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“Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him.” Tozer

Netanyahu: Iran’s decision to enrich uranium at Fordow endangers the world

By TOVAH LAZAROFF 11/06/2019

“Iran expands its aggression everywhere. It seeks to envelop Israel. It seeks to threaten Israel. It seeks to destroy Israel. We fight back,” Netanyahu said.

Iran’s decision to enrich uranium to 5% at its underground Fordow facility nuclear facility endangers Israel, the Middle East and the world, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said.

“Iran expands its aggression everywhere. It seeks to envelope Israel. It seeks to threaten Israel. It seeks to destroy Israel. We fight back,” Netanyahu said. “I also want to say, given Iran’s efforts to expand its nuclear weapons program, expand its enrichment of uranium for making atomic bombs, I repeat here once again: We will never let Iran develop nuclear weapons. This is not only for our security and our future; it’s for the future of the Middle East and the world.”

He spoke in Jerusalem at an event marking the dedication of the new visitor’s center at Keren Kayemeth Lelsrael-Jewish National Fund Hula Lake Park.

Earlier in the day Iran’s nuclear chief Ali Akbar Salehi promised that his country would violate a critical element of the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which Tehran had worked out with the six world powers. The US left the deal last year and has imposed crippling sanctions on Iran in an attempt to force it to renegotiate the document. Tehran in turn has begun violating the deal in a counter attempt to pressure the US to rescind the sanctions.

“Tomorrow we will enrich uranium to 5% at Fordow... Right now, we have enough 20% enriched uranium, but we can produce it if needed,” the Students News Agency ISNA quoted Salehi as saying, a day before Iran takes its fourth step to further scale back its commitment to the 2015 nuclear deal.

Under the 2015 agreement between Iran and world powers, Iran agreed to turn Fordow into a “nuclear, physics and technology center” where 1,044 centrifuges are used for purposes other than enrichment, such as producing stable isotopes, which have a variety of civil uses.

The pact allows Iran only to spin the centrifuges at Fordow, located inside a mountain near the Shi’ite holy city of Qom, without injecting gas. Uranium gas injection could allow production of enriched uranium, banned at the facility under the pact.

Kazem Gharibabadi, Iran's ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said Iran had informed the agency over "the start of injecting UF6 (uranium hexafluoride) into centrifuges at Fordow on Wednesday."

The deal bans nuclear material from Fordow and by injecting UF6 into centrifuges, the facility will become an active nuclear site rather than a research plant as permitted under the pact.

"The IAEA was requested to send its inspectors to monitor the process," Gharibabadi said, quoted by state television. The IAEA monitors Tehran's compliance with the deal.

Regional Cooperation Minister Tzachi HaNegbi told The Jerusalem Post that Iran's decision marked a "very dangerous development" and called on Europe and the international community to take steps to pressure Iran to halt its resumed march toward the development of nuclear weapons.

Only the coordinated efforts of the international community can prevent Iran from producing nuclear weapons, he said.

"The European countries can no longer stay neutral, because they will find themselves in a very problematic situation in the near future," HaNegbi said.

He spoke in support of US President Donald Trump's efforts against Iran, noting that if the deal were still in place, it would have allowed Iran to take the same steps, just four years from now and without international opposition.

HaNegbi said he hoped that the countries such as the United Kingdom, Germany and maybe even France – all of which were signatories to the deal – would now understand that Trump was right and that former US president Barack Obama's approach was wrong.

If Iran continues to move forward with its nuclear program, "all options must be on the table," he said.

"It is a global issue, not an Israeli issue," HaNegbi said. "Israel should not be jumping ahead of everyone else, but we have the right and the obligation to say out loud and clear that we will expect the international community to take action."

Immigration and Absorption Minister Yoav Galant said the resumption of the enrichment of uranium at Fordow would shorten the time by which Tehran could produce not just one bomb, but many bombs.

The choice to do this now after the attacks on the Saudi oil field shows they feel emboldened, he said.

Galant joined HaNegbi's call to US and European actions, stating that Washington must continue to stiffen its sanctions against Iran.

KAN news on Tuesday night published a tape from a closed door meeting at the treasury about increased spending to help Israel protect itself from an Iranian attack.

In the tape, the head of IDF Operations, Maj. Gen. Aharon Haliva can be heard warning that, "Anyone who thinks that a very high-quality attack like the Iranians have carried out against the oil facilities in Saudi Arabia can not also be launched against us - is not in this profession."

He added that from a military perspective 2020 could potentially be "very negative for Israel" due to emerging threats.

British Foreign Minister Dominic Raab also warned against Tehran's latest actions.

"Iran's latest actions clearly contravene the deal and pose a risk to our national security," Raab said. "We want to find a way forward through constructive international dialogue but Iran needs to stand by the commitments it made and urgently return to full compliance."

A senior European diplomat said the deal has "become a no man's land."

"We're controlling less and less as it crumbles around us," a senior European diplomat said. "In terms of credibility it becomes harder and harder to not react."

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani gave another two-month deadline to Britain, France and Germany to salvage the deal by protecting Iran's economy from crippling US sanctions reimposed in May after Washington's withdrawal from the deal.

"We can't unilaterally accept that we completely fulfill our commitments and they don't follow up on their commitments," Rouhani said in a televised speech on Tuesday.

Tehran says talks are possible if Washington lifts sanctions and returns to the deal.

"All these measures are reversible if other parties fulfill their commitments ... We should be able to sell our oil and to transfer its money into the country," Rouhani said, referring to US sanctions on Iran's oil and banking sectors.

Reuters contributed to this report.

Lukewarm?

By John Lysaught

11.3.19

There are two misconceptions that Satan puts on the world. One is that Heaven is available to unbelievers that lead good lives. The second is that hell is only reserved for the worst of the worse. So, the people of the "world" feel comfortable with their generalized beliefs in heaven and hell. How sad. Even when faced with the truth of the Bible and the need for salvation in Christ, they still believe the lies of Satan.

I see that there are three types of people. The first is those living for themselves, believing the lies of Satan. The second is the lukewarm believer, and the third is the true believer. The first is the easiest to see. These people are selfishly living their lives for themselves without accepting Christ. The second are those who have one foot with Christ and one foot in the world, wanting the benefits of both living for self and Christ. The last, the true believers, are living each day for God, not themselves, and are heaven-focused.

I've been all three, in the order listed above. I've lived for myself and myself only. I accepted Christ but had one foot in the world, living a lie to myself. And now? And now, I do my best to live for Christ each day with serving Him and being heaven-focused. I want to focus on those that are lukewarm in their relationship with Christ. Being hot or cold is pretty easy to discern in ourselves, but being lukewarm can be a challenge. Regardless of what you may think, or if you disagree with me, I believe that each person falls into one of the categories I listed above. I want people to know that if they live in the world or are lukewarm, change is possible. What is important is that if you are living lukewarm, you can be all-in for Christ.

Colossians 3:2 tells us to “Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.” We need to focus on the things above (God) and not this world. We can do this by keeping our eyes on God and not man or the things of man. When we have Christ in our hearts, our eyes will be on Him and not the things of the world. This has to be constant, not just when we feel like it.

It doesn't take that much effort, but really, it just takes a change of heart. Matthew 6:21 tells us that where treasure is, is where our hearts are. The question to ask yourself is what is your treasure? If you want your treasure to be Jesus, then work for that each day. Don't give up on yourself. The Holy Spirit will lead you and convict you to do this if this is what you really want.

Don't lie to yourself though. Examine your heart to see where it is. Psalm 139:23-24 tells us, “Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” Conduct a thorough exam of your heart; and if there is something in there that needs to be cut out, pray for this to happen.

Psalm 51:10 says, “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.” Only with a clean heart and a renewing of our spirit can we fully seek Christ's marvelous grace and power in our lives. We need to have right hearts to live fully for Christ. Anything less is questionable. We can't love and hate at the same time. We can't love parts of the world and love Christ at the same time. We need to turn our backs to the world and turn our faces to Christ.

If we don't, we are falling short. We can't be lukewarm Christians. Revelation 3:16 says, “So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.” This statement is very clear and concise. If you are lukewarm, be wary of what you are doing, and change now. Not tomorrow or when you are older or down the road sometime; do it now.

I use this verse to remind myself of the importance of not being lukewarm in my faith. Have I? Yes. Do I still? Sometimes. But when I catch myself being lukewarm, I quickly repent and refocus my mind to Him. To me it's a heart thing. If my heart is set on the things above, how can they be muddied by the things of the world? They can't. It takes a conscious effort to put the things above to the side to satisfy the lusts of the flesh.

Satan wants us to think it is okay to be lukewarm. He wants us to believe we can have the best of both worlds. We can't though. We need to choose one or the other, and this takes an honest appraisal of ourselves. Don't believe Satan's lies. Don't get tripped up by lukewarm messages at church or lukewarm justifications from others. Open your Bible and see for yourself what it says about being righteous and doing the will of God.

Being lukewarm in our faith is believing the lies of Satan. If you are just floating through life with faith in one hand and serving self in the other, it is wrong. 1 John 3:10 tells us, “In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.”

Ok, so what is righteousness? If you are unsure, it is living justly and is doing the will of God. What is the will of God? John 6:40 sums it up this way: “And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.” And, if you believe in Jesus, you will need to follow Him and follow His example in life (1 Cor. 11:1). Here are a few examples of what following Jesus means:

Matthew 16:24, “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”

John 13:35, “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

Galatians 2:20, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” A lukewarm believer does not practice righteousness and is not doing the will of the Father. A lukewarm believer is trying to live in the world and with Christ at the same time. Eternity is not something to mess with or take lightly; and when living a lukewarm life, this is exactly what is happening.

Being all-in for Christ is how we should live. From our waking moments until we go to bed for the night, our thoughts need to be on Him, not self, or in between. This can take effort at first if you haven't been practicing this, but with a little self-discipline, it will happen. It takes every moment of your day having Christ in the forefront of your mind. It takes keeping Him in the background of your thoughts. After a while, it becomes natural to do this – it becomes a habit.

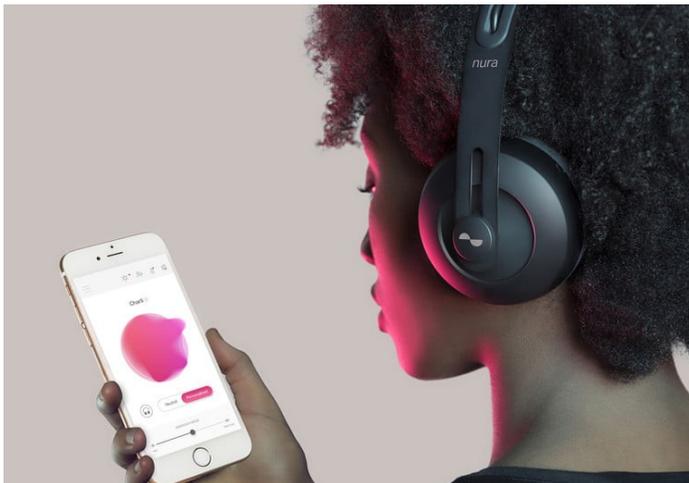
Brothers and sisters, search your heart of hearts for your standing with being lukewarm. Let the Word reach into your innermost parts to show you where you are. If you are lukewarm, change, and change now; for we don't know when Christ will take us home.

Forget fingerprints. These headphones can scan your ear canal for identification

By Luke Dormehl

Passwords kind of stink. Or, rather, people kind of stink at passwords. Even after the plethora of cyber-attacks people have witnessed in recent years, the most commonly used password in 2019 is “123456.” “Qwerty” and “password” follow in quick succession. In a time when our lives are more digitized than ever, when an account being breached risks exposing everything from our banking information to our health records, that's a problem. And it's one that researchers have been trying to solve for years.

This is where biometric security systems come into play. Biometrics' big promise is to replace the typed security systems of yesteryear with new types of body-based identification that require the user to... well, just be who they say they are. Instead of requiring extrinsic tokens, such as a memorized password or a physical keycard, a biometrics system identifies people the way that people identify one another: through intrinsic qualities like appearance, voice, or even the way a person walks.



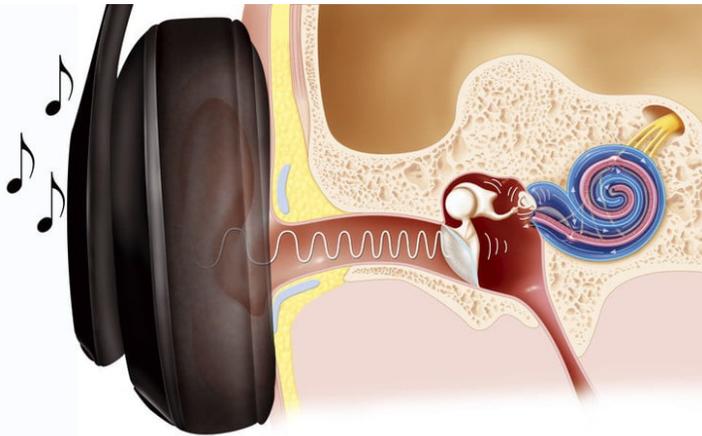
But biometric technology can go far beyond this. In the same way that each person's fingerprints have been recognized as unique for almost 150 years, so too biometrics researchers have demonstrated plenty of innovative ways to positively ID users. In addition to things like facial recognition and fingerprint scanning, there's also a person's unique “heartprint,” their smell, the subtle skin vibrations in a person's face, throat, or chest when they speak, and even the shape of their butt. All of these have been turned into proof-of-concept biometric security systems that could confirm a user's identity.

Identifying users... via their ears?

Now researchers at the State University of New York at Buffalo, have come up with a new approach — and, despite how wacky it sounds on the surface, it could actually turn out to be surprisingly practical.

Called EarEcho, their novel biometric tool uses sound waves to identify users based on the unique geometry of their ear canal. That's information that's going to be pretty difficult for a would-be spoofer to uncover.

"Mobile biometrics are growing rapidly," Yang Gao, a graduate student who worked on the project, told Digital Trends. "However, with many existing mobile biometric solutions such as face recognition, fingerprints or voice recognition, their templates can be stolen or duplicated. Meanwhile, we noticed that there are more and more people wearing wireless earphones in the street. People are accepting these wireless earphones as a new popular wearable modality. We thought that what we could do is to use earphones to provide a more secure and hidden authentication solution."



BSIP / Getty

The team took a pair of off-the-shelf earbuds and then modified them slightly; adding a microphone in the earbud which faces the wearer's ear canal.

"When a sound is played by the earphone's speaker into the user's ear, the sound propagates through the ear canal and is reflected back to the built-in microphone in the earbud," Gao explained. "By analyzing the acoustic information of played sound and captured echo, which is highly related to the ear canal geometry, we extract the unique

features from the user and then verify the user's identity."

It turns out to be impressively sensitive, too — with a prototype of the EarEcho device capable of identifying users with upwards of 95% accuracy. This was shown in tests in which 20 subjects listened to audio samples ranging from spoken words to music. It was tested in a variety of different locations, such as in a shopping mall or on the street, and with subjects standing or sitting in assorted different positions. The demo device was able to identify users with 95% accuracy within a single second, while the score rose to 97.5% if it was able to keep monitoring them for three seconds.

The usefulness of EarEcho

Gao suggested that there are a couple of scenarios in which such a solution might be useful. The most obvious is for seamless smartphone unlocking. While a system such as Apple's Face ID works very well, imagine if all it took for your smartphone to know who you are was for you to put on your earbuds. That would work perfectly for anyone taking a morning jog (or, let's be honest, just slouching to the subway station to commute into work.) Furthermore, it would allow for constant re-verification. That means no need to keep unlocking the phone each time you take it out of your pocket.

Another scenario might be for remote phone call-based authentication. If you're making a confidential call to someone, you want to be absolutely sure that you are speaking to the right person. That might come to be even more important in a world of deepfake audio, where simulating a person's voice in real-time isn't out of the question. Using technology like EarEcho, you could easily verify the identity of the person you're speaking to. Heck, by handing over your in-ear information to a bank it could serve to prevent fraud or stop the time-consuming need to have to answer private questions to prove who you are.

"We are currently still working on improving the current EarEcho system, including increasing the accuracy, involving more subjects, and testing on different types of earbuds on the market," Gao said.

There's no guarantee, of course, that this product will be commercialized and make it to market. But much the same could have been said a few years back about fingerprint scanners, facial recognition or voice

identification. All of these once appeared only in science fiction and, presumably, top-secret research labs. Today, not only are they part of our lives but such a seamless part that we don't even need to think about them.

The right biometric for the right situation

As Mark Waiser, the late chief technologist at legendary Silicon Valley research lab Xerox PARC, once said: "The most profound technologies are those that disappear. They weave themselves into the fabric of everyday life until they are indistinguishable from it."

This is the story of biometrics so far. To be clear, I don't think that we will ditch Face ID for ear canal-reading technology any time soon. Just like I don't think it will ever make sense for a Google Home to stop recognizing users by their voice and to instead listen for their heartbeat. But in a world in which our devices are capable of capturing all kinds of biometric information, devices will be able to choose the most optimal way to identify users at any given moment.

If you're wearing a smartwatch that tracks your heart rate, this information could be gathered and transmitted to the other devices on your person. If you're sitting in your car, sensors that can ascertain the unique qualities of your butt could turn out to be pretty useful. This could be used to cover all your biometric information while you're commuting. And if you're wearing earbuds, why not take advantage of that by using it to make access to other parts of your life simpler?

There are very few scenarios we're in on a daily basis where one or more of our biometrics isn't being measured and assessed in some way. Figuring out when to use these, and doubling or even tripling security by using several, will make our future interactions with machines simpler and safer.

Even if it does potentially mean your bank one day asking if you want to submit information about the shape of your inner ear.