

## "From Hate to Love"

Shalom. My name is Moran Rosenblit and I am the Executive Director of Hope for Israel.

I would like to share with you today about one of the biggest miracles that the God of Israel has done in my life after I accepted Yeshua the Messiah of Israel as my Lord and Savior.

I will start with a little bit of background. On January 22, 1995, while I was still serving in the Israeli Defense Forces, there was a suicide attack at the location where my unit used to meet every Sunday, at the Bit Lid Junction in Israel.

Twenty-two soldiers died in that attack; among them were several good friends of mine. It's a day in my life that I'll never forget. I became angry and bitter. And I wanted to see revenge against the Palestinian people who did this to my friends.

After finishing my time with the army, I went back to my old life of crazy parties, drinking, and all of those things. Then I decided that I wanted to leave Israel, that I could not live with the reality of what was going on in Israel, where people were dying right and left and no one was doing anything about it.

After a small stop in England, I arrived in the United States. And then toward the end of 1997, another big change happened in my life: I found my own Lord and Savior. I gave my life and accepted the faith in the God of Israel.

Ever since, I find myself in the most exciting journey that anyone can have—exciting and challenging at the same time.

First Peter 1:3-9 says:

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of our Messiah from the dead, to obtain an inheritance, which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of our Messiah; and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy*

*inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.*

As we grow in the grace and knowledge of our Messiah, we sometimes will go through fire in order for the dirty and filthy things in our lives to be removed, and in order for God to be able to better shine His light in and through our lives. One of these dark and filthy areas in my life that needed to be removed by God was my attitude toward the Arab people. I found it very hard to love and forgive and trust the Arab people after what happened to my friends and after living in Israel in the reality that is going on over there, back at home.

One day, I received an invitation to join a meeting of Jewish and Arab people who both love and follow Yeshua ("Yeshua" in Hebrew; "Yesua" in Arabic, "Jesus" in English) as their own Messiah. For the first three years, they had to drag me to this meeting. I did not want to go. I always sat in the back. I always put a fake smile on my face, said that I loved the people when I needed to say that I loved them. I gave a hug and a kiss when it needed to be given also, but really, in my heart, I felt that everything there was fake. We would put on a show for an hour or two, and then we would get into our cars, leave that place, and then talk badly against each other. We desired to see each other dying, and when the other side was dying, we didn't really care. I felt that everything is fake in this meeting.

Until one day I received a phone call from a dear brother. His name is Michael Brown. Michael asked me if I would consider sharing my testimony at this meeting.

Sharing my testimony in front of Arab people was something that I never thought I would do. I found it very hard to be able to speak in front of the Arab people. But I prayed about it, and I sought God, and after understanding that my life is now for the glory of God, I decided to go and share my testimony.

During the meeting, I went up on the stage and I shared my testimony, and when I was done, I walked to the side of the auditorium. A man whose name is Taysir Abu Saada came to me.

He introduced himself, "Hello, my name is Taysir Abu Saada."

I said, "It is very nice to meet you," and in my mind, I was already thinking, "What do you want from me?"

And then he told me, "And I was a Fatah fighter."

When I heard the word "Fatah," I took a step back. Fatah is the PLO. The Fatah fighters were Yasser Arafat's right wing. In my mind, there was an enemy who was standing right in front of me. In my mind, there was a man who might have been involved in the killing of my friends who was standing right in front of me. And then he told me that he loved me. I was in shock.

At one point in this meeting, they asked us to gather in groups of four and five and pray together. There I was, finding myself shoulder to shoulder next to an ex-enemy, with two more guys who were from Jordan, and one other Israeli. We were all crying with tears to the same God, to the God of Israel, to bring healing and peace to the hearts of our people. You can just imagine this: Israelis, and Palestinians and Jordanians all hugging each other, crying with each other, and praying to the same God.

Man is trying to bring this peace and failing. But God Almighty is bringing us together.

At that same meeting, my brother Taysir had also been invited to share his testimony. And when he was done, he called me on the stage and he looked me in the eyes and he asked me for forgiveness in the name of the Palestinian people for the killing of my friends.

I asked him to forgive me for my anger and my hatred, and for not being able to love and forgive and trust the Arab people. At that very moment, God delivered me. He delivered me from my anger and hatred. He gave me love. He gave me love toward the Arab people. God taught me how to love others the same way He loved me.

I finally felt that this meeting made sense, that there was something real at this meeting. That people really confessed their sins. That people really sought reconciliation and were not putting on a show.

Many people ask me, "What gives you the right to forgive the killing of your friends?" Or, "What gives you the right to forgive those who used to fight against your people?" "What gives you the right to love that person?"

The thing that gave me the right is really understanding God's word.

Second Corinthians 5:14-17:

*For the love of Messiah controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. Therefore from now on we recognize no man according to the flesh; even though we have*

*known Messiah according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. Therefore if any man is in Messiah, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

When we say that we follow the Messiah, whether we are Jewish or Gentile, it means something. We say that we died with Him. We say that our lives are no longer about ourselves, but our lives are all about Him and for His glory.

The same God who brought me to His light and made me a new creation—that same God—brought my brother Taysir to His light. It wasn't another God; it was the same God. And the same God has made us one family now. He broke all the barriers that had divided us and made us one new man, not for our glory, but for His glory, to manifest His power.

There is a great need today in the world for forgiveness and reconciliation, but it can only come through a true change of heart. A true change of heart can only come through faith in Yeshua the Messiah.

If you don't know God in a personal way and you are waiting for a miracle, I just gave you one. While men are trying to bring peace or to force peace, they are failing. Every man-made effort to bring peace is failing.

But look at what God has done. Once again, He has taken two enemies—two enemies that were fighting against each other, two enemies who wanted to see the other's people dying—and He has given them a new heart and reconciled them to one another. While man tries to bring peace man's way and fails, God takes two enemies and gives them peace with Himself and then with each other.

I don't know what other miracle needs to happen in your life that you will put your faith in God Almighty, the God of Israel.

If you do profess to follow the Messiah, whether you are Jewish, Arab, black, or white, I want to ask you to search your heart: Who is it that you need to forgive? Do you need to forgive your fellow Jewish brother? Your fellow Arab brother? Black or white? Jew and Gentile? Maybe it's husband and wife who need to forgive each other and be reconciled. Parents and their children? Neighbors? Who is it that we need to make a decision today to forgive, that we need to approach first and love them?

God loved us and He forgave us before we went to Him. Who is it that you need to go to first?

Matthew 5:43-44 says:

*"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you."*

I want to remind all of us that this is not an option. This is one of the commandments of our Messiah. And our Messiah said, "If you love Me, you will obey what I command." And here it is: He is telling us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. Why?

The answer is in Matthew 5:45-48:

*"In order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax-gatherers do the same? And if you greet your brothers only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."*

God has called us, His followers, His disciples, to make a difference in this world, and to be a light. How can you shine God's light if you hate someone? How can you shine God's light if you don't forgive others? There are black spots on your lamp, and you need to take them off.

We find it easy to accept God's unconditional grace and forgiveness toward us personally, but we refuse to give the same grace and forgiveness toward the people around us who may have wronged us.

We forget Yeshua's words in Matthew 6:14-15:

*"For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions."*

These are words to which we need to pay close attention. If you don't forgive men, then your Father won't forgive your transgressions.

One day each one of us, whether we believe it or not, will face God, and we will have to give an account for everything in our lives.

Romans 14:12 says:

*So then each one of us shall give account of himself to God.*

Let's make it right with God today. It is not about the other person. It is about me; it's about you and your own personal relationship with God.

The other person is not going to be there when you face God. You are the only victim of hatred and unforgiveness. In most cases, the other person who hurt you doesn't know. And if he does know, maybe he doesn't even care. So why won't you just give it to God? Why keep it for yourself?

Again, who is it that you need to forgive? Who is it that you need to be reconciled to?

Let's make today a day of a new beginning. Let's make today a day of change, a day that we give to God what God needs to take, and we allow God to bring healing into our lives.

Sometimes I think of the reconciliation with Tass as one of those times that I cut my finger and it was a very deep wound. It took a while for it to heal. I had to clean all the ugly stuff on my finger and then put a bandage on it. And then finally it healed. Now I have a small scar. The scar is there, and I remember what happened, but it is not hurting anymore. Now, if I opened that scar, it would doubly hurt. When we put things behind us, the scar will be there. The memory of my friends will always be there. But I choose to leave it behind. I choose to remember, but not to go back. I choose to look at the Messiah and to walk forward, toward Him, and allow Him to change my life and to transform my life for His glory and for His name's sake.

Taysir and I and many other Arab people and Jewish people around us, we have learned to love one another. We have learned to agree to disagree and to look at the more important things in life. The big picture is more important. It says they will know us by our love. If we hate, how will people know?

How would the people in the world know that there is hope if we don't live this hope? How would they know that there is something better for them, and why would they want to join if we don't live it? If they look at the body of Messiah and see husbands and wives fighting and divorcing each other, why would they want to join? But if they know that in the Body of Messiah it's a place of reconciliation and restoration, people will want to join.

If they see us, between us, believers fighting all the time, why would anyone want to join the body of Messiah? But if they see that we are learning to move forward, that we are learning to agree to disagree, and step by step move forward together, hand in hand, trusting God, then they will want to join.

May God bless all of us, and may we get to hear the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

God bless you and Shalom.