



# RESURRECTION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

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*Paul and Gretel Haglin*

EVANGELIZING THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER

## Letters of Faith

July 2013

**“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous!  
Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”**  
(Joshua 1:9 NASB)

Dearly Beloved,

*“Success is never final, failure is never fatal. It’s courage that counts.”* (John Wooden, head basketball coach at UCLA who won seven NCAA National Championships in a row.) This quote is often attributed to Winston Churchill as history proved its acuity in the Battle of Britain.

We believe that God is gathering a righteous and holy army of all of us who have the courage to exhibit the Spirit of the Lion of Judah *with* the Spirit of the Lamb of God!

By combining several dictionary definitions of courage, we can assemble an amplified version: Courage is the mental and moral strength to venture and to face and deal with, to persevere against, and to withstand anything that is Fearful, Painful, Dangerous, Difficult, Distressful, or Distasteful—instead of withdrawing from them.

Don't think you are too timid, or too weak, or too young, or too old to be courageous for God! I've heard God say to the Church: *Nothing is impossible for Me. I will equip you, and I will turn you into a mighty, courageous army that My Son will be proud to call His!*

There are three primary battle zones that God is urgently calling men and women of courage to enter into today: Resist the Devil, Rescue the Prey, and Love Your Enemies. These are the three precursors of the fourth and final battle zone: Destroy the Works of the Enemy (which we will discuss in a future letter).

Peter warned us that all who Resist the Devil would suffer pain, hardship, wars, famine, unheard of natural disasters, and opposition because we are the righteous ones that love God while living in a sin-filled world. But take heart, Beloved, we have the Lord Jesus as our very present help in time of trouble—in times of resisting Satan—and awesome undergirding Scriptures like: **“Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him [the devil], firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.”**

(1 Peter 5:8-9) Today's tactics of Satan use messengers of bad news to test and drain our courage! These visionaries of doom trumpet that there is no hope for the human race because of the threats of a terrorist attack, or of a jihad's released pandemic, or of a worldwide financial meltdown!

Although this actually is Satan's plan, consider Gideon! When he finally stopped sniveling and started to obey God, he was turned into a mighty man of faith and power! We must resist the temptation to fall into agreeing with harbingers of apostasy, even though we see it all around us, and start proclaiming and living out the truth that Jesus is going to perfect His Bride *through* these incredibly tough times and finally lead Her into heaven as a glorious, beautiful, and victorious army—even if we can't even imagine now how He can do it!

We *must choose* to Resist the Devil because we cannot serve two masters: **“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and**

**despise the other.”** (Matt. 6:24) Ask God to give you a hate for evil. **“...hate what is evil [loathe all ungodliness, turn in horror from wickedness], but hold fast to that which is good.”** (Rom. 12:9 AMP) Then trust God to do all the rest!

**“Can the prey be taken from the mighty man, or the captives of a tyrant be rescued? Surely, thus says the Lord. ‘Even the captives of the mighty man will be taken away, and the prey of the tyrant will be rescued; for I will contend with the one who contends with you, and I will save your sons.’”** (Isaiah 49:24-25 emphases added)

Beloved, rescuing takes courage and commitment (guts and God)!

For example, David and his men returned to their camp to find it raided and their wives, children, and possessions all carried off by the Amalekites: **“...But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God.”** (vs. 6; the story of David at Ziklag; 1 Sam. 30:1-23) Then, encouraged in prayer and praise, David could hear God command him: **“Pursue, for you will surely overtake them, and you will surely rescue all.”** (vs.8) After God enabled David to rescue all of his loved ones from their captivity, David gave thanks to God saying (vs.23) **“...the Lord... has kept us and delivered into our hand the band that came against us.”** In Ps. 138:3 David proclaims this spiritual victory: **“...You made me bold with strength in my soul.”** (By definition: courageous)

Do you know anybody that has been carried off by the enemy? We do—right in our own small tribe! Take heart with us! God is calling us all to muster the courage to rescue them. He will give us the courage, the tactics, and the victory when we ask Him to **“...make me bold with strength in my soul.”**

God doesn't promise it will be quick, easy, or without pain! But He does promise: **“My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.”** (James 5:19-20) Remember that God has said: **“...I will contend with the one who contends with you, and I will save your sons.”**

And finally, **“...love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.”** (Luke 6:27-28) The word “bless” comes from a Greek word “eulogeo” from which our English word “eulogize” springs, and it means “to speak well of, to praise, even to extol.” I used to tell our congregation to live their lives in such a godly way that when I give their eulogy, I won't have to lie!

Blessing those who curse you is a tough order for all of us with some of our acquaintances, but remember that love disarms the enemy because those under his command do not know love and blessing or how to handle them. Blessing your opponents does something else, too. It frees God, the truly just judge, to deal with them. God cannot deal with your enemy while you are standing in His place as judge. Once you abdicate the throne of judgment that belongs to God alone, and not only forgive, but actually love and bless, God is free by His divine law to administer correction or discipline or even blessing (God's goodness leads to repentance!).

Today, God is calling out an army of courageous lovers that are willing to risk everything to establish the Kingdom of God here on earth and in each other, especially within our families!

Go ahead, dare to call abortion “murder” when people around you discuss it. Be willing to bear the stigma of being linked to “fanatics” like us. But present your case with such a heart-sorrow for the deaths of those who will never know a mother's love that God's grieving heart will be felt through your compassion, not only for the frightened or confused pregnant woman, but for the unborn baby as well.

Go ahead and call marijuana an addictive and life-altering drug, but love the victim with all your heart, words, and expression—allow your agony for him to show.

Remember, the reason that you enter into any kind of confrontation is to win them over to the Lord, not to punch them out for having the wrong idea! Make sure that your attitude reflects the simplicity and the purity of the love of the Lamb as well as the boldness of the Lion.

Are you willing to join us in admitting that you need a fresh load of courage? Are you willing to join us in asking the Lord to forgive you for not being strong and courageous in some battles of the past? It takes courage to admit our cowardliness, but once we do, we are ready to accept the responsibility of more Godly courage.

Hell will tremble before you, Beloved (Church), because the councils (gates) of the wicked (hell) cannot prevail against God's courageous and Holy Spirit empowered us!

See courage as a sword, a battle standard, a ministry mantle, or whatever the Holy Spirit chooses to show you. **"Be strong and courageous"** —reach out to God and grasp the freeing gift of courage. Begin to use it to present the Kingdom of God here on earth with power and love.

Huge (trying to become courageous) Hugs,

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

Paul & Gretel