



RESURRECTION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

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EVANGELIZING THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER

Letters of Faith

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“Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands...”

(2 Timothy 2:19)

Dearly Beloved,

Gretel and I have always garnered great comfort from reminding each other during stressful times that **“the firm foundation of God [STILL] stands”** regardless of, and in the midst of, the vicissitudes of life all around us! As Webster’s Dictionary defines “vicissitudes,” they are literally the *unpredictable changes or variations that keep occurring in life, fortune, etc.; shifting circumstances; ups and downs; the difficulty that is likely to occur*. Doesn’t this define our world’s current wrenchings, crises, and continuously pending catastrophes? Does it not also seem to define the current challenges faced by many churches and parachurch ministries today according to reports in Christian media?

As never before in many of our lives, even for those of us on the senior side of life, we are being made conscious of, and being confronted by, the declaration of the Kingdom of God being **“...righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”** (Rom. 14:17) Peace? When your 401(k) has tanked? Joy? When your “faithful” congressman or senator just voted in a way that you could not have even guessed he would—and of course completely against all that you think makes sense in this topsy-turvy world?

Yes, Beloved, God’s Word says Kingdom life is Peace and JOY *in the Holy Spirit*. That simply means that it has *nothing* to do with what’s going on around you—it has *everything* to do with what’s going on inside of you!

What *is* going on inside of you?

Are you anxious? Then ask God for a spirit of revelation of Proverbs 3:5: **“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.”** Appropriating His Word like this is, after all, just a specific application of the apostle Paul’s prayer for all of us in Ephesians 1:15-17: **“For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you, and your love for all the saints, do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and [a spirit] of revelation in the knowledge of Him.”**

Beloved, we all can have peace and joy in any and all circumstances if we get a hold on the revelation that we really can lean on Him instead of leaning on our own understanding. But that will only come as we receive from Him a fresh spirit of revelation in the knowledge of Him as we walk with Him *in the Holy Spirit*. Don’t expect to be at peace and know the joy of the Lord and have hope for the future if you are steeping yourself like a fine English tea in the news of the day, or the wisdom and traditions of man, or the conflicts and contentions of the currently controlling spirits of the world!

Paul goes on to lay out in detail for us all the hope and the glory and the power that is ours as we appropriate what he prayed for us. **“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”** (Eph. 1:18-23)

God has: **“...raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”** (Eph. 2:6-7) So we who are in Christ are actually **“...far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named...”** and therefore we should be experiencing the surpassing riches of His grace and His kindness toward us. Can you see that receiving the Holy Spirit revelation of these truths will make us impregnable to the enemy’s attempts to instill in us discouragement, doubt, or disillusionment?

Please don’t just skim over these Scriptures because they are so very familiar—and I am so repetitive! Read them out loud and slowly. They will penetrate your spiritual DNA when you do, and they will work new strength and new fortitude into your spirit-man so you will stand in the midst of the whirlwind in the strength of His might! (ref. Eph. 6:10-13)

No, Beloved, this does not mean that we won’t go through the ringer with everyone else! It does mean, however, that while we are being pressed on all sides, we can be at peace and joy-filled, and release the power and authority Jesus commissioned us with. **“Jesus therefore said to them again, ‘Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.’”** (John 20:21)

Please see that in these very trying circumstances, the Lord Jesus is saying to us in His very tender way, *My precious child, don’t fret! Climb up on My lap and receive strength and comfort. Lean against My chest and let your heart learn to beat in cadence with Mine. I am here with you, the ever present I AM, and I will oversee all these problems for My glory. Simply trust Me and obey Me and go about quietly being the warm, steady, joyful light of life in this dark and perverse generation as a beacon for people to follow into My eternal life.*

Our lead verse in 2 Timothy ends by declaring: **“Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness.”** We who **“name the name of the Lord”** are expected by God, our fellow Christians, and even our unbelieving family and friends, to **“abstain from wickedness.”** There are no extenuating circumstances mentioned in the Bible that excuse a Christian for acting wickedly. Lest we forget, the word “wicked” means “morally very bad; evil...disposed to mischief...disgustingly unpleasant... causing or likely to cause harm, distress, or trouble” and sometimes in Proverbs the word means “without attention to God.” Our lives must show that we rejoice in the truth that **“Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Thy throne...”** (Psalm 89:14a) and should be the foundation of our lives.

Neither sin nor natural catastrophe has the power to dislodge the firm foundation of God—righteousness and justice. Knowing this, we can stand and persevere in any circumstance with our feet firmly planted on the unshakeable Rock of Jesus.

Beloved, we believe that when the Church of Jesus Christ is walking in these simple and basic truths, we will become the fulfillment of Isaiah 60:1-3: **“Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness will cover the earth and deep**

darkness the peoples; but the Lord will rise upon you, and His glory will appear upon you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.”

We believers are uniquely blessed to know that God is our source for everything, both here in this earthly realm and in His heavenly realm. The words that have been of most comfort to us over the many years we have walked in His blessed provision are the Amplified Bible’s version of Hebrews 13:5-6. Join us in steeping our spirits and our souls in these blessed assurances: **“...for He [God] Himself has said, I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. [I will] not, [I will] not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake nor let [you] down, (relax My hold on you)! [Assuredly not!] So we take comfort and are encouraged and confidently and boldly say, The Lord is my Helper; I will not be seized with alarm [I will not fear or dread or be terrified]. What can man do to me?”**

Lord Jesus, You are our rock. You are our righteousness and the very foundation of our lives. We confess that there are times when we wobble in our confidence that Your truth can stand the onslaughts of the world’s wickedness and the enemy’s lies. Forgive us, Lord, when we are shaky and weak. Renew our confidence in Your steadfastness, Lord Jesus, and our sure knowledge that—regardless, no matter what, and nevertheless—“the firm foundation of God stands!” Amen.

Huge Hugs of Hope,

