

You Can Do It!

Kris Shoemaker - Yehudah ben Shomeyr

Anyone a Adam Sandler film fan? He may be really reform, but it is clear he is unashamed of being a Jew! I think it was on the movie “Water Boy” where Rob Schneider’s character always said, “You can do it!” in a Hispanic type of accent. This is what I thought of when I read this verse and commentary:

“For this thing is very near to you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.” Deut. 30:14.

You see, Keeping Torah involves ones whole being, and the motivating factor and reason behind it is “Love and Fear” as King Solomon said at the conclusion of his book of Ecclesiastes. Love leads to action. Love is a verb, not an adjective; it is an action not an emotion. Many times people get that confused. I think many marriage break up because they do not realize love is an action and not an emotion, so when the emotion is gone, so is the marriage. Interestingly enough the Torah is seen in Judaism as a marriage contract. You see, I don’t get out of bed in the morning and go to a job I am not particularly crazy about because I want to, because I “feel” like it, I do it because I love my wife and family. My wife likes back tickles, I do not enjoy giving them, my arms get tired, so I don’t do it because I “feel” like it, but because I know my wife enjoys it and I love her and want her to be happy. I know she does a lot for me because she loves me and not because she necessarily wants to do it.

Above is the verse Rav Sha’ul (Apostle Paul) quotes in Romans 10:8. God gave us a Torah that we can do, not perfectly of course because of our fallen state, but that it is doable and not beyond our comprehension or reach.

Simply thinking about God, His Greatness and His love, recalling the great things He has done for His people in His Word is like igniting the spark of love one feels for a parent, a king or a hero, one can’t help that burning of love to manifest itself into action to show ones love and devotion, and we do this by obeying His Torah. Whether through love, fear or a combination of both, one desires to keep the Torah because one does not want to hurt or disappoint the Divine, and as is natural to every human being, one does not want to reap the consequences of punishment for disobedience. Just as a husband may be tempted by an adulterous rendezvous, his first thought of deterrent is he loves his wife and does not want to hurt her, his second is fear; ‘what will this do to me and my family?’

So in actuality Torah does not do much in the realm of solidifying a religion as it does solidifying a relationship. After all, as Isaiah hints about in chapter one of his book; God does not want your religion, He wants a genuine relationship with you; one where there are marriage vows, not rules and regulations.

Unfortunately, many modern day Christians, as modern day married couples do not see the Torah/Marriage Vows as holy standards for a healthy and prosperous relationship, but as a bondage/ball and chain. Many of one's faith and marriages suffer and deteriorate because of this type of attitude and mentality and then have the audacity to blame God or the spouse.

Yeshua Ha Moshiach (Jesus the Messiah), being the emanation of God in the flesh, (so His Commandments are identical to God's) said in the Gospels; "If you love Me, keep My Commandments." I can just hear the similar echoes in the mind of a spouse when one is tempted to violate one's marriage vows; "honey, if you truly love me you won't go through with this, you will be faithful to our marital vows."