



# RESURRECTION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

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EVANGELIZING THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER

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## Letters of Faith

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’  
But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,  
so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven...”

(Matthew 5: 43-45a NASB)

Dearly Beloved,

God is in the process of transforming us all in some very important areas of our walk with Him, not the least of which is being able to genuinely obey the above admonition to “...**love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...**” We struggle with honestly praying for the men and women in high places in this great country, which is so blessed with such a uniquely God-given governance, who are determined to destroy us— literally tearing down all the good that America stands for in pursuit of their misguided concepts of a socialist or fascist one-world government (under their total “benevolent” control, of course).

We know God’s Word commands us to pray for our leaders: “**First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.**” (1 Tim. 2:1-2) And when we know what God wants us to do and we don’t do it, God considers it a sin. “**Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin.**” (James 4:17)

But frankly, we are struggling with how not to sin against God by not praying for our country’s leadership, because praying for some of those manipulators, liars, and destroyers is really hard to do.

The Holy Spirit gave us the solution to this dilemma. It is very easy, actually, as simple as reading the next verse in Timothy: “**This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.**” (1Tim. 2:3-4) All God asks is that we join Him in prayer for His desire that all these smarmy politicians, “**...be saved and [to] come to the knowledge of the truth.**”

How did we miss that all this time? Because we forgot one of the sweetest teachings the Holy Spirit ever gave us: “The Otherwiseness of Christ.” Yes, “otherwiseness” is a Haglinism (a word made up by us Haglins), but you get the point—Jesus Christ was totally otherwise from the ways of the world.

We were concentrating on how to plead for God to replace certain Politicians with bold and righteous men and women of His choosing that would be available for His using. Instead, He asks us to pray for their salvation. We declared: we can do that, Lord!

That’s a bit of a transformation, wouldn’t you say?

The Lord gave us a very clear word on how to overcome the temptation to all sorts of sins. He showed us how to walk in the “otherwiseness” of Jesus in every phase of our lives.

This is the way it happened: I (Paul) was mowing our fields at our farm. After a wonderful afternoon of being with the Lord in my mobile prayer closet, absorbed in His love and the beauty of the place and of my Lord, I was very high spiritually, but I was filthy dirty and badly needed a shower. As I was washing, suddenly my mind was filled with the most ugly and filthy thoughts. So much so, they literally took my breath away. Shocked, I cried from the depths of my spirit, “Jesus, You were so pure! You were so gracious, kind, loving, and clean!” And just like that, those defiling thoughts were erased—gone! I was stunned and remember saying, “God, what was *that*? Lord, *what* is going on?”

I heard Him say: *That was answered prayer.*

Lord, I said, what have I been praying?

He reminded me. I had been praying, “Lord, teach me how to lead, minister, and model righteousness to the men in our fellowship so they could relate to women as Jesus did—the righteous, clean, pure way of looking, talking, and dealing with women like Jesus did. Show me how I can help them stand against the whirlwinds of the pornography stronghold and remain righteous and pure in their walk and talk with women.”

God said, “I just showed you how to do it: When you get those kind of unclean, ugly thoughts in your mind, break them by proclaiming the purity and righteousness of My Son. Proclaim ‘the otherwiseness’ of Jesus!”

I got it! If you have filthy, defiling thoughts, proclaim the purity and righteousness of your Lord Jesus. If you have thoughts of cheating, proclaim His honesty and integrity. Proclaiming the otherwiseness of Jesus breaks the effort of the enemy to get you to think the wrong thoughts. Then the Holy Spirit brought Philippians 4:8 to my remembrance as though I had memorized it: **“Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.”**

You overcome temptations to sin by setting your mind on the true, the honorable, the right, the pure, the lovely, the good, the excellent, and the praiseworthy—all of which describe the very character of Jesus. No matter what the thoughts and temptations to sin, the bold proclamation of the otherwiseness of Jesus is the bulwark against sin. When you do this, the sin will flee!

Why? The answer is found in Matthew 12:35, **“The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil.”** The good treasure of truth you have hidden in your heart and cherished comes forth naturally, and it overwhelms evil! Proverbs 12:6b promises, **“...the mouth of the upright will deliver them.”**

Now please don’t think for a moment that you are not to continue petitioning God for righteous and bold leadership to be elected in November’s crucial election. And yes, you can even request He removes from authority those who are currently so obviously serving the father of all lies (ref. John 8:44). Because Proverbs 10:32a assures us that, **“The lips of the righteous bring forth what is acceptable...”** We just need to keep God’s priorities our priorities when we pray, and that entails love for our enemies and praying blessing for them even as they despitely abuse us and the country we love. And salvation is the greatest of all

blessings. Remember: “**...God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**” (Romans 5:8)

The Word says if you put bread on the water, you get it back. But you don't bless people for that reason; you bless them because that is the otherwiseness of Jesus.

Beloved, by proclaiming the many faceted otherwiseness of Jesus that you have stored deep in your heart, you can turn aside all of the attempts of the enemy to lead you astray, no matter what the circumstances! Jesus went through everything you will ever experience, but without sinning. As you proclaim Him and how different He is, you will be protected from sin in the same way.

Proclaim what He did! Speak the way He spoke! Think the way He thinks! Love the way He loves! Set your mind on the things His mind is set on, and you will not stumble or be stumbled!

The Lord gave us a prayer for you from Colossians 1:9-10. We pray: “**...that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.**”

And we dare to add to this precious word from God with our own gut prayer for you: “*may you increase in the total otherwiseness of Jesus every day of your life!* Amen.

Huge Haglin Hugs,

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