



# RESURRECTION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

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EVANGELIZING THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER

## Letters of Faith

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**“So do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself.  
Each day has enough trouble of its own.”**  
Matthew 6:34 NASB (1971)

Dearly Beloved,

Some years ago, one of my good social friends shared excitedly with me the teaching he was preparing for his next teenage Sunday school class. It consisted primarily of quotes of current news headlines that he recognized would really stir up fear and anxiety in their minds. He said that would lead them to want to get more active in national and community political affairs (like he was) in an effort to arrest the tide of horror that he saw was engulfing our governance.

Alarm bells went off all over me because we had ministered to several folks that had supposedly come into the Kingdom in response to scary ministry, and they had to receive deliverance and a *real* new birth in Christ Jesus, the Prince of Peace, to get free from some very debilitating influences of the enemy.

So I linked into his excitement and said that it was a great idea because then he could lead them to Jesus who doesn't want us to be anxious for anything.

He responded to my “encouraging word” (a “misspelling” of gently correcting word) rather strongly and said: “There's nothing in the Bible that says we aren't supposed to be anxious. How could there be? We are living in an anxiety-producing world and it always has been. That's what makes us get things done!” (I remember wishing at the time that I had a pocket-size edition of our teachings on Trusting God, and on Performance Motivation.)

It just so happened that I did have a pocket-sized New Testament in my suit jacket, so I pulled it out and showed him Matthew 6:34. His eyesight was not very good so he took it over to a table lamp to see the very small print in a brighter light, protesting all the way that I was making it up. When he recognized I wasn't kidding, he got very pensive. He was a man who knew very little Bible, but what he did know, he highly respected. So I pushed the boundaries a little further by showing him 1 Peter 5:7: “... **casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.**” Of course it is very hard to cast your anxieties on someone you don't know (because he didn't yet know Jesus and had a rather unclear knowledge of God), but he definitely got the idea that he should change the direction of his next day's teaching.

As I eagerly waited in vain over the following days and weeks to have more “Bible talk” with him, I finally realized that the contextual setting for 1 Peter 5:7 could have been a blockage that kept him at arms length from God: “**Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time...**” (1 Peter 5:6). Like so many very successful men (and women), he was very proud of his successes and did not take kindly to

even a hint that he shouldn't be. I also think he was actually so anxious about the direction of our country himself, that he just couldn't face being told that God didn't want him to be anxious about it. It is grievous to me when I think of him in the light of what God said through the Prophet Jeremiah: **“Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind and makes flesh his strength, and whose heart turns away from the Lord.”** (Jeremiah 17:5). Surely this is a warning to everyone these days that identifies with “it takes a village” to raise a child, or do anything else worthwhile.

Why do I bring up this experience right now?

Because I have been sensing a general malaise of anxiety over the whole Body of Christ and even more so over society in general. My discernment of this spiritual malaise was confirmed last week when a precious and quite prophetic sister in Christ said: “I think there is a spirit of fear and anxiety tormenting the whole Church.”

Have you recognized it? We discussed the fear thing last month, but do you connect it with anxiety? We emphasized then that God does not want us to fear—unless it is the awesome Fear of The Lord the Bible teaches us—and now we are doubling-down on anxiety with which He also says He does not want us to be burdened.

There is ample evidence in Scripture that God Himself releases anxiety upon a sinful and violent people. For example: **“Then say to the people of the land, ‘Thus says the Lord God concerning the inhabitants of Jerusalem in the land of Israel, ‘They will eat their bread with anxiety and drink their water with horror, because their land will be stripped of its fullness on account of the violence of all who live in it.’”** (Ezekiel 12:19) And also upon creation itself as it hungers and thirsts for righteousness: **“For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.”** (Romans 8:19)

There are signs of societal anxiety all around us, if we have eyes and ears to discern them, and there are loads of Scriptures that describe them: **“Anxiety in a man's heart weighs it down, but a good word makes it glad.”** (Prov. 12:25) And, Psalm 94:19: **“When my anxious thoughts multiply within me, Your consolations delight my soul.”** And, **“For I confess my iniquity; I am full of anxiety because of my sin.”** (Psalm 38:18) And, Psalm 139:23-24: **“Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way.”**

In light of God's injunctions to not be anxious (as in Matthew 6:34 above), we must note that some Scriptures describing man's anxiety include the means of overcoming it. Notice: **“...a good word makes it [a man's heart] glad”** and **“...Your consolations delight my soul.”** So God's Word and His Holy Spirit's consolations remove the anxieties and replace them with gladness and delight (quite the opposites of anxiety).

God's Word also gives us directions for ministering freedom from the bondages of anxiety: **“Say to those with anxious heart, ‘Take courage, fear not. Behold, your God will come with vengeance; the recompense of God will come, but He will save you.’”** (Isaiah 35:4) Yes, Beloved, very hard times are coming because of the expanding blatant sin in this country and in the world, and we Christians are not going to be immune to its effects like Israel was in the Land of Goshen during the plagues in Egypt. But God's Word says He will save us! Whether that means we will be protected through it or removed from it, I do not yet know. I do know that God says to us: **“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything**

**by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” (Philippians 4:6)**

If we do not overcome the spirits of fear and anxiety that are trying to rule over us as a Body of God’s People, we will be susceptible the major deceptions that Satan is planning to dominate us with in the end times: **“...the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.”** (2 Thess. 2:9-10)

As I was originally writing these words of faith to you in the early afternoon of April 15, 2013, the two bombs were set off in Boston at the finishing line area of the Boston Marathon. I had just heard about it when my brother called from Florida to let me know that his grandson was running the marathon (a long time dream of his) and was a mere two blocks from the finish line when he heard the explosions. His bride is a nurse and was a volunteer in the emergency/recovery tent area at the time. Neither of them was injured, thank You Jesus! We thanked God together that they had both been protected.

Yes Lord, we really do believe Your Word that **“...each day has enough trouble of its own.”**

Beloved, we are freshly and rudely made aware of the attempts of the enemy to draw us all into anxiety and fear by this cowardly act of terrorism in our own country. Do not let him succeed!

Remember, trust, and apply: **“Say to those with anxious heart...He will save you.”** And continue to pray protection for all your family members, for your community, for our country, and for the world in approaching chaos!

Beloved, *now* is the time to take seriously God’s Word to ***be anxious for nothing!*** Pray about it, work on overcoming it, and practice *being anxious for nothing* so you will not be overtaken by anxiety or fear. God’s precious Words of assurance to us are: **“Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord and whose trust is the Lord. For he will be like a tree planted by the water, that extends its roots by a stream and will not fear when the heat comes; but its leaves will be green, and it will not be anxious in a year of drought nor cease to yield fruit.”** (Jer. 17:7-8)

Huge un-anxious hugs,



Paul & Gretel