

Nitsavim (Standing)/Vayeilekh (He Went)

Deuteronomy 29:9-31:30

Isaiah 61:10-63:9

Romans 9:30-10:13

Hebrews 12:14-15

### It Is Not Too Hard

Many of us were taught one of the reasons we were not to live the Torah was because it was too hard for us to live. We were taught that a mean and vindictive God gave the Torah to the Hebrews just to prove to them they could not do what He had told them to do. Years later, He would send Yeshua to further prove the Torah could not be lived and then He would nail it to a tree, doing away with what could not be lived in the first place. There is something very scary to me about the above teaching...there was a time in my life that it made sense!

Today, we look back and consider how absurd those words are. We look to this week's Torah portion and see it clearly states in Deuteronomy 30:11 that the Torah is not too hard for us. We read those words and should agree with them, but is that really what we are living?

I run into people all the time who continue to make excuses why they cannot live Torah. They will take a simple commandment to put blue threads on the corners of their garments and begin to debate what the color blue really means, and since our bodies do not have four corners, we cannot really figure out what this commandment means. So highlight the verse with a black magic marker, this one is too hard, let's go on to another command. Another 'hard commandment' is eating kosher. Now, I realize that in most countries outside of Israel, we do not eat one-hundred percent kosher unless you grow one-hundred percent of your food. Manufacturers have found ways to put the craziest things in our food and get around the labeling, but that should not be an excuse for not trying. The argument regarding kosher is not based upon secret ingredients, but rather something like, "It is just too hard for me to quit eating bacon." They make it sound like if they walk into Denny's and pass the breakfast buffet that the bacon somehow jumps from the buffet, wrestles them to the ground, and stuffs itself in their mouths.

The list could go on with Shabbat, Feasts, judging others, not submitting to authority, and on and on. In the end, is the Torah too hard for us to do, or are there times we just do not want to do it? Considering that HaShem says it is not too hard for us, we either take that one off the table or call Him a liar. The latter never works out very well. So it comes down to pretty simple terms; the reason most people do not wear tzitzit, eat kosher, honor Shabbat, and the rest is just because they do not want to. Torah is not important, it is not a priority in their lives.

With this in mind, consider the words of Yeshua in John 14:15, "If you love me keep my commandments." Is there a list of commandments outside of Torah that He gave? The answer is no. The words he probably spoke in that day were "If you love me keep my Torah." He could

have just as easily said, “If you love me, honor Shabbat, eat kosher, wear tzitzit, honor your mother and father.” Wait, I think He did say these things.

So next time you feel the words, “This commandment in Torah is too hard for me.” Stop those words and replace them with, “Elohim is a liar, “I don’t want to live Torah,” or “I really don’t love Him,” because that’s basically what you’re saying. But no let’s not use words like that, but rather a simple prayer something like this:

Father, I am tired of making excuses for my disobedience. I desire what is important to you to be important to me. I desire to love what you love and hate what you hate. Please help me to change my attitude toward you and toward the lifestyle you have called me to live. I take the only true gift I can give you, my free will, and in an act of worship, submit my will to yours through Yeshua the Messiah.

And I’ll be the first to put an “Amen” to that.