



RESURRECTION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

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EVANGELIZING THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER

Letters of Faith

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“Not every one who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many works of power?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.’”

Matthew 7:21-23 NASB

Dearly Beloved,

These are frightening words from our Lord Jesus! I dare say that all of us have on occasion shuddered deep inside as we have read these words, and thought, “Dear Lord Jesus, let me know You and Your will that I might never be lawless in Your sight! That I might never hear You say to me, ‘I never knew you!’” Yet we all can get so involved in *doing for Him* that we overlook opportunities to establish and cultivate and develop our *personal relationship with Him*—a close, intimate companionship where we both get to know each other!

No disciple ever wants to hear the words, “I never knew you.” To be certain those words are never spoken to us, we must really get to know Him! If we do not make the effort to really know Jesus, He won’t get to know us! Of course we all understand that He “knows” us. After all, the Scripture says He knew us before the beginning of time and while we were being formed in our mother’s womb. But we are talking about deep, intimate, “down-to-earth” knowing—a two-way street of communication, emotion, and under-standing. If we don’t abide with Jesus throughout the day, He observes our impulsive reactions, our most personal characteristics, and our behavior in difficult circumstances—but He doesn’t live them with us. He is left on the outside, as a patron watching a performance, but He is not a participant!

So we are confronted with the challenging concept that He cannot really get to know us until we make the decision and take the action to really know Him, not just know about Him, even if we know a whole lot about Him! Observe that Jesus’ admonishment in Matthew was not, “Depart from Me, for you never knew Me!” But rather He said, **“I never knew you!”**

We can only know Him as we dwell in His Word and live our lives in and with Him. Jesus said in John 8:31-32, **“If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”** And in John 15:4 (AMPC) Jesus promised, **“Dwell in Me, and I will dwell in you. [Live in Me, and I will live in you.]...”** Dwelling — living—abiding are inside relationships that are deeper than intellect or emotion, but include both! This is the only way we can continue growing in our knowing of Him. Then He will know us with a mutually intimate “knowing”!

An example of leaving Jesus on the outside would be to ask, “How would Jesus respond in this situation?” We thus consider Jesus, but in a performance mode, not a servant-disciple-friend mode. We then operate on our own understanding of the character of Jesus.

Have you ever asked yourself that question in a hard spot? We have! But that is not turning to the indwelling Jesus! It is turning to our knowledge about Him, instead of our life with Him!

Rather we should ask: “Jesus, how would You have me respond in this situation?” This is the way we walk in the reality of abiding in Him, and of Him abiding in and with us. This is how we learn to know Him, and He gets to know us!

As He so often does when He brings us new revelation or adjusts us in former ones, Jesus brought a second witness to us in confirmation of this truth. The witness came in the delightful person of our daughter, Alexis, as she related a powerful experience she had with Jesus during a conference she had just attended. The speaker was emphasizing the need for us all to draw closer and have a more real fellowship-relationship with Jesus. He had asked the question: “If you could enjoy a whole evening sharing one-on-one with anyone who has ever lived, who would you choose?” He hesitated, and then he said, “I suppose that most of you are thinking—Jesus!” He smiled and let that sink in.

During this time, Alexis was taken into the Spirit realm, and she experienced herself sharing with Jesus around a cozy fire in her living room. She was reveling in the anointing of His presence and the love for each other that was flowing heart-to-heart, when the speaker continued, “And of course these are the things you would be dis-cussing with Jesus: ‘What did You write in the sand at the feet of the pharisaical men who brought the woman caught in adultery to You for judgment? What did You say to the disciples as they walked with You on the road to Emmaus on the day of Your resurrection? What did Elijah and Moses say to You that glorious time on the Mount?’”

Alexis almost exploded out loud: “No! No! No! You don’t understand! I am not sharing questions about Him that the Holy Spirit can (and does) answer for me as I meditate with Him in God’s Word! I am reminiscing with Him about the times we shared victories together and gave each other high-fives as we came out into the light again after a long, dark walk through the valley of the shadow of death together. I am reliving His deep, healing, comforting love as He ministered to me through the disastrous times we shared. I am giving and receiving love as I have never before experienced from any other human being. I am reveling in His presence and marveling at Him enjoying mine!”

Which of these two saints holds Jesus “out-there-somewhere” and which is abiding with Him, inside, in reality?

Beloved, the Holy Spirit is leading us to discover reality in our walk with Jesus like never before. He is confronting us with a life-changing choice between scholarship and fellowship.

God wants us to realize that our very lives, yes even our salvation, depends on our choosing FELLOWSHIP, not just SCHOLARSHIP—on our choosing to know Him, not just to learn about Him—and on our choosing to be real, not just to be religious!

Surely we need to learn as much as we can about Him from reading the precious truths in the Scriptures! But that is not enough by itself, if the learning is kept merely intellectual, and not appropriated into our spirit and emotions, and then practiced in our daily walk with Him. If we choose wrongly now, we risk hearing Him say to us on our final day, “**Depart from Me, I never knew you.**”

Beloved, if this intimacy with your living and loving Lord Jesus is unfathomable to you right now, don’t despair! Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to Him in a new level of intimacy. Ask Him to heal the wounds and rejections and judgments you have suffered that prevent you from fully entering into His life and allowing Him total access to the inner person of your heart.

Seek prayer ministry from someone who walks in this precious fellowship with Him. They can help you be healed of your wounds and cut free from the sins that so easily entangle you and that build a wall of separation between you and your God. “**Do not give sleep to your eyes, nor slumber to your eyelids; deliver yourself like a gazelle from the hunter’s hand, and like a bird from the hand of the fowler**” (Proverbs 6:4-5) until the Lord of Hosts sets you free!

Beloved, it is our prayer that this letter will stir something in the very depths of you that will call out to your God for reality and intimacy in your walk in the Spirit with your Lord Jesus! No matter how good or how close your walk with Him is today, there is MORE!

Join us in praying for the more: *Precious Lord Jesus, when I hear someone pray who really knows You like a dear and trusted friend as well as Lord, I long for that kind of intimate relation-ship with You. Please remove from me anything that is holding me back from abandoning myself to a living and abiding fellowship with You. Please, Lord, draw me so close to You that I will know that You know me.*

We strongly sense in the Spirit, that in order for us to stand in the whirlwind that is poised over the whole world, parts of which are already being torn asunder by its force, we are going to need this kind of inside, real, and personal bonding with Jesus to survive with a testimony for His glory.

Love and Hugs

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul & Gretel". The script is cursive and fluid, with the ampersand being particularly stylized.