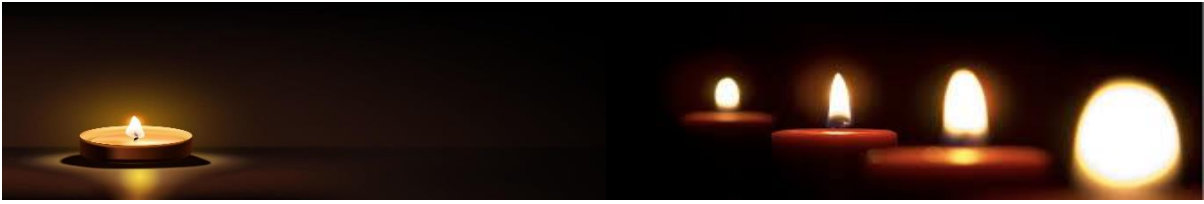


PART ONE



TRUE ENLIGHTENMENT. I used to believe enlightened people were monks, priests, pastors, rabbis, gurus, and mullahs with white beards and special hats. Then I look at our world, and I see the sadness of what religion has done to people, and I doubt the validity of their claims. Humanity has been torn asunder and polarized by religion. Competing beliefs have divided people into holy or unholy, saved or unsaved, good or evil, friend or foe, brother or enemy, believer or unbeliever, convert or gentile, enlightened or lost, chosen or rejected, and many more such manmade divisions. Who are we to say who is saved and who is not saved, who is good or evil, and so forth? Who made us judge over our fellow angels/human beings? I think judging people is something we should permanently retire from and just start loving people. It is as simple as that. That is why Shiloh said, *"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you"* Mattityahu (Matthew) 7:1-2). What is Enlightenment? Have you ever thought about this? You will be surprised at the many definitions offered on the internet. Albeit, I like what the philosophy Immanuel Kant stated; "Enlightenment is man's release from his self-incurred tutelage. Tutelage is man's inability to make use of his understanding without direction from another. Self-incurred is this tutelage when its cause lies not in lack of reason but in lack of resolution and courage to use it without direction from another." To me, the question is not a philosophical argument, but what Kant says that Enlightenment is one's ability to use his understanding and courage to do something without being instructed hits a cord with me. Enlightenment involves an action; therefore, we can determine a person's "enlightenment status." I would like to present some engaging scenarios in which you can quickly determine your state of Enlightenment. These situations are fictitious illustrations to help you determine your status, but they are not to question your morality. Imagine yourself in any one of these situations: You are standing in the line of the checkout counter of a supermarket. Just before, you are a mother with two children who have two loaves of bread, a slice of butter, and a carton of eggs in their grocery trolley. She pays for her shopping with a bunch of coins. Here you are with a trolley full of groceries with all of your favorite delights, easily worth over \$300. How does that mother's situation make you feel? Consider another. You are on your way to an ATM to withdraw some cash. A poor drunk man who sits by the sidewalk sees you and stops you. He asks you for money for food. You can't stand his condition and smell. You tell him the truth that you don't have any money, but then you go to the ATM and withdraw some. Would you go back and give him some money? Consider another. You are watching the news on TV, and a news clip shows a man being evicted from his home because he cannot pay the bank. Thus, he has barracked himself in his house and put a sign outside saying, 'I have nowhere to go, and this is my home.' He lives down your street. You have about \$100,000 in your savings account. Would you help him? Consider another. You are in India on holiday. You are on a bustling sidewalk with people passing you left, right, and center. You pass by a man who you see has just been struck by a motorcycle and is sitting on the sidewalk, injured and dazed. There is blood from his injury running down his leg, and the wound looks serious. No one seems to want to help the man. Would you stop and help him? Consider another. You are driving along a side street, no one is around, and a dog dashes out, and you hit it. The dog is not killed, but it is immobilized on the sidewalk from the impact, which you can see from your center mirror as you drive on. Would you stop your car and help the dog or find the owner? Consider yet another. You have watched a documentary on the plight of an animal that is going extinct. The documentary asks you to sign a petition on the internet calling for an international moratorium on the killing of this animal. Would you log in after the program and add your name to the list? Consider a final example. Millions of animals are slaughtered every year to feed the earth's growing population. These animals are subjected to inhumane treatment and are killed by the millions on a daily basis.

PART TWO



Many of them are tormented with fear and then suffer an excruciating death on a factory floor that is longer than a football field. Would you consider becoming a vegetarian in protest? I can cite example after example of what goes on in this so-called beautiful world that are just plain illustrations of how we have become immune to poverty, suffering, injustice, death, pain, violence, and so forth. We are no longer moved by the tragedy of humanity and living things. People everywhere have lost their ability to feel; I am no exception. This is what Enlightenment is truly about—being able to feel for another. We call it EMPATHY, but it is more significant than this. It is a transgression of YHWH's Law and instruction. I will get to that last. This is the fact: Every one of us has lost our way, and we have become self-centered and disconcerted. We don't know anymore what it is to be an angel. The Malak (Angel) that YHWH created us to be. This angel in every human is an exceptional being, the expressed image of the Creator. This being does not think; it senses and feels, although its capacity to think is far more powerful than our human mind. Why do I know this? Because every day, this being battles with my mind to express itself through my day. It wants to love people, to help people, to forgive people, it wants to save people, to volunteer for good works and projects, and it wants to fight the plight of the underprivileged, the poor, the sick, and the oppressed. Equally, it desires to battle the plight of all living things. This person is the true hero, the ideal role model, the Hercules or Samson of the day, the perfect father or mother, the perfect husband or partner, the true friend and companion, the man or woman of your dreams. Yes! He and she exist, and make no mistake; that mystery person resides in YOU. Every one of us has met an angel. Why, you probably met one today. Let me show you who and where they are. The other day, I saw a man helping an old lady across the street. Sorry, I meant an angel ☺. On another day, I saw a grandfather and grandmother holding a child's hand as they walked along the footpath. Oops! I meant an angel again. Then, I saw some of them ministering to the sick and dying at the hospital and comforting the bereaved at the funeral. Why did I even see an angel in a brawl step in and stop a few madmen the other day? And oh, just today, an angel sent me a message to encourage me and tell me she is thinking about me ☺. They are everywhere, and they appear out of nowhere without warning. You never know when you are going to meet an angel. The book of Hebrews written by a man called Shaul of Tarsus said this; *"Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels"* Ivrim (Hebrews) 13:2. I do not think Paul was referring to beings with wings in white robes. This person is the real you that YAH has been waiting to wake up and love Him and others. Before I end, I want to mention a little bit about what Enlightenment and progress mean. I am somewhat dismayed with what we call progress or development because if progress means that we become insensitive or hostile to life, then that is not Enlightenment or progress at all. To me, Enlightenment is not the ability to think at a higher or advanced level but the ability to feel suffering and injustice at a lower level. Unfortunately, we live in a society where everything thrives off "complication," "sophistication," "commercialization," "justification," and "glorification," which has made us lose sight of the real purpose of life – TO FEEL. There is much talk today about a New Earth and or a New World Order. Frankly speaking, this is all nonsense if the by-product of this New World is pollution and destruction of our environment, the extinction of many species, the acceleration of the gap between rich and poor, the haves and the have-nots, the destruction of the family and the abuse of woman and children, etc. This is not the outcome of Enlightenment and development. Enlightenment and development are when we human beings finally realize what every Messenger of Elohim has said for the past thousands of years. 'DO TO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE OTHERS DO TO YOU,' which is my brother and sister, is all about FEELING and ANGEL! This the Law and instruction of YHWH we have all transgressed!