

ADAT SHALOM

Our Ministry, Our Beliefs {Part 2}

ADAT SHALOM → OUR MISSION STATEMENT

ADAT SHALOM → OUR MANDATE FOR MINISTRY

ADAT SHALOM → OUR MODEL FOR MINISTRY

A. The Founding of the Jerusalem congregation

B. The Functions of the Jerusalem congregation

ADAT SHALOM → OUR MINISTRY FUNCTIONS
AND DISTINCTIVES

ADAT SHALOM → OUR MEASURE FOR MINISTRY

Are we *Making* Disciples ? (Mathew 28:18-20)?

Are we *Maturing* in Messiah-likeness? (Eph. 4:11-13)

Are we *Manifesting* Faith, Hope, and Love?

A. The *Measure* of a Maturing Congregation

But to **each** was **given** according to the **measure** of **Messiah's gift**...

And **He (Messiah)** gave some as **apostles**, and some as **prophets**,
and some as **evangelists**, and some as **pastors** and **teachers**,
for the **equipping** of the **saints** for the **work of service**,
to the **building up** of the **body of Messiah**;

until we all attain to the **unity** of the **faith**,
and of the **knowledge** of the **Son of God**, to a **mature man**,
to the **measure** of the **stature** which belongs to the **fullness of Messiah**.
(Ephesians 4:7, 11-13)

“And now these **three** remain: **faith**, **hope** and **love**.

But the **greatest** of these is **love**.”

(I Corinthians 13:13)

B. The *Meaning* of “Faith, Hope, and Love”

Faith → *Greek* —“pistis” → **firm persuasion** or **trust**, a conviction
based on *hearing*, used in the NT always of “**faith in God** or
Messiah, or **things spiritual**”

Hebrew (O.T.)—“aman”→ to be **certain**, to **trust** or **believe**
 . “emunah”→ **faithfulness, stability**

Hope → *Greek* (N. T.)—“elpis”→ **favorable and confident expectation,**
 the **happy anticipation** of good

Hebrew (O.T.)— “tikvah”→ **hope, expectation,** “mibtach”→
confidence

Love → *Greek* (N.T.)—“agape”→ **active care, affection, and concern** for
 others, **unselfish concern** that freely accepts another in **loyalty** and
 seeks his good

Hebrew (O.T.)—“ahav”→ to have a strong **emotional attachment** to —
 “chesed”→ **lovingkindness**—a **steadfast, loyal love, characterized** by
 grace, mercy, faithfulness, goodness

C. The *Manifestation* (and **commending**) of **Faith, Hope,** and **Love**
 among the **Congregations**

→ To the **Congregation** at **Ephesus**

For this reason I too, having **heard** of the **faith** in the **Lord Jesus**
 which *exists* among you and your **love** for all the **saints**, do not cease
 giving thanks for you, while making mention *of you* in **my prayers**...

I pray that the eyes of your **heart** may be **enlightened**,
 so that you will know what is the **hope** of **His calling**...
 (Ephesians 1:15-16, 18a)

→ To the **Congregation** at **Colossae**

We give **thanks to God**, the **Father** of our **Lord Jesus the Messiah**,
 praying always for you, since we heard of **your faith** in **Messiah Jesus**
 and **the love** which you for all the **saints**;
 because of **the hope** laid up for you in **heaven**,
 of which you previously heard in the **word of truth**, the **gospel**...
 (Colossians 1:3-5)

→ To the **Congregation** at **Thessalonica**

We give **thanks to God** always for all of you,
 making mention *of you* in our **prayers**;
 constantly bearing in mind your **work of faith**
 and **labor of love** and **steadfastness of hope** in our
 Lord Jesus the Messiah in the presence of **God the Father**,...
 (I Thessalonians 1:2-3)

We ought always to give **thanks to God** for you, brethren, as it is *only* fitting, because **your faith** is greatly enlarged, and **the love** of each one of you toward **one another** grows ever **greater**; therefore, we ourselves speak **proudly of you** among the **churches of God** for your **perseverance** and **faith** in the midst of all your **persecutions** and **afflictions** which you endure.
(II Thessalonians 1:3-4)

→ Peter's Letter to **Believers**

For **He (Messiah)** was **foreknown** before the **foundation** of the **world**, but has **appeared** in these **last times** for the sake of **you** who **through Him** are **believers in God**, who **raised Him** from the **dead** and **gave Him glory**, so that your **faith** and **hope** are **in God**.

Since you have in **obedience** to the **truth** purified your **souls** for a sincere **love of the brethren**, fervently **love one another** from the **heart**,
(I Peter 1:20-22)

→ The **Letter** to the **Hebrews**

...and since *we have* a **great priest (Jesus)** over the **house of God**, let us **draw near** with a **sincere heart** in full assurance of **faith**,...

Let us **hold fast** the **confession** of our **hope** without **wavering**, for **He** who **promised** is **faithful**; and let us consider how to **stimulate one another** to **love** and **good deeds**,
(Hebrews 10:21-22a, 32-24)

Summary Observations

1. When the **Messiah ascended** and the ministry of the **church** (ekklesia) began, the **scriptures** declared that **He gave "gifts,"** and **spiritually gifted men** among the **believers**. These **gifts** were **given** to help **establish, equip,** and **grow** the **body of believers** towards **maturity** as **disciples** (Eph. 4: 7-16).

While we acknowledge the importance of **spiritual "gifts"** and **talents** given for the **establishment** and **initial growth** of the **church**, we believe that the **true measure** of **growth** and **maturity** comes from the **producing** of **faith, hope,** and **love** among its **members**. The congregation at **Corinth** was **rich** with **gifted people**, but were considered **immature, carnal,** and **worldly** in their **spiritual walk** (I Corinthians 3:1-3, 13:1-13).

2. As we look at, and study the **growth** and **development** of the **early churches**,

they were **commended** for their testimony of **faith, hope, and love** among them, as well as *exhorted* to **continue to grow** in these areas.(see above scripture texts)

3. Even though they are *spiritual characteristics*, **faith, hope and love** can be *visibly seen*, and are **measurable**. Rabbi Paul wrote the following **praise**, for what he both **saw** and **heard** regarding the **Thessalonian believers**:

“We give **thanks to God** always for all of **you**,...
constantly bearing in mind your
work of faith and **labor of love** and
steadfastness of hope
in our **Lord Jesus the Messiah** in the presence of **God the Father**,...”
(I Thessalonians 1:2-3)
From this text we see that:

Faith is *measurable* through **works**
Love can be *measurable* through **labors**
Hope can be *demonstrated* through **steadfastness**

Personal Application Three Key Questions

- A. *What* are some “**works**” that **you** can do **personally**, that manifest **Faith**?

- B. *What* are some “**labors of Love**” that **you** can do, that will **produce Love** within the **body of believers**?

- C. *What* can **you** do that will help **produce** a “**steadfastness of Hope**” within **believers** at **Adat Shalom**?
