



Growing in the Light

To Live a Life Worthy of the Calling

Two Week Chanukah Devotional, Nov 25, 2018

(Chanukah observed Dec 2-10, 2018)

This year's Chanukah devotional provides two weeks of exploring your cultural thoughts. The bible was written in Hebraic culture with a Hebraic mindset. Early gentile Christians influenced by Greek philosophy intellectualized the bible, radically changing its meaning. Below is a list of comparative mindsets, one from Greek thought and one from Hebraic thought, as well as supporting scriptures. As you light the Chanukah candles, take some time to examine your own thoughts. Which cultural influences do you see? Which do you want? Allow the Holy Spirit to search you and teach you through God's word. It never comes back void. Oy, it may take a lifetime.

Some differences between Greek and Hebrew cultures are: The Greeks esteem knowing, the Hebrews esteem doing. To the Greeks, knowledge, right thinking, philosophizing and intellectual play provide the meaning of life. To the Jews, practice of right conduct, duty, conscience and moral values are important; practice not theory.

You may want to start pondering the mindsets a week before Chanukah to prepare for the celebration with a deeper meaning of victory and how it applies to our times.

Please be mindful that the "Greek" mindset is not only found in the Christian Churches but also in Messianic Congregations, because it permeates our culture at large. We have been drenched in it from birth, and we are all doing it to some degree.

The left side of the equation is Greek, the right is Hebraic. Notice that the Hebraic side of the equation is in the first person. Think of it as the voice in your head.

Pre-Chanukah Devotional: November 25-December 1

Nov 25: Doing holidays without the Lord v. the holidays are an appointed time for me to meet with the Lord. I eagerly run to meet Him and listen to what He is telling me in each festival.
[1 Cor. 5:8](#), [Zech.14:16-19](#), [Lev.23:1-44](#), [Deut. 16:16](#), [Acts 2:1](#), [Acts 20:16](#)

Nov 26: Spectator mentality v. all members are important and I am interactive with them.
[Heb.10:24](#), [Phil.2:3](#), [1John 3:14](#), [Gal.6:2](#)

Nov 27: Knowing God through our mind & logic v. knowing God through His word. He tells me things when I read, speak or think His word.
[Eph. 4:14](#), [Eph. 5:6](#), [2Tim.3:16-17](#), [John 17:17](#), [Matt.4:4](#)

Nov 28: Freedom oriented - I am free to choose v. I am hidden in Yeshua. I choose Him. I am inside His strong tower no matter what is going on. I don't want to walk away from it.
[Prov. 18:10](#), [Deut.30:19-20](#), [Joshua 24:15](#), [Col. 3:3](#), [Gal.5:16-17](#)

Nov 29: Man made formulas that don't change our lifestyle v. I trust and have faith to follow the Holy Spirit & God's commands over man's ideas about God's ways. I want to follow the Spirit, not man's gimmicks & trends about God, His ways or His word.
[Eph. 4:17](#), [Eph. 5:6](#), [Eph. 5:8](#), [Ps.119:114](#), [Col.2:8](#), [Mark 7:8](#)

Nov 30: **Worship is something we do at service v. every aspect of my life is worship. I see Him and worship Him in my activities & introspections.**
[John 4:23-24](#), [Heb.13:15](#), [Romans 12:1](#)

Dec 1: **No accountability v. God calls me to be accountable to others. I consider them.**
[Eph. 4:2-6](#), [Gal.6:1-5](#), [Prov. 27:17](#), [1 Thess.5:14](#)

Chanukah Begins: First Night (Dec 2), Last Night (Dec 10)
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First Night of Chanukah, Dec.2: Individually minded v. community minded. I belong and I am an integral part of communities God has placed me in. I need to consider the whole, as well as myself.

[Heb.10:24-25](#), [Acts 2:42-47](#), [Gal.6:2](#), [Eccl.4:9-12](#), [Matt.22:37-40](#)

Second Night of Chanukah, Dec.3: I am my #1 preference v. I am to esteem others higher than myself. I consider and value the integrity of another person by showing them honor in my speech and interactions with them. I know they have feelings and need me to value them.

[2Tim.3:2](#), [Rom.2:8](#), [Rom.12:10](#), [Phil.2:3-4](#), [1 Cor.10:24](#)

Third Night of Chanukah, Dec.4: I am right, you are wrong. Using rhetoric & debate to dazzle others or buffet them with arguments v. I learn when I interact with other people. I engage in a back and forth exchange of honest thoughts & feelings with mutual respect. They may have a point and so do I.

[Eph. 4:18-19](#), [Rom.14:1](#), [James 1:26](#), [2 Tim.2:23-24](#), [Rom.14:19](#), [1 Cor.13:1-13](#), [Jm.3:17](#)

Fourth Night of Chanukah, Dec.5: My worth is based on money, power, status & knowledge v. I understand that in the end, the worth I carry inside me is based on my relationships; intimate or casual. How did I treat other people? What level of exchange did I give them? Could they see God's light in me?

[Heb.13:5](#), [Lev.25:35-38](#), [1 John 2:15-17](#), [Eccl.5:10](#), [Matt.28:19](#), [Col.3:14](#), [Rom.15:2](#), [John 15:13](#)

Fifth Night of Chanukah, Dec.6: Man/Self-centered v. God centered. He is my focus.

[Psalm 27:1](#), [Col 3:1-2](#), [Psalm 1:1-6](#), [2 Tim 2:15](#), [Matt 6:24](#), [Rom.12:2](#), [Phil.1:20-21](#), [Ps.92:4](#), [Rom 8:8](#), [Ps.119:10](#)

Sixth Night of Chanukah, Dec.8: Random acts of kindness (external) v. giving from a heart of love (internal). What you give from the heart as you act in kindness, God returns. Your heart grows with love. It shines like a jewel and you become the light of the world

[Matt 5:14-15](#), [1 Cor.13](#), [Eph.6:6](#), [Prov.21:2](#), [Ezek.11:19](#), [Ps.26:2](#), [Ps.27:14](#), [Prov.22:11](#)

Seventh Night of Chanukah, Dec.9: Competition is important v. cooperation in a group. I can add input through the art of communication, relationship & prayer. It's ok if I'm not the know it all. I am a servant of the living God.

[1 John 1:7](#), [1Thess. 5:11](#), [Ps.133:1-3](#), [1 Cor. 2:10](#), [Rom. 12:16](#), [1 Cor.12:14-16](#), [Eph. 5:21](#),

Eighth Night of Chanukah, Dec.10: Prayer is always based on a need v. I know everything comes from the power of the Lord so I trust and am secure that he will always provide and sustain me. I want to bless Him in my prayers and my life.

[Ps.34:1-4](#), [Ps.103](#), [Ps.135](#), [Jer.1:12](#), [Phil. 4:19](#), [Eph.6:18](#), [Ps.100:4](#)

But to the Hebraic thinker how one lives is more important than doctrinal theory; how one treats his neighbor and God. Practice in the little things grows you stronger for the bigger things. Grow in the light.