



# House of New Beginnings

ShalomAZ Ministries

*In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption*

## **"Becoming Unoffendable: Yeshua's Way in a Hostile World"**

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### **Devotion and Discussion Questions**

#### **Key Texts: 1 Peter 3:8-12**

Have you ever felt like the world around you is against everything you stand for? That no matter how hard you try to do what's right, there's always someone ready to mock, belittle, or misunderstand you? Peter wrote to a community dealing with that—a group of believers who were strangers in their culture. He didn't give them a strategy to win arguments or reclaim power. Instead, he called them to something more radical: to live with humility, compassion, and unity—to reflect Yeshua right in the middle of hostility. How can we become that kind of people... a people who walk in humility and compassion, who live as a people set apart, and who respond to hostility not with retaliation but with blessing. This isn't just about acting holy on the outside. It's about ***becoming like Yeshua in the deepest places of our hearts.***

1.

#### **2. CHOOSE UNITY OVER EGO**

Peter starts by saying that all of us are called to be harmonious—to be of one mind. He's not talking about agreeing on every little thing or pretending we don't have differences. He's calling us to be deeply united in our commitment to Yeshua. Our oneness doesn't come from our opinions or our backgrounds; it comes from our shared identity as children of God. This unity is the soil where all the other virtues can grow. When we choose to fight for connection over division, we create an environment where grace can flourish.

3.

But unity doesn't happen by accident. It takes humility to lay down our ego, to listen when we'd rather argue, and to remember that we're part of something bigger than ourselves. In a culture that celebrates individualism and self-promotion, being of one mind is profoundly countercultural. It requires us to see each other as teammates, not competitors. When we choose unity over ego, we build a community that shows the world what the love of God looks like in real life.

#### **4. GROW A TENDER, HUMBLE HEART**

Peter goes on to list qualities that are meant to mark us as believers: sympathy, brotherly love, tenderheartedness, and humility. Each of these is about moving our hearts toward others. Sympathy means we don't just stand at a distance when someone else is suffering. We step into their pain. We feel it with them. Brotherly love means treating each other like family—because in Messiah, we are. This love isn't surface-level. It's deep, loyal, and sincere. Tenderheartedness is about letting compassion well up from the core of who we are — letting God soften the hard places in us so we can respond with genuine care.

And then Peter mentions humility—a trait that would have sounded almost scandalous in the Roman world. To be humble-minded was seen as weakness, something to be ashamed of. But Peter takes this insult and flips it into a badge of honor. He reminds us that Yeshua Himself humbled Himself, taking the nature of a servant. Our culture still resists humility. We're taught to defend our rights, guard our reputation, and prove our worth. But the way

of Yeshua is different. Humility doesn't mean thinking less of yourself. It means thinking of yourself less and making room in your heart for others. That's the life He's calling us into.

### **3. RESPOND WITH BLESSING, NOT RETALIATION**

This last instruction Peter gives feels almost impossible in our own strength: don't repay evil for evil or insult for insult. Instead, he says, give a blessing. Most of us can manage to bite our tongue if we have to. We can walk away and hold back the words we'd like to hurl back. But Peter challenges us to do something even harder—to respond to hostility with kindness, to meet curses with words that build up. This is what Yeshua did when He was mocked, beaten, and crucified. He didn't retaliate. He prayed, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." That's the model we're called to imitate.

It certainly doesn't naturally. Everything in us wants to defend ourselves and get even. But Peter says this is exactly what we were called into. Not just to avoid conflict, but to bless in the middle of it. This isn't passive. It's a powerful act of faith that declares we trust God to be our defender. When we respond with blessing, we break the cycle of hostility and plant seeds of peace, demonstrating that our identity is rooted in Yeshua, not in the approval or insults of others. This is the supernatural life God wants to grow in us.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

This is not a convenient calling. It's not a path that lines up with the way the world works. But it is the path that leads us to life, joy, and intimacy with God. Are there places in your heart that still crave retaliation, still cling to pride, still push people away? Maybe you're tired of carrying the burden of trying to prove yourself. Yeshua is inviting you to lay that burden down. He's calling you into a life marked by compassion, humility, and blessing. Today, surrender your need to win and ask the Spirit to transform you from the inside out. Don't wait until you feel ready or strong enough. He is faithful to meet you and begin the work of shaping you into His likeness. Let's pray and invite Him to change us.

#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Which of Peter's qualities—unity, sympathy, brotherly love, tenderheartedness, or humility—do you find the most challenging? Why?
2. What's one recent situation where you wanted to retaliate instead of bless? How did you respond?
3. How does our culture make humility and compassion harder to live out?
4. What does it look like to give a blessing instead of an insult in your daily life?
5. How can you intentionally pursue unity in your relationships this week?

#### **CLOSING PRAYER:**

**Abba Father**, we confess that so often we want to protect ourselves and prove ourselves. We want to return insult for insult and to defend our pride. But You have called us to something so much greater. You've invited us to walk in the footsteps of Yeshua, who humbled Himself and blessed those who cursed Him. Today we surrender our need to win, our need to be right, and our need to be honored. Fill us with Your Spirit so that unity, compassion, tenderness, and humility flow out of us. Help us to bless and not to curse, to love and not to harden our hearts. Make us more like You, Lord

In Yeshua's name. Amen.