

## *Newsletter for the Month of Elul 5783 by Sherry Lush*

Greeting and Shalom to All,

We are praying that everyone is enjoying summer if you are in the Northern hemisphere, and that you are all staying safe. May His presence surround us all in these days of chaos and lawlessness, and may all of our intent be to know Him more every day and bring others into His Kingdom. Our focus is on our Messiah and His words to us. **\*Deuteronomy 31:6** Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.

We have entered the incredible month of Elul, after having gone through two months wherein grievous sins were committed. These were Tammuz when the golden calf was built and Av when the spies brought back the bad report about the land. Elul turns from these disastrous sins to the time just prior to the fall feasts, and during this entire month it is a time to seek the King, returning to Him and to seek repentance. It is a time to prepare our hearts for the fall feasts to come, all of which represent aspects of His coming again.



This month is a month about LOVE! Elul in Hebrew is: אֶלּוּל. If we take each of these Hebrew letters individually, amazingly they are an acrostic for a phrase in the Song of Songs which says: "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine." The Aleph - (G-d); Lamed - am my beloved's; Vav - I am connected to; Lamed - my beloved! This month is a beautiful love story between each of us and the Lord!

It is important to realize that we can be face to face with the King! When we turn from our ways and put our efforts into following Him, we see Him more clearly because we are looking at His heart. We are looking "into Him." When we come to the King for forgiveness we can look at His face and see His heart!



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It is said that in Elul, the King is totally accessible - He is in the field where we are. We can turn to Him and His ways and in so doing we see His face and His inner heart of love and forgiveness. Now we can turn and give others that love and forgiveness that He gives us. **\*Romans 13:8** Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.

The word for "face" in Hebrew is "panim" and is the same root word as "pnimiyut" meaning innerness or what is inside! In turning to Him, there is a time of divine closeness because we become face to face with Him.

So the questions arise:

**\*\*What is the different about being face to face with someone that back to back?**

**\*\*In the month of Elul who can we be face to face with and why does this matter?**

In the month of Elul it is traditional to read Psalm 27 every day. Here are the first 9 verses of this Psalm:

**Psalm 27** The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. Though a host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident. One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in His temple. For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me up upon a rock. And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore, will I offer in His tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the Lord. Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice: have mercy also upon me, and answer me. When You said, Seek My face; my heart said unto You, Your face, Lord, will I seek. Hide not Your face far from me; put not Your servant away in anger: You have been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.



This Psalm rings familiar with the heart's cry of everyone yearning to be close to the Lord. David's words could be our words. We can ponder his words and ask:

**\*\*What reasons are there in this Psalm that would make it appropriate for the month of Elul?**

**\*\*Where in this Psalm do you find mercy, grace, forgiveness, seeking the King?**

# *YOU ARE INVITED*

*WE AT ALPHA AND OMEGA  
MINISTRIES INVITE YOU TO*

*JOIN US FOR THE CELEBRATION OF  
THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS (ROSH  
HASHANA)*

*WHEN:* *SEPTEMBER 16, SATURDAY  
NIGHT*

*WHERE:* *HARBOR LIFE CHURCH*

*4417 56<sup>TH</sup> ST NW, GIG HARBOR, WA*

*TIME:* *6:30 PM*

***"For the Lord himself will descend from  
heaven."***

