



Believe it or not!

Some time ago I heard a group of four Christian men and a woman discuss the issue of "reconciliation between Jews and Arabs." This group did not believe that you can trust that Arabs will ever reconcile with the Jews. One of the members of this group suddenly spoke to me: "Zouar, you are a special man and precious brother, we consider you someone with Jewish blood! God has blessed you to do this work of reconciliation between Jews and Arabs. "One of the other men then said," But it is so frustrating: it seems as if the Arabs are being held hostage by their culture and their dictators. " another group member laughed and gave his friend a tap on the arm. "Yes, it seems so," he said encouragingly, "but we know that God has a certain purpose for these things. Even if we do not understand his intention, we can be sure that nothing happens without his will."

As I listened, I felt a sense of indignation. I could hardly stop saying to them: "What is the matter with you?" Why are you talking like that? Why do you not see that thousands or perhaps millions of Arabs have come to faith and have given their lives to break the wall of Islam? You are not powerless at all! God has given you the power to change that situation! Why don't you use it? Why don't you pray? "However, sometimes I know when it is useless to open my mouth, and this was such a moment. These men would not have understood what I meant. In spite of that I could not get them out of my mind and their conversation kept bothering me because it is a perfect illustration of a problem that has caused a huge weakening of the Body of Christ in our time.

This group of people was trapped in a false doctrine that has tarnished the minds of an alarming number of Christians today. In the absence of a better term, I call it "Christian fatalism." Without realizing it for themselves, these people were led by a spiritual error, making their effectiveness as believers almost nil. If I had asked them: "Do you intend to convert to Islam?" They would undoubtedly have been indignant and offended. Their ideas about "God's will" would fit very well with Islam and also with some other fatalistic religions, such as Hinduism and Buddhism.

However, there is no place for fatalism in Jeshua. On the contrary! The Bible is full of impressive illustrations that prove that. God definitely did not create us as puppets. He made us in his image and gave us the ability to make independent choices. In this way He limited his omnipotence by allowing us to say yes or no to his will. In other words, God has given us the privilege of being able to choose how our life (and our world) will go. And those who know God are raised to an incredible position in this context: we become God's partners and collaborators in the writing of the history of humanity. But not only that, we are able to challenge the evil forces that have been at war with God from the very beginning. Through our own faith and our prayers we can shake the world to its foundations - if we so wish! No, God is not interested in puppets; He is looking for people who say "yes" to his invitation and want to do something for this world. He seeks people who understand that by opening Himself to our influence, He has given us "the keys of the Kingdom" (Matt. 16:19) - the power to change the history of humanity for the better. "He that believeth on Me shall do the works that I do,"

said Jeshua, and he will do greater than this, for I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My Name, I will do so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask something in My Name, I will do it ”(John 14: 12-14). He couldn't be clearer, could he? "Continue my work!" Says Jeshua. "Look at what I have done and do even more! I gave you the power, so get started! ”We are responsible! Yes, God wants us to be active, not passive. He wants us to resist and ultimately defeat the princes and powers that hold the world hostage from the start of history. And He gives us more effective weapons than they have. “And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and what binds you on the earth will be bound in the heavens; and what you loose on the earth will be dissolved in the heavens. " (Matt. 16:19). Unbelievable! The fatalist can only shake at hearing such words! But these words should set our faith on fire. They confirm that God has given us access to the unlimited power of Jeshua itself - a power that is much greater than any other power on this earth.

We have prayed for North Africa every month for more than ten years because there were so few Christians in all of North Africa at that time; For over 20 years we have written the prayer calendar, and every three months we have sent the prayer calendar in three different languages to people who were (and are) interested in praying for the Arab countries. We were convinced that many Christians will continue to pray faithfully. We have also prayed for more than seven years for younger generations: from Dutch, Israeli and Arab youths. Yes, God completely changed the lives of many people in Jeshua. He lives and He answers our prayers, whatever the subjects may be. Praise his name!

God is always willing to listen to our side of the story. Even though He has made plans to do something, He is open to change under the right conditions. Moses understood this aspect of God's character as few men have ever done. There are many examples in the Bible to help us understand how we can have the same relationship with God as he does. In Exodus we read that the Lord said to Moses: "I have now seen what a stubborn and disobedient this is ... I will cool my anger on them and destroy them all." That sounds pretty definite, doesn't it? A fatalist might have responded as follows: "Oh dear, now we will experience it! This is the end! ”Moses, however, did not accept that. He "begged God not to do that ... Finally the Lord changed his mind and spared them" (Ex. 32: 9, 11, 14). Moses knew that it was possible to change God, just like most other heroes from the Bible. Moses knew God and as God's friend he understood that God's plans could be changed.

Dear friends, this is what happens when we pray. Yes, we have something to say about what is happening around us. We don't have to take life as it comes; we can exert an earth-shaking influence on our planet, because God opens His thoughts and hearts to us and His power is at our disposal. No wonder God gets annoyed when He sees how hesitantly we use the power of prayer. "This is a people robbed and looted," He says in Isaiah. “They have all been enthralled in dungeons, they have been put away in prisons; they became a prey, and there was no savior; for looting and there was no one who said: Give back. Who among you will hear this? ”(Isa. 42: 22-23). Yes, who? Who in our time will rebel against Satan and, just like Moses, ask Pharaoh, "Let my people go" (Ex. 7:16)? Who will stand on the Lord's side?

Finally, the conflict between the Jews and Arabs is a family problem.

If you love the Jews, pray for the Arabs, they are children of Abraham !, If you love Arabs, pray for Israel as God's people.

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