



# RESURRECTION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

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*Paul and Gretel Haglin*

EVANGELIZING THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER

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## Letters of Faith

December 2017

**“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth;  
for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak;  
and He will disclose to you what is to come.**

**He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.”**

John 16:13-14 NASB

Dearly Beloved,

The Holy Spirit spoke a Word to Gretel and me some years ago during an unusually peaceful and grace-filled morning watch with Him overlooking our tranquil Wheat Field at Eagles Nest Farm. He challenged us to seek His heart in His Word. This still-unfolding journey into knowing the true heart of God is nowhere more important than in the way we read or hear, and understand God’s precious Word to us: both the written Scripture we so honor, and His Holy Spirit-breathed Words to our hearts.

To do this, we must ask Him for grace to think as He thinks. I believe that Jesus and our Father were aware of our tendency to read our own ideas into the Holy Scriptures, so He made protecting us from this fault a very specific assignment of the Holy Spirit.

One of my earliest examples of trusting the Holy Spirit to lead us into understanding God’s heart in His Word is 1 Cor. 1:9, which says: **“God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”** On the surface this is simply a comforting Scripture stating that our Father God is drawing all of us into a closer relationship with our Lord Jesus. But early in our walk with Him, I received a very exciting revelation from the Holy Spirit of the deep intimacy with Jesus into which God is calling us.

In my excitement, I quickly shared this revelation with our freshly-out-of-seminary assistant pastor, who proceeded to equally excitedly explain to me in great technical detail the six deep meanings of the Greek word (*koinonia*) translated here as “fellowship.”

But I couldn’t have cared less about his Greek word study! I was excited because the Holy Spirit had just engraved on my heart that this Scripture meant *my Heavenly Father God had personally picked me to be a **buddy of Jesus***. I had just been told by God that I had been called to have a new and really Close Friend, a Faithful Companion, a Personal Pal who just happens to be the Savior of the World. And I didn’t even have to learn the Greek for Buddy!

If that doesn’t excite you, like it excited me, you need a heart transplant right now!

Here’s another example of our need to sometimes prayerfully dig a bit deeper in order to see God’s heart in His Word because it is not always immediately evident. **“As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?’ Jesus answered, ‘It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but *it was* so that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work.’”** (John 9:1-4 NASB emphasis added)

This passage is well known to you all, but do you see God's heart in it as it is normally written above? Is it God's heart that my sins would bring physical disabilities to my children? Isn't that contrary to Isaiah 53's declarations of the physical chastisements Jesus bore for us on His Cross? Even more ludicrous is the idea that my children could commit such sins while in Gretel's womb that they would cause major physical birth defects in their own bodies!

Jesus' answer to both of these questions is a clear NO to us who are privileged to live on the resurrection side of His Cross. Aren't you glad for that?

But because of the way Jesus' answer to His disciples' question is added to (the italicized words) and then traditionally punctuated in our Bibles, the reason for this birth-defect blindness is implied to be that God Almighty needed a man born blind so Jesus could demonstrate His miraculous power to heal even such extreme blindness. This concept of God stumbles me beyond acceptance. So how can we see God's heart in this Scripture?

First, let us remove all of the italicized words that are added to original texts by translators. Then let us remove the tradition-continuing punctuation by replacing the semicolon after "**his parents**" with a period, and replacing the period after "**displayed in Him**" with a now grammatically correct comma. These two simple steps are merely removing seemingly minor man-made additions and adjustments to God's Word that have actually turned this Scripture into an ungodly traditional error.

Thus returned to original textual clarity, how does Jesus' answer to His disciples' question read?

**"Neither this man sinned, nor his parents."** This was Jesus' simple and straightforward and unqualified answer to the disciples' question!

**"But so that the works of God might be displayed in him, we must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work."** This was Jesus again declaring to His disciples a part of His mission here on earth, as the Apostle John later proclaimed it: **"The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil."** (1 John 3:8b)

Am I tampering with Holy Scripture?

Certainly not! I am simply removing man's additions to it, consistent with the warning the Apostle Paul gave us in Colossians 2:8 against being captured by the tradition of men and principles of the world (such as adding words and punctuation that mask and misrepresent the true revelation of God's heart in His Word): **"See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ."**

Several nights ago I experienced a problem that is fortunately very unusual for me: I was restless and fidgety, and tossed-and-turned instead of drifting smoothly into a refreshing sleep. I finally decided to get up and read my Bible instead of tearing up my bedding beyond repair.

I picked up a newly published section of The Passion Translation (TPT), aptly subtitled "Letters from Heaven." This volume includes six of Paul's Epistles from Galatians through 2 Timothy. I was blessed by the opening phrases in Galatians: **"I pray over you a release of the blessings of God's undeserved kindness and total well-being that flows from our Father-God and from the Lord Jesus."** (Galatians 1:3 TPT)

That was just what I needed — a flow of grace (**God's undeserved kindness**) and peace (**total well-being**) directly from my Father and my Lord to wash away whatever was stubbornly keeping me awake!

So I *read out loud* the similar opening blessing verses of the other five books in this section of The Passion Translation —

Ephesians 1:2 (TPT) “...**May God Himself, the Heavenly Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, release grace over you and impart total well-being into your lives.**”

Philippians 1:2 (TPT) “**May the blessings of divine grace and supernatural peace that flow from God our wonderful Father, and our anointed Messiah, the Lord Jesus, be upon your lives.**”

Colossians 1:2 (TPT) “**May God, our true Father, release upon your lives the riches of His kind favor and heavenly peace through the Lord Jesus, the Anointed One.**”

1 Timothy 1:2 (TPT) “**I decree over your life today, abundant grace, mercy, and total well-being from God the Father and the anointed one, our Lord Jesus.**”

2 Timothy 1:2 (TPT) “**My beloved son, I pray for a greater release of God’s grace, love, and total well-being to flow into your life from God our Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ.**”

Suddenly I started to experience deep in my spirit, soul, and my body (*where I really needed it so I could get to sleep*), the answers to these prayers of Paul: the flow of God’s kindness releasing the power of His favor and grace and the riches of His heavenly peace. Paul’s decree in 1 Timothy instantly established dominion over whatever had been blocking my receiving God’s grace and peace! And when I actually “heard Him” call me His beloved son, “...**a greater release of God’s grace, love, and total well-being to flow [did flow] into your [into my] life from God our Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ.**”

The peaceful and restoring sleep that followed was priceless!

Beloved, God’s heart *and God’s Power and Love* are in His Word! When you read His Word, Beloved, don’t just “read my lips.” Instead, *Read My heart!*

Huge Holy Scriptural Hugs,

