



RESURRECTION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

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EVANGELIZING THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER

Letters of Faith

May 2014

**If we confess our sins,
He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

1 John 1:9 NASB

**If we are unfaithful,
He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.**

2 Timothy 2:13 NLT

Dearly Beloved,

We are beginning to see that the sum total of God's testimony in His Word to us is: *God is faith-full! God is faithful to His Word. God is faithful to us!*

By this we mean that our God is so faithful to keep His Word to us, that He is filled with faith that we will be faithful to Him. We have a God that is so faith-full, "...that while we were yet sinners, **Christ died for us.**" (Rom. 5:8 NASB) God was so filled with faith in us, that we would be faithful to Him even before we were filled with Him, that in faith in the unseen He sacrificed His Son, Jesus, so we could grow into faith in Him. (Ref. Hebrews 11:1)

That is amazing Grace!

Sometimes we get so focused on the fact that "...**He is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong**" (1 John 1:9 NLT) when we confess our sins, that we forget His faithfulness to His extraordinary promises is not anchored on *our* being faithful, but rather on Him being true to Himself—Who is faithful—Who is *faithfulness personified!*

How many of you have had a "faithful" friend turn against you in a time of real need or testing? Should we rather ask is there any one of you who has NOT experienced the lack of faithfulness in someone close to you from whom you really expected unbound faithfulness?

Hurts, doesn't it?!

So when you are hurt this way, what happens to your sense of faithfulness to that friend?

On a scale of one to ten, it most likely zooms down to nearly zero! Right?

Of course it does, *unless* Jesus is on the throne of your life so solidly and so completely that you can respond as He would respond, instead of how you would like to respond in the flesh. Because, "**He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.**" Can we confess: *We remain faithful, for we cannot deny Him, Who is in us, and Whose faith in us keeps us from denying Him by our actions?*

Beloved, it is only by the Christ in us that we can remain faithful when we are confronted with faithlessness! It is God's will to make known to the world the mystery of how we can respond to such deep wounds as being betrayed by our closest and most beloved friends by remaining faithful to them when they need us. "...**God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.**" (Col. 1:27 NASB) It is a demonstration of God's glory in human flesh when we can be faithful to the unfaithful.

Have you ever prayed like this: "...**Here am I, Lord. Send me!**" (See Isaiah 6:8) I'll bet you have.

Well, Beloved, one of the ways He will “send you” is by having the world see you manifest this incredible facet of God’s character: being faithful even to those who have been unfaithful to you. Therefore, and here comes the tough part, you will be betrayed and abused and dealt with unfaithfully and the world that IS watching will see the Christ in you!

“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you...” (1 Pet. 4:12) It is no strange thing that is coming your way, nor should it come as a surprise to you. Recognize it as an opportunity to reveal the **“Christ in you, the hope of glory”** to a desperately defiled and disappointed world all around you.

We have often shared thoughts with you regarding pressing in to Him when the pressures of the world come strongest against you. Remember, the Apostle Paul knew the temptations of giving up and getting tired of doing good all the time! But he never gave up—just the opposite in fact! He declared: **“...since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart.”** (2 Cor. 4:1) Or as the NLT puts it: **“...we never give up.”** You, and Jesus, and the Holy Spirit make up the holy “we” to whom Paul is referring!

Paul **“...press[ed] on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”** (Phil. 3:14) In all of the diversely difficult and disastrous disappointments that the Apostle Paul experienced, he found his Lord Jesus was faithful as he determinedly **“...press[ed] on in order that [he might] lay hold of that for which also [he] was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.”** (Phil. 3:12)

Some years ago, we were blessed to participate with the Holy Spirit for nearly a week as He ministered complete release and healing to a couple who were both in the depth of pain, despair, and depression. They said it was from dreadful injuries that had been inflicted on their souls and spirits by untrained and pharisaical “leaders” during their early days in the Charismatic Renewal.

The personal ministry of Jesus brought peace to those troubled saints by getting them in touch with the agony of verbal and physical abuse that they had each experienced during their early childhood, and the bitterness and hatred and animosity they each had held toward their abusers for so many years, even after they were born anew in Jesus. He literally breathed His Truth into their hearts about what He wanted them to know about those awful experiences instead of the lies they had believed ever since their traumatic abuse.

They instantly poured out tearful forgiveness of their childhood tormentors. The memories of those atrocious words and acts hurled against them so many years before no longer held any pain, and their hearts flowed in forgiveness and compassion toward those who had so spitefully used them.

Jesus was faithful to manifest Himself to each of them at a very deep level and to set them free from those “ancient” wounds, even though they previously had no faith or understanding of this kind of spiritual ministry. Jesus’ triumphant declaration of *“It is finished”* released Satan’s prisoners! And much to their surprise, the damage they had recently received from spiritually unskilled members of the Body of Christ, was healed and forgiven at the same moment with great tenderness. The lies they had each believed about themselves and their beloved Lord Jesus seemed almost laughable once they were free from the deep bitterness over the earlier mauling they had hung onto, and had now released.

When the Lord Jesus, Who is the Truth and the Light of the world, dispels the darkness of the lies imbedded in our memories of past traumatic woundings, and when the darkness of those lies we have believed is replaced by the Light of the Truth from Jesus, the disabling pain must leave—the pain is held in the lies, not in the memories.

We continue to see that the Holy Spirit is revealing more ways in which the Body can minister to itself (in direct contrast to the select-few “anointed ministers” doing all the “stuff”) which fulfills the Scripture that says, **“...His Bride has made herself ready.”** (Rev. 19:7)

Beloved, the Lord Jesus is empowering you as a vital part of His Bride to make yourself ready for His glorious return, and in the process to help your brother and sister in Christ appropriate cleansing and

releasing from the constraining griefs and sorrows (ref. Isa. 53:4) that keep us looking more like we've been baptized in vinegar instead of in the brilliant and sparkling-clean River of Life.

Let's all keep our spiritual eyes and ears open to learn and respond to His present instructions, directions, and anointings so that we, like the Apostle Paul, **"...may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of [our] own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, that [we] may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that [we] may attain to the resurrection from the dead."** (Phil. 3:9-11)

We are to be faithful to Him and to each other: faithful in our finances, faithful to our words as well as to God's Word, and faithful in all of our works of healing and love.

For truly, Beloved, our God is faithful! And we will be faithful too, *because He Is!*

Faith-full Hugs,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul & Gretel". The script is cursive and fluid, with the ampersand connecting the two names.