



*Jewish Believers and Christians working together for Israel's salvation since 1963*



**Kevin Geoffrey**  
President, MJMI

**T**his month, I will be taking a break from our ongoing look at Romans 9, 10, and 11 to talk about the upcoming appointed time, Yom Kippur. I hope the following excerpts from my book, *Deny Yourself: The Atoning Command of Yom Kippur*, will help you go deeper in your walk with the Messiah.

In Jewish tradition, the phrase “deny yourself” is essentially an instruction to fast—to not eat or drink for the duration of Yom Kippur—such that one denies himself of that which sustains life. This is clearly a vivid and valid interpretation for how one might conduct himself on this most holy day.

### Denial of Self

We also deny ourselves when we abstain from feeding our appetites and refuse to indulge in the lusts of the flesh. For the disciple of Messiah, this is the very heart of the Spirit-led life, as encapsulated in Galatians 5:16, “Walk in the רוח, Ruach, and the desire of the flesh you will not bring to its goal” (MJLT).

We deny our flesh’s “self” by depriving it of gratification—refusing to satisfy its hunger. Since the ways of the Spirit cannot please the flesh, it must eventually succumb from a lack of sinful nourishment. In this way, we assassinate our flesh, and deny it its self. The only battle that can successfully be waged against the flesh is the one which denies it life. When we avoid sin and say “no” to temptation, only then can our flesh be kept from satisfying and gratifying itself. This is spiritual, yet practical warfare that significantly accomplishes self-denial.

This, then, is what it means to deny ourselves: as the Master subjected Himself to death for the sake of our sins, so must we put ourselves to death for the sake of the Master. Only in this self-denial will we receive the power to be transformed—to be like the Master, to follow in His ways—and fulfill the call on our lives as His disciples.

### Sharing in His Suffering

Hear the words of Paul from Philippians 3:10.

*I want to know Him, and the power of His Rising Again [Resurrection], and the sharing of His sufferings, being conformed to Him in His death... (MJLT)*

Paul firmly grasped the obvious truth about resurrection: before one can be raised from the dead, first, he has to die. This is The Way to life that the Master showed us by first giving us life through His death. Now He beckons us to follow His example—to lay down our lives—before we can truly know His power. Paul plots this course from death to life for us in Romans 6:3-4.

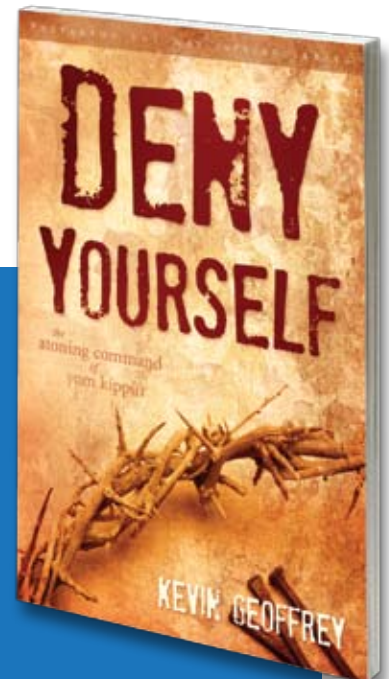
Are you ignorant that we—as many as were immersed into Messiah יֵשׁוּעַ, Yeshua—were immersed into His death? Therefore, we were buried together with Him through the immersion into the death, so that even as Messiah was raised up out of the dead, through the glory of the Father, so also we might walk in newness of life. (MJLT)

We were immersed into Yeshua’s death, then buried and raised with Him to life! Our “sharing” with Him is not simply in “newness of life.” Rather, we are first to share in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death. Such is the spirit of Paul’s binding oath in Philippians 1:20-21, which we are all exhorted to take:

### Deny Yourself: The Atoning Command of Yom Kippur

Join Kevin as he explores the true message of Yom Kippur, and what it really means to deny yourself.

To place your order and receive 5% off, visit [DY.mjmi.org](http://DY.mjmi.org) online and enter the coupon code MJMI during checkout.



...and according to my eager expectation and hope, that I will be ashamed in nothing. Rather, in all freedom—as always, also now—Messiah will be magnified in my body, whether through my life, or through my death. For to me, to live IS Messiah, and to die, gain. (MJLT)

If we are not prepared to die to self, how much more will we be unprepared to literally die for the sake of the Good News? Is such a conviction—“by life, or by death”—reserved only for the most holy; the most devout; the apostles of old; or the martyrs of days past, present and future?

No!

This must be our conviction—the command we all heed: deny yourself, and be immersed in the Messiah’s suffering and death. Then, in resurrection power, we will be raised again into new life—for the glory of the Father!

This is our true calling as disciples of the Master Yeshua: one way or another—“by life, or by death”—we must “lose” our lives for Him.

## Raised Up to Proclaim

My friends, the Jewish people around the world must come to know their Messiah—the One who laid down His life for them. The ministry of MJMI is not only dedicated to proclaiming the Good News of Yeshua to our Jewish brothers and sisters around the world, but we are also calling the whole body of Messiah to live a life of death to self, so that we all may be raised up with power to proclaim the life of Yeshua with every fiber of our beings.

Indeed, this is our purpose: to tirelessly proclaim the Good News of Yeshua to the Jewish people. We greatly need not only your prayers, but also your financial assistance, so that we can do our part to participate in the salvation of all Israel. Your donation of **\$10, \$25, \$100 or more** will help

## Update from Israel

In previous newsletters, I have introduced you to Leonardo and Una Bella and their family, and shared about the work God is doing through them among native Israelis. These ministry friends, whom you help to support, have been through a tremendous trial this year, but they are continuing to be a light for Yeshua through it all. Their oldest son Luigi, who was married last year and will be a new father in just a few weeks, was diagnosed with cancer early this year. After surgery, a recurrence of cancer cells, and treatment with chemotherapy, they are praising God that the cancer is now gone!

The Bellas have many friends and family members in Israel, in addition to all the staff and patients they have encountered throughout Luigi’s treatment. They have taken every opportunity to proclaim Yeshua as they walked through this season, even opening their home each week for unbelievers who are wanting to

know more about their faith (see photos). Una writes, “Everyone is asking us, ‘Who are you and what is this light you are bringing with you?’ As the Spirit of the Lord leads, we share the Light that penetrates our cells and the Hope that is real. They all have one thing in common: they all claim to experience something in our family that they have never experienced before. Joy instead of sorrow, hope replacing fear, and forgiveness instead of anger. Pray for salvation for each and every one of them!”

(Some faces obscured to protect privacy)



us accomplish our mission and vision to see all Israel come to know their Messiah. You can use the enclosed card and envelope, or visit [www.mjmi.org](http://www.mjmi.org) to send your much-needed donation today. And

if you aren’t already, please consider becoming a ministry partner, so that I will know we can count on your support each month.

As we walk through this upcoming season of appointed times, may we all remember Yeshua’s sacrifice on our behalf, and daily make the choice to die to ourselves, so that we can truly live for Him!

For the sake of the Messiah,

Kevin Geoffrey, President, MJMI