

**"Watch Those Feelings" Part One By Sholiach/Apostle Rabbi  
Moshe Yoseph Koniuchowsky  
11-7-09 at B'nai Yahshua Synagogue of Broward County, Florida**



*\*Please Note that the usage of pagan names and titles in this article are in reference to people who use such phrases and not because the author indorses.*

***Should We Follow Our Feelings as Authority or Guide in our Faith and Worship?***

**Do feelings and emotions constitute a reliable guide in our faith in Yahuwah? Should we design worship according to what excites our moods? What is the proper standard of authority and guidance in worship and service to Yahuwah? Can we know we are right because we feel right? Does excitement prove we are spiritually close to Yahuwah and prove the Ruach/Spirit is moving? Should we shout "Amein" and "HalleluYah" every few minutes? Can we trust the Scriptures to guide us in all service to Yahuwah?**

**Introduction:**

Human emotions play important roles in our lives. This is natural and may be quite wholesome. But we all realize that sometimes emotions cloud people's thinking, so they do things they should not. Emotions can be confusing, uncertain, and even dangerous.

The purpose of this study is to consider the role emotions have in our understanding the scriptures and to consider some ways that emotions cloud people's thinking in our faith.

By "**emotions**" we mean inner feelings, sensations, moods, and thrills, such as excitement, anger, fear, sorrow, hate, etc.

Consider the influence emotions may have and the problems they may cause in some areas of our faith and learning.

## **1. Emotions as a Guide in our Faith**

### **A. Many People Accept or Reject Scriptural Beliefs on the Basis of Emotion.**

They may believe in a church, synagogue, preacher, or doctrine, because they "**feel good**" about it, regardless of whether or not they have found convincing evidence that it is true.

Some almost rebel against the need for study and evidence in scripture. They view faith as a "**leap in the dark**" based on feelings. A popular song said, "*It can't be wrong when it **feels** so right.*" That expresses the approach some take to determining their scriptural views.

On the other side of the coin, so to speak, many make the mistake of allowing their emotions to interfere with receiving truth from Yahuwah's Word, because something may not "**feel**" right they automatically write it off or condemn the truth.

**Consider some specific examples.**

## **Better-felt-than-told" scriptural experiences**

Some people had emotional experiences that convinced them they were saved. Maybe they attended a "revival" with rhythmic music, hypnotic preaching, clapping, excitement, and people claiming to ***"feel the Spirit moving.*** "Perhaps emotional appeals brought them to the "mourner's bench" where they tried to "pray through."

Or some may have experienced guilt or some other deep emotional need, and they prayed to Yahuwah for help. Then maybe they have heard some scriptural teaching and assumed this was Yahuwah's answer. Maybe they received a deep sense of peace and warmth, so they just ***"feel sure"*** they are saved. Asked to describe this feeling, they say, ***"It's better felt than told, but if you ever feel it, you'll know it."*** Others have said, ***"I wouldn't trade this feeling for a stack of Bibles."***

Others may pray for healing or some other great blessing. Perhaps someone tells them to ***"expect a miracle.*** "Maybe they speak sounds they had never spoken before, so they conclude they ***"spoke in tongues."*** This may give a deep emotional conviction that Yahuwah has accepted them or that they are ***"led by the Spirit"*** to do certain things.

**Some teachers tell people to pray to know the truth and Yahuwah will answer in the form of a feeling of warmth, peace, conviction, etc.**

Some call this a ***"burning in the bosom."*** Such feelings often come naturally, as when your ball team wins or you meet a pretty girl. But when it happens after a preacher suggested that you watch for it, people conclude Yahuwah is telling them that the teacher and his message were from Yahuwah, etc. The result is that beliefs are accepted on the basis of feelings, not evidence.

**Strong emotional appeals are used to justify certain practices, regardless of what the Scriptures say.**

People may accept a doctrine because "*my dear mother (or other loved one) believed this, and I just can't believe she is lost.*" Or some programs and organizations make emotional appeals for money to help needy people or to save lost souls; despite the fact the program or organization itself may be corrupt or unscriptural. Many such examples could be given.

**Are Feelings a Reliable Guide in our Faith in Yahuwah?**

**B. Can we be sure we are right scripturally just because we feel right or because we prayed and had an emotional experience?**

**Are feelings a reliable guide outside scripture?**

All of us know instances where feelings have led to serious mistakes. Movies, books, and songs urge people to "*follow your heart.*" The Star Wars characters said, "*Reach out with your feelings,*" and "*What do your feelings tell you?*" It makes good entertainment, but many people who try it in real life have lived to regret it.

Young people • "*feel sure*" they are in love, so they marry on impulse, and then regret it for the rest of their lives.

People become afraid and • "*feel sure*" they hear a thief, so they shoot and kill a family member.

Strong emotions may lead to adultery, killing, stealing, and and • other evils.

Are these acts right just because our emotions led us to do them? **Where does Yahuwah's word say that feelings will show us right from wrong?**

The Brit Chadasha (Renewed Covenant) is filled with examples of people who needed to know right from wrong. Where were such people ever told to trust their feelings or to pray for a "**burning in the bosom**" to tell them whether a church or belief is right or wrong?

**2 Timothy 3:16, 17** - The Scriptures provide us to "**all good works.**" If we ought to trust our feelings to tell us right from wrong, then the Scriptures should say so. Where does it say this?

**If this approach is good, why do people who use it end up contradicting one another?**

When questioned, Mormons, Pentecostals, Catholics, Baptists, and Charismatic's often tell about their emotional experiences. They may tell how they prayed to know what was right or had an experience that gave them peace and assurance that they were right.

There is not an inch worth of difference in their stories that would convince you which one believes the truth. Yet they thoroughly contradict one another and many believe the others are wrong. Do their feelings really prove they are all pleasing to Yahuwah?

**1 Corinthians 1:10-13** - Yahuwah rebukes religious division and contradictions. Yet such division is inevitable if we follow our feelings, because feelings vary so much from person to person and from time to time.

Following feelings to guide us in scriptural understanding results in division, but Yahuwah condemns division. Therefore, Yahuwah does not want us to follow our feelings when it comes to studying and applying His Word! (**1 Cor. 14:33; John 17:20, 21; Ephesians 4:3-6; Galatians 5:19-21**)

I myself have experienced this type of division within the Assembly, where members leave over teachings they have emotional issues with, either from past experiences or over some type of unforgiveness or rejection issues they have not yet dealt with in their own personal lives.

## **How do you know which feelings come from Yahuwah and which come from S.a.tan?**

**2 Corinthians 11:13-15** - Satan is a deceiver, liar, and counterfeiter. Everyone knows that Satan and evil may inspire feelings like anger, hate, etc. So why can't they inspire us to feel sure certain doctrines are true, when really they are not true? (**2 Corinthians 11:3; Matthew 24:24**). 5 | Page

I once read of a minister who felt he should have other ministers push him down a flight of stairs. They did. Afterward he said he "***felt a great sense of peace with Yahuwah.***" Did his feelings prove Yahuwah was pleased with him? Should we all do the same?

Hosts of other people tell experiences that led them to "***feel sure***" they were right, but their practices thoroughly contradict the Word of Yahuwah. How do you know when a feeling does or does not really tell you Yahuwah's will? How can you be sure your feeling is really from Yahuwah? [Part 2 Next week!](#)