



RESURRECTION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

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EVANGELIZING THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER

Letters of Faith

April 2016

“...the Lord longs to be gracious to you,
and therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you.
For the Lord is a God of justice; how blessed are all those who long for Him.
...He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry;
when He hears it, He will answer you. ...And your ears will hear a word behind you,
‘This is the way, walk in it,’ whenever you turn to the right or to the left.”
Isaiah 30:18-19 & 21

Dearly Beloved,

In October 1998, we wrote the following words to you in *Letters of Faith*: “There is a fresh and almost desperate cry arising from the Body of Christ today: ‘You who **“art my rock and my fortress; for Your name’s sake...lead me and guide me.”**’ (Psalm 31:3)” Wherever we went in the Body of Christ, we heard the same prayer: *God, please grant us divine guidance and assurance that we can count on.*

We are sensing that this same cry is coming fresh from the Body of Christ today! So these words of so many years ago are as current as today’s disturbingly ungodly news.

We are all feeling besieged—pressured on all sides! The world, the flesh, and even the powers and principalities of the Devil press their demands on us to mislead, to mistreat, to mystify, and to muddle us as we try to hear and do God’s will!

God is leading us all on to new paths, new ministries, and new levels of faith. As exciting as that is, it can make us feel insecure and frightened. Oh, not fearful-frightened, but rather deeply concerned lest we miss what He has for us to do, or how He would have us do it. We encourage each other by reminding ourselves again and again that, **“The steps of a man are established by the Lord; and He delights in his way. When he falls, he shall not be hurled headlong; because the Lord is the One who holds his hand.”** (Psa. 37:23-24)

The astounding fact is that He delights to see His kids walking in the center of His will, and quickly and patiently rescues us if we stumble in our eagerness to do His bidding.

Most of you relate to this because God is also shaking and redirecting your lives and your ministries. In some cases, He is even challenging your basic understanding of God and His Church (the Body of Christ), and your concepts of the Gospel of His Son, Jesus Christ. Rejoice, Beloved! God is shaking all that can be shaken in us now so that only His unshakable best for us will remain. He is “shuffling our deck” so that only His choice of appointing and anointing will remain with us. That is why we need to KNOW (Greek: “*oida*”—absolute revelation knowledge) that God IS leading us; and will continue to lead us; and is willing to correct and adjust us if we will let Him so we will not wander off His pathway for us.

Therefore, the Holy Spirit urges us to be sure to **“Commit your works to the Lord, and your plans will be established”** knowing that **“...The mind of man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.”** (Proverbs 16:3 & 9) We encourage you to search for and to meditate on

scriptures that promise God's blessing of personal and pertinent guidance for every one of His children who are seeking Him and His Kingdom. We say "pertinent" guidance as directly contrasted to the generic type of wishy-washy, passive, guidance- prayers like "Just close the door if I'm NOT to go through it, Lord, and open wide the door where I am to go through." With this presumptive and spiritually lazy approach to divine guidance, there is no discernment needed—no partnering with God—no need to know the Scriptures and their warnings and their wisdom! And worst of all, no acceptance of personal responsibility for the actions taken in compliance with such so-called guidance.

Christians who walk this way must have a picture of us as being trapped in a giant maze where we wander around trying to find God's path. They picture God's large hand reaching down and opening and closing doors at the end of each passageway to be sure we take the correct turns—like rats in a scientific laboratory being programmed and controlled to do what the researcher wants them to do.

God's way for us is very different!

He invites us to **"Call to Me, and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know."** (Jeremiah 33:3) He does not condemn us for not knowing, but rather enjoys revealing His truths and secrets to those of us who love and obey Him.

There are times when a certain avenue of opportunity seems closed to us, yet our spirit is alive with the sense that God wants us to press on in that direction. We need to know whether we are to knock and keep on knocking, to break down the door with the sword of the Spirit, to find a way to circumvent the obstacle in our path, or to turn around and go another direction. There are other times when a door is so invitingly open to us and to OUR desires that it is hard to hear the Lord tell us NOT to enter, NOT to be tempted by the apparently easy way, and to resist its lures while continuing to seek Him and His way.

Where once God used the cloud and the pillar of fire or visible angels and fleeces to lead His people and to verify His word (see how the Lord allowed Gideon to test His word to him in Judges 6:36-40), He now has given us His indwelling Holy Spirit to guide us. The "rub" is that now, in this New Covenant, we are responsible to hear Him and to obey Him in faith.

We can do this! He has promised us that **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you."** (Psalm 32:8) The key is that though His eye is on us, we cannot see Him with our eyes—we can only see Him with the eyes of our faith. But we are blessed to have Jesus' words of assurance directly to us as His disciples: **"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."** (John 10:27)

Beloved, God wants us to hear Him clearly, and to understand Him completely, so we can obey Him boldly and confidently without having any second-thoughts! He wants us to be able to say without a doubt, **"...Thou art my rock and my fortress; for Thy name's sake Thou wilt lead me and guide me."** (Psalm 31:3)

Dear One, we all need to learn that this kind of loving counsel CAN be ours directly from our caring Father God in Jesus' name! We do not have to seek frantically for an oracle or guru or prophet to tell us where our next step should be. Thank God there are some men and women that God has anointed to help us hear when we seem to be deaf, but His heart aches for us to take time to sit quietly away from the "madding crowd" and wait upon Him in faith to reveal His will and His way to us.

He hears our plea: **"Make me know Thy ways, O Lord; teach me Thy paths. Lead me in Thy truth and teach me..."** If that is your heart cry, be assured that **"...He leads the humble in justice, and He teaches the humble His way. ...The secret of the Lord is for those who fear Him, and He will make them know His covenant. ...He will instruct him in the way we should choose."** (various verses in Psalm 25)

And finally, there are special promises to you who are serious enough to fast and pray *when He asks you to do so*: “**Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry, and He will say, ‘Here I am.’ ...And the Lord will continually guide you, and satisfy your desire in scorched places, and give strength to your bones; and you will be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water whose waters do not fail.**” (Isaiah 58:9a &11)

Becoming confident with His guidance is of primary importance right now because God is pouring out His Spirit in new and powerful ways. He is revealing His heart and character to those who are seeking Him with a humble and contrite heart. But every time God moves afresh the “Deceiver” tries to flood the Body of Christ with a counterfeit to lure us into his carefully laid traps that are freshly baited with our own unsanctified desires.

We have got to learn to hear from God for ourselves by stepping out in faith and trusting that our close brothers and sisters in Christ will witness to our hearing when we are hearing correctly. Otherwise we will be tempted to run after the currently popular “mighty man of faith and power” to demand “words” of direction or confirmation. That is when we are most vulnerable to receive advice anointed by the power of the human soul that will misguide us!

The good news is that the more time we spend with the Great Shepherd of the sheep, the more familiar we become with His voice. Therefore the harder it will be for us to be deceived by men speaking “in the Name of God” or by Satan’s siren call. Beloved, *we will learn* to discern when the true voice of God is speaking to us by His indwelling Holy Spirit or through His Holy Spirit-anointed servants, and to absolutely know that our Father God will lead and guide us.

Hugs,



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