senses and escape the trap of the Adversary, after having been captured alive by him to do his will.

And it would be this application that impacts others to turn to Adonai, ultimately overcoming the traps of the adversary for there are many.

So, when you apply correctly you will enter the Narrow Gate as Yeshua conveys...

Mat 7:14 but it is a narrow gate and a hard road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

This leads to being able to doing what apologetics is...know what you believe, why you believe it and be able to support it – in order to share it with others.