



# House of New Beginnings

ShalomAZ Ministries

*In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption*

## **"Honor, Freedom, and the Fight Within: 3 Ways to Reflect Yeshua"**

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### **Devotion and Discussion Questions**

#### **Key Texts: 1 Peter 2:11-17**

Have you ever felt the tension between wanting to stand up for yourself and wanting to honor God? Between longing to be free and feeling pulled by old cravings? You're not alone. The believers Peter wrote to felt like outsiders—misunderstood, mistreated, and pushed to the margins. But in the middle of all that pressure, Peter gave them a blueprint for reflecting Yeshua. Today, we're going to look at three ways you can live out your faith: by honoring others, living in true freedom, and winning the fight within your own soul.

#### **1. THE FIGHT WITHIN—KEEP YOUR CRAVINGS AT A DISTANCE**

Peter starts by urging us to keep the cravings of the flesh far away because they wage war against our souls. These cravings aren't just about temptation in the obvious sense. They're about the hunger to strike back, to defend yourself, or to prove your worth when you feel small. They disguise themselves as righteous anger or self-preservation, but really, they drain your strength and damage your witness.

Every time you hold back the impulse to retaliate, you're winning a spiritual battle inside. You're proving that your identity isn't rooted in the approval of others or the need to control your own story—it's anchored in God's unshakable love. When you keep these cravings at a distance, your life becomes clearer, freer, and more compelling to everyone watching.

#### **2. HONOR EVERYONE—EVEN WHEN THEY DON'T DESERVE IT**

Verse Peter commands believers to honor everyone, to love the brotherhood, to fear God, and to honor the king. That sounds almost impossible in a world where leaders can be corrupt and neighbors can be cruel. But this is where the way of Yeshua stands out most. When we treat everyone with respect—even those who oppose or misunderstand us—we declare that our hope doesn't rise and fall on earthly power or human validation.

Honor isn't something you offer only to those who've earned it. It's something you give because you know who you belong to. It's a reflection of your trust that God is still on the throne, even when society feels upside down. And it's a testimony that will shine brighter than any argument you could ever make.

#### **3. TRUE FREEDOM—LIVING AS GOD'S SERVANT**

Peter says we are free people, but we're not to use that freedom as a cover-up for sin. Instead, we live as God's servants. This is the paradox of faith: true freedom doesn't mean doing whatever you want; it means belonging fully to the One who rescued you. In Pharaoh's house, freedom meant escape. In God's family, freedom means surrender.

When you choose to serve God wholeheartedly, you discover a freedom that no oppression, no slander, no injustice can steal. It's the freedom to love without fear, to obey without resentment, and to trust that God is working, even when you can't see it. That freedom is the strongest witness you will ever carry into a skeptical world.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Honor, freedom, and the fight within. These are not abstract ideas—they are the daily choices that reflect Yeshua to a world desperate to see something real. When we honor everyone, when we live as God's servants, and when we keep our cravings at a distance, our lives becomes a living testimony of His power. We become the window through which others glimpse His goodness.

Maybe you've been caught in the fight within—reacting in anger, holding grudges, or grasping for control. Maybe you've struggled to honor people you feel don't deserve it. Or maybe you've been using your freedom as an excuse to hide sin. Today, God is calling us to lay it down. To trust Him enough to reflect His heart instead of our own. Let's choose today to surrender our cravings, our reputations, and our need to win, and ask the Lord to fill us with the courage to live like Yeshua.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. What does "the fight within" look like in your own life?
2. Who is hardest for you to honor right now, and why?
3. What would change if you saw your freedom as an invitation to serve?
4. How can your daily choices help unbelievers see Yeshua more clearly?
5. What's one practical way you can live beautifully among those who misunderstand you?

### **CLOSING PRAYER:**

**Abba Father**, thank You for giving us true freedom in Messiah. Thank You that even as outsiders in this world, we are chosen, loved, and called to reflect Your glory. Teach us to honor everyone, to keep our cravings far away, and to live as Your faithful servants. May our lives be a living picture of Yeshua's grace, so that many will come to know You.

In Yeshua's name. Amen.