

August 29, 2020  
Letter to the Messianic Jews a 6.1-3  
First Principles, Part 2

Last Sunday, I attended the Day of Discovery at the J, and one session was The Cosmic Joke: Judaism, Mysticism and Comedy by Sarah Aptilon. She grew up KC and teaches now at JCCC. Interested in meditation, advised to go to the source; went to Japan to learn meditation 7 years. Monastery. Midlife crisis age 21. Altered world view. Ten years later grad Yale Middle Eastern Studies. World view of laughter in tragedy, Jewish way.

George Burns: secret of good sermon: good beginning, good ending, two as close together as possible.



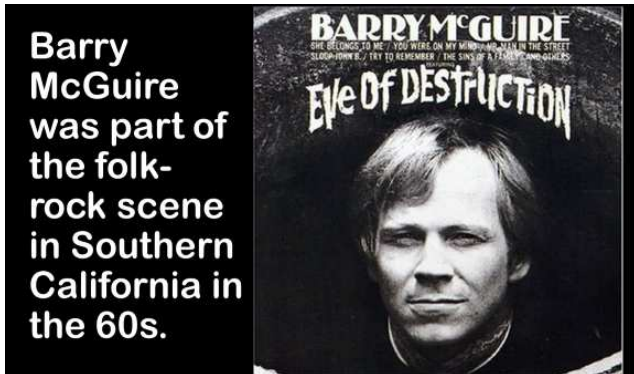
from Jai Cohen



Correction:

Last week I said that most congregations don't teach discipleship. Overstated.

- They do teach prayer, fasting, sharing.
- They fail to teach covenants, role of Israel, meaning of the festivals.



I want to play a clip from the 1960s that captures something pivotal in my youth. I DO NOT agree with some of the visuals, but the theme is gripping.

[\[https://youtu.be/qfZVu0alU0I\]](https://youtu.be/qfZVu0alU0I)

“Don't you understand, what I'm trying to say?  
Can't you see the fears that I'm feeling today?  
Take a look around you, boy, it's bound to scare you, boy  
And you tell me over and over and over again my friend  
Ah, you don't believe we're on the eve of destruction

I can't twist the truth, it knows no regulation  
Handful of Senators don't pass legislation,  
And marches alone can't bring integration  
When human respect is disintegratin'  
This whole crazy world is just too frustratin'  
And you tell me over and over and over again my friend  
Ah, you don't believe we're on the eve of destruction”

[\[https://genius.com/Barry-mcguire-eve-of-destruction-lyrics\]](https://genius.com/Barry-mcguire-eve-of-destruction-lyrics)

2020 version of fearsome sights, eve of destruction ~ “beginning of sorrows”

- Pandemic killing many, and draconian response of shutting down the economy and education.
- Innocent till proven guilty, but alleged rogue police murder triggering centuries of pent-up rage.
- Riots and vandalism unchecked, including Bible burning.
- Police defunding implemented in 13 cities so far.
- Socialism accepted by many as the solution for America.
- Trillions of dollars of debt incurred to prevent mass starvation.

**Michael Brown:** Once again, it feels as if we’re on the eve of destruction. But this time, it’s not because of the threat of nuclear war (although that is always possible). Nor is it because of global warming (despite the apocalyptic warnings of some). It’s not even because of the pandemic (although COVID-19 certainly has turned the world upside down).

Instead, it is because, once again, we are destroying ourselves, especially here in America. We are on the verge of tearing apart at the seams.

[\[https://blackchristiannews.com/2020/08/michael-brown-on-were-on-the-eve-of-destruction-again/\]](https://blackchristiannews.com/2020/08/michael-brown-on-were-on-the-eve-of-destruction-again/)

What was extreme and fringe in that generation became mainstream in the next generation. Put another way, radicals like Bill Ayers of the Weathermen (who bombed buildings in their anti-war protests) became university professors and even mentors of a president.

[\[https://stream.org/we-stand-on-the-precipice-of-a-very-dangerous-cultural-shift/\]](https://stream.org/we-stand-on-the-precipice-of-a-very-dangerous-cultural-shift/)

- This 244-year-old American Republic may not survive from this as the place of “**life, [spiritual] liberty, and the pursuit of [prosperity and] happiness.**”
- But the prophet also offers hope!

*[Jim Garlow, James Dobson]*

From Sept. 8 to Yom Kippur, Sept 28, we will have nightly services. We are looking for leaders to take one night in the three weeks. May G-d have pity on His people as we seek Him!

Why is our culture apparently on the Eve of Destruction?

Where is “Where is Adoni, the G-d of Eliyahu?”

First Principles of LIFE.



[\[https://www.templeinstitute.org/new-location.htm\]](https://www.templeinstitute.org/new-location.htm)

*Essence of G-d’s branding, visual arts communication.]*

<sup>MJ 6.1-3</sup> Therefore, leaving behind the initial lessons about the Messiah, let us go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of **[Note six foundations] [Six principles]**

<sup>1</sup>turning from works that lead to death,

<sup>2</sup>trusting God, and

<sup>3</sup>instruction about washings,

<sup>4</sup>s’ mikhah,

<sup>5</sup>the resurrection of the dead and

<sup>6</sup>eternal punishment.

And, G-d willing, this is what we will do.

## Review

turning from works that lead to death

- Does NOT mean turning from the Torah, the mitzvot. Common reading. Get rid of the Law.  
*Khok olam* חֻק-עוֹלָם
- Dead works = sin

*[Common misinterpretation in the believing world.]*

turning from works that lead to death

We don't just turn from bad to good, we turn from **death to LIFE**. Impossible to see without the Ruakh/Spirit.

Impossible to see fully at first.

We are not sinners because we've sinned.

We sin because we're sinners.

Shaul/Paul's summary...

Eph. 2.1-3 You [addressing his Greek readers] used to be dead because of your sins and acts of disobedience. You walked in the ways of the עוֹלָם הַזֶּה *olam hazeh* [this present world spirit] and obeyed the Ruler of the Powers of the Air, who is still at work among the disobedient. Indeed, **we all** once lived this way — we followed the **passions of our old nature** and obeyed the wishes of our old nature **and our own thoughts**. In our natural condition we were headed for G-d's wrath, just like everyone else.

*[Even Shaul/Paul in his strong religious devotion, didn't have LIFE]*

Yeshayahu / Is 64.6 All of us are like someone unclean, **all our righteous deeds like menstrual rags**; we wither, all of us, like leaves; and our misdeeds blow us away like the wind.

“We have just started the month of Elul, a forty-day period of repentance, judgment, and forgiveness in preparation for the High Holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

This time recalls the weeks Moses spent on Mount Sinai to receive the second set of tablets and pray for God's forgiveness on behalf of the Israelites who had sinned by building the golden calf.

Rabbi Yitz Greenberg, author of *The Jewish Way*, explains that Elul is a time for 'accounting for the soul' or חשבון הנפש *khesbon hanefesh*, an accounting with oneself. This is the time for the individual to concentrate on mortality and the meaning of life.”

*[Dr. Helene Lotman, President & CEO of Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City]*

The first of the six principles is repentance.

*[Do you, do I, have the sense of life without Messiah, however noble it may appear, is wrought in the context of death: ego, lust, materialism?*

*I know that “Some people are nicer by nature than others are by grace.” Seems to belie this, so we can't compare ourselves to others. Only to our past, and to Messiah, and to how G-d shows us this.]*

Across Africa and Asia, millions of people in historically unengaged people groups are now in rapidly growing **Disciple Making Movements**. In 2000 there were 6 such movements, today there are now 1,035!

Across Africa and Asia many thousands of former Muslim clerics have left Islam to become fearless disciples of Messiah.

What is it that the churches of the Global South are doing that makes so much difference?

1. Abundant, and Bold Prayer
2. Discipling to Conversion
3. Obedience-Based Discipleship
4. Empowering Ordinary People for Ministry
5. Make Replicating Disciples, not Converts
6. Never Ending Leadership Training for All

[\[https://www.christianpost.com/voices/christianity-is-growing-faster-than-any-time-in-history-why-is-the-church-in-europe-america-declining.html\]](https://www.christianpost.com/voices/christianity-is-growing-faster-than-any-time-in-history-why-is-the-church-in-europe-america-declining.html)

Repeat: The first of the first principles is total repentance: deny our self and following the Messiah. The second is faith...

MJ 6.1 The foundation of <sub>1</sub>turning from works that lead to death, <sub>2</sub>trusting G-d

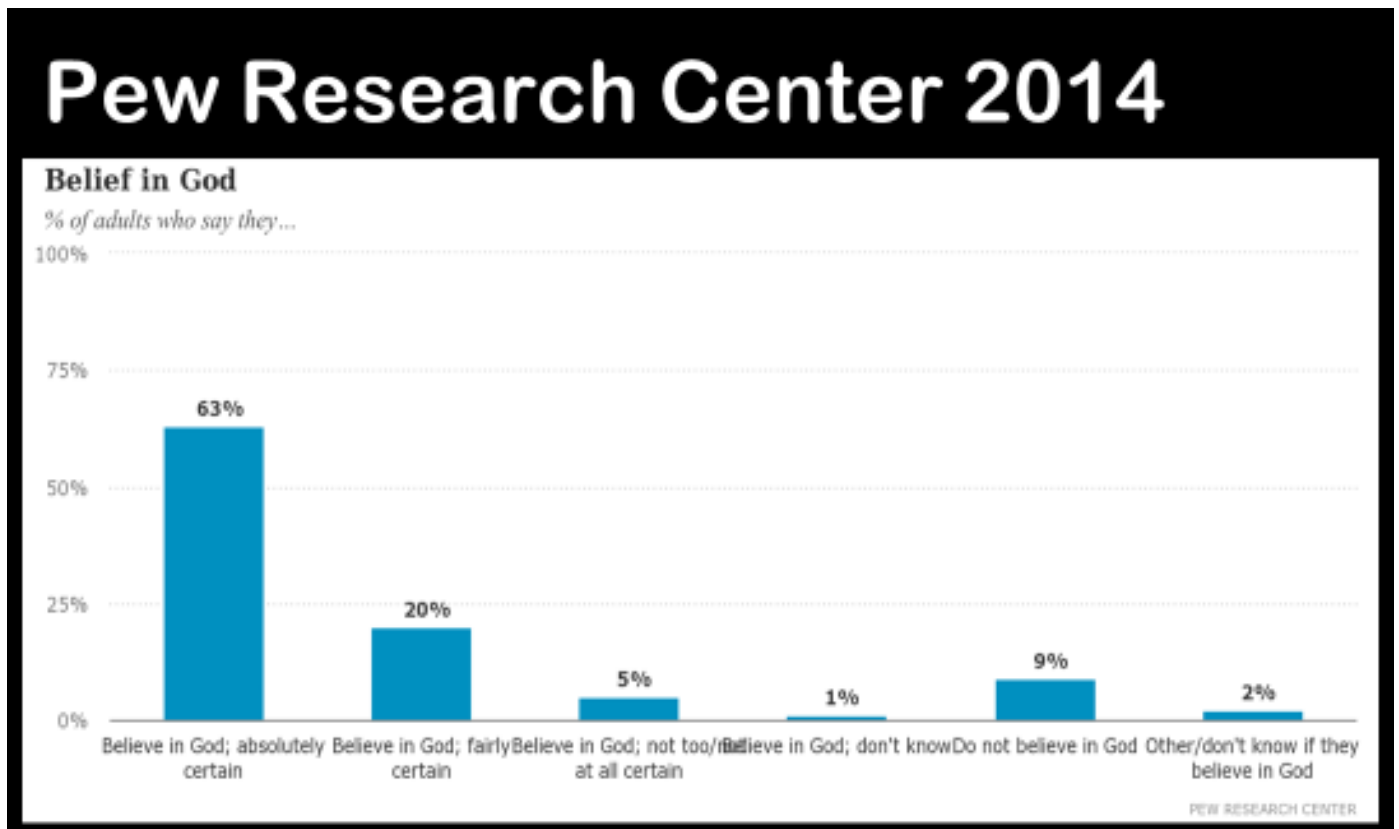
This is MUCH MORE than mental assent to truth.

Mark 1.14-15 Yeshua came into the Galilee, proclaiming the Good News of G-d. “Now is the fullness of time,” He said, “and the kingdom of G-d is near! Turn away from your sins, and believe in the Good News!”

Yaakov /James 2.19 You believe that “G-d is one”? [Dvarim/Dt 6.4 Shma: Hear Oh Israel, Adoni our G-d...is One] Good for you! The demons believe it too — the thought makes them shudder with fear! And they are still demons!

*[This is MUCH MORE than mental assent to truth.*

*All Jewish people of his time believed this.]*



*[83% believers?]*



There are no atheists in foxholes. Supported and refuted. In any case, that type of crisis faith is NOT what G-d wants in us. Not a first principle – can be a starter. Rather: <sup>MJ 11.6</sup> Now without faith it is impossible to please G-d. For the one who comes to G-d must believe that He exists and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

So we seek Him, trusting that He is there to respond.

## Jewish view of the Ten Commandments / Ten Words

Shmot/ Ex 20.2 <sup>N</sup> I am Adoni your G-d, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the abode of slavery.

3 <sup>א</sup> You are to have no other gods before me. CJB

*[Maimonides, the 1100s Spain and North Africa doctor to the Sultan, Rabbi, commentator, astronomer, said faith in G-d is the First Commandment.]*

### THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

<p>1 You shall have no other gods before Me.</p> <p>2 You shall not make idols.</p> <p>3 You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.</p> <p>4 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.</p> <p>5 Honor your father and your mother.</p>	<p>6 You shall not murder.</p> <p>7 You shall not commit adultery.</p> <p>8 You shall not steal.</p> <p>9 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.</p> <p>10 You shall not covet.</p>
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Typical Christian construct, skips #1, and #2 divided into two. Entirely possible to be a synagogue attender or church attender without believing in G-d. Niece Shira's Bat Mitzvah during opening singing of the Psalms, Psukei d'zimra. So, how are we different from the P'rushim?

Consider the subgroups of Judaism in Messiah's day.

- Tskukim / Sadducees: Believed in G-d, not in the soul afterlife, resurrection, final judgment.
- P'rushim / Pharisees: repentance, resurrection, final judgment.

*[Are we like the P'rushim? In some ways.]*

MJ 6.1 The foundation of <sub>1</sub>turning from works that lead to death, <sub>2</sub>trusting G-d

pisteōs	epi	Theon
πίστεως	ἐπὶ	Θεόν
faith	in	God

- **epi: on, upon**
- **Orig Word: ἐπί (ep-ee')**
- **Usage: on, to, against, on the basis of, at**
- **Faith on G-d**

pisteōs	epi	Theon
πίστεως	ἐπὶ	Θεόν
faith	in	God

Faith on G-d >> Faith in G-d

Relying on, building on, confidence, depending on

MJ 11.8 By trusting, Avraham obeyed, after being called to go out to a place which G-d would give him as a possession; indeed, he went out without knowing where he was going.

Confident belief that G-d exists and that He interacts with us in blessings for obedience, and curses/withdrawal for disobedience.

Theism vs Deism

Illustration from Day of Discovery:

Guy late for business meeting. Looking for parking place. Panicking. Promises G-d if he finds parking place, he'll go to shul every Friday. Parking place immediately opened.

"Never mind G-d, I found one"

Faith on Messiah is a whole new level from the rest of Israel.

- Greater than mental assertion that G-d exists as One. Sadducces
- Greater than Kingdom expectation of the Essenes
- Greater than eternal judgment of the P'rushim

Ro 8.15-17 For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to bring you back again into fear; on the contrary, you received the Spirit, who makes us sons and by whose power we cry out, "Abba!" (that is, "Dear Father!"). The Spirit himself bears witness with our own spirits that we are children of G-d; and if we are children, then we are also heirs, heirs of G-d and joint-heirs with the Messiah — provided we are suffering with him in order also to be glorified with him.

*[Do you have a 100% inner assurance that if you died now, and stood before G-d, you would be accepted? On what basis? Suffering is not extraneous, surprising to the faith. Intrinsic. Love suffers long.]*

1 Kefa/P 1.8-9 Though you have not seen Him, you love Him. And even though you don't see Him now, you trust Him and are filled with a joy that is glorious beyond words, receiving the outcome of your faith — the salvation of your souls.

Mtt 17.20-21 I tell you that if you have trust as tiny as a mustard seed, you will be able to say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there!' and it will move; indeed, nothing will be impossible for you! But this kind does not go out except through prayer and fasting."

Mtt.6.28-30 Why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow. They neither toil nor spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. Now if in this way G-d clothes the grass — which is here today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow — will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

So faith in the Jewish Messiah brings joy, confidence over adversaries, rest, even “in the valley of the shadow of death.”

Messianic faith relative to normative Judaism is faith on fire. Experiential. Still faith.

Kabbala is to Judaism as

Zen is to Buddhism

Zen is a shortcut to nirvana ~kabbala is a personal experience of the transcendent, without atonement.

The Spirit of Yeshua is the bona fide, the real [Jewish] way to experience G-d.

Even with strong revelation, faith is required to walk it out.

Acts 27.23-26 For this very night, there stood next to me an angel of the G-d to whom I belong and whom I serve. He said, ‘Don’t be afraid, Sha’ul! you have to stand before the Emperor. Look! G-d has granted you all those who are sailing with you

*[14 days fasting, 276 people on the ship]*

Acts 27.23-26 So, men, take heart! For I trust G-d and believe that what I have been told will come true.

Nevertheless, we have to run aground on some island.”

Shaul/Paul made a choice.

14 days fasting, 276 people on the ship

Faith affects money issues too:

- Or HaOlam rejected the CARES Act \$ so as not to participate in the \$23 trillion national debt, now \$26 trillion.

- We TRUSTED that G-d would keep our people, and they would keep supporting.

Malakhi 3.10-12 Bring the whole tenth into the storehouse, so that there will be food in my house, and put me to the test,” says Adonai-Tzva’ot. “See if I won’t open for you the floodgates of heaven and pour out for you a blessing far beyond your needs. For your sakes I will forbid the devourer to destroy the yield from your soil; and your vine will not lose its fruit before harvest-time,” says Adonai-Tzva’ot. “All nations will call you happy, for you will be a land of delights,” says Adonai-Tzva’ot.

1 Cor.9.13-14 Don’t you know that those who serve in the temple get their food from the temple, and that those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar? In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.

Why is our culture apparently on the Eve of Destruction?

Where is “Where is Adoni, the G-d of Eliyahu?”

First Principles of LIFE.

Repentance and faith in the sustaining love of G-d. Lambert’s wonderful message.

***Emunah*** אֱמוּנָה

Active Faith, that everything that happens has a divine, ultimately wonderful purpose.

*[Every stress, anxiety, difficulty, hindrance, disease, distress, dysfunction, antagonism]*

Levels of living faith.

***Emunah*** אֱמוּנָה

faith, trust, confidence

Active faith.

1. Basic level Emunah: firm belief that **EVERYTHING** comes from Adoni by way of perfect Divine providence. No secondary causes.
2. Intermediate level: belief that everything that comes from Adoni is **for the very best**. All troubles have their purpose. Therefore **PRAISE**. Without understanding the purpose.

*[Like holiness. We accept G-d's goodness, and praise. We fall before His Holiness. We praise ALL His works. ALL.*

*We talk about Sozo ministry, which involves finding the lies about life and G-d that we've received, renouncing, and asking G-d for revelation of truth.*

*This is group-generalized Sozo, וְכִּי the basic lie is that life/G-d is mean, against us.*

*We commit to praise in everything. Even the consequences of our and others' failures. Still in His hands.]*

3. Upper level: Belief that our joyful task is to **discern the message** to us in EVERY trouble. Then repent as needed, and pray for the change.

*[Message NOT = punishment. Iyov/Job was not punished, but called to go higher. Tho He slay me, yet will I trust Him.*

*Ester had some level of this and determined to use her position in the court for G-d.]*

Yoel 1.2, 2.12-16 **"Hear this, you leaders! Listen, all who live in the land! Has anything like this ever happened in your days, or in your ancestors' days? "Yet even now," says Adoni , "turn to me with all your heart, with fasting, weeping and lamenting." Tear your heart, not your garments; and turn to Adoni your G-d. "Blow the shofar in Tziyon! Proclaim a holy fast, call for a solemn assembly." Gather the people; consecrate the congregation.**

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