



RESURRECTION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

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Paul and Gretel Haglin

EVANGELIZING THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER

Letters of Faith

August 2013

**“...we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard,
lest we drift away from it.”**

Hebrews 2:1 NASB

Dearly Beloved,

We have received some very positive, and yet very thought provoking, responses to our last three Letters of Faith. May was all about not ever being anxious about anything. June emphasized our need to walk in the sufficiency of God's Grace. July was another call to be strong and courageous.

Now the Lord is saying to me: *Pay closer attention to what you have written, because there is more there than you think.* Startling to say the least, but consistent with what some of you have said in your responses to these letters.

Right now we are personally going through a severe test on not being anxious over the sale of Eagles Nest Farm. As we prepare to close the sale, which we need to provide the long term care Gretel requires, some title problems have arisen which fairly shout *certainly you have to be anxious over this!* And, as all of you who have moved recently will know too well, it is a real “strain” to empty your home of all your personal property and intimate touches without allowing some anxieties to get a grip on your heart. In our case, this means removing all traces of our 47 years of ownership and our 32 years of residency. [You could have no idea of all we had stored in our great barn and two garages during those years!]

Your situation may be different, but the challenge to walk free of anxiety is just as severe.

Under these circumstances, to obey God's admonition to be anxious about nothing requires great gobs of Grace. But we recall the strong and humorous exhortations of our Father in the Word, Bob Mumford, who would repeatedly say when you say you are “under the circumstances,” he would ask *what are you doing under there?* Thanks again, Bob! Once more your words of great Grace are lifting us back up to where our Lord Jesus wants us to walk with Him.

So it seemed natural to us to follow up our ministry on His Grace with a word about being strong and courageous, because walking in His Grace can (and usually does) take both.

So many of you responded to this flow that we really felt good about having heard a Word from the Lord that blessed His Church. But then came the *Pay closer attention to what you have written* word whispered into our ears. So we sat still for a bit and started to get some very challenging thoughts. For example:

Since His Grace is all-sufficient, what do you have to be bold and courageous about?

Is God's Grace dependant on your strength, or totally operating out of His love for you?

Does “white knuckle” courage really keep anxiety away from your heart and mind?

All of these thoughts and questions require answers, and we think He is giving us a handle on them.

An old Sunday school rhyme came to mind: “Every promise in the book is mine: every chapter, every verse, every line.” That is true, but is it The Truth? Actually this “promise slogan” eliminates any requirements on us to receive all His promises. The whole Truth is in John 15:7-8: **“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.”**

So let us start there in more fully understanding God’s Words to us to be bold and strong and courageous to maintain an anxiety-free walk in God’s Grace.

You have a choice: abide, live in, and have your existence in Christ, or in the world of the flesh all around you which is ever more insidious and offensive to the Holy Spirit in you. We all have to learn to make the decision to abide by His choice and appointment of us to be His! **“You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.”** (John 15:16) Please note that the only kind of fruit that remains is spiritual fruit. Natural fruit spoils and gets rotten very quickly, but the fruit of the Holy Spirit remains fresh and luscious forever.

The decision to choose abiding in Christ Jesus takes immense courage in most of the world today, and is taking more and more courage here in America where we almost daily hear of men and women being released from their careers because they boldly dare to call Jesus their Lord.

It increasingly appears to be the time for which the Apostle Paul wrote his great prayer for us (Eph. 3: 14-21): **“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be *strengthened* with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.”** (emphases added)

So we see that the strength we need is spiritual strength through the Holy Spirit in our inner man! Thus it is not our ability to be “strong,” but His ability to flow *His strength* through us that is necessary for us to maintain an anxiety-free walk in God’s grace.

We particularly like the part of this prayer of Paul’s for us to have a full revelation of God’s love: Wide enough (**breadth**) to cover all of us; Long enough (**length**) to last into eternity; High enough (**height**) to include our moments of great joy and triumph; and Deep enough (**depth**) to sustain us through our most overwhelming discouragements.

We find confirmation of this use of the word strength regarding our walk in Eph. 6:10 &12 where Paul proclaims: **“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might... For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.”**

With help from the Holy Spirit and God’s Word, we are now again comfortable with and excited about the linking together our being free from anxiety, our fully receiving God’s Grace, and our being bold, strong, and courageous.

God’s Grace *is* all His and *is* rooted in His love for us, and *is not* dependant on us to earn it somehow, but *we must decide* to walk anxiety-free and to be bold, strong, and courageous in the spirit realm to receive it fully!

Heavenly Father, we praise You and give You thanks for equipping us with your wondrous love and availing us with Your all-sufficient Grace as we walk with You and Your Son, Jesus, through

these troubling times here on earth. Embolden us to pray and to believe that Your will is going to be done on this earth even as it is in Heaven. We commit to believing and demonstrating that Your Grace is sufficient for every need, situation, and condition we will ever experience Amen.

Huge Haglin Hugs,

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

P.S.

Alexis and I took Gretel out of her special care facility to have lunch with us at her favorite eatery, Applebee's. Her short-term memory is nearly completely gone now, but she is staying sweet and was delighted to get out and about with us. She is still very huggy with me, PTL. She gobbled down the spinach and artichoke dip and a small cheeseburger with great delight. Her heart is to get to go home, which we assured her she will when she is all healed. Our understanding of her "going home" is different than hers at the moment, but God's gentle and loving Holy Spirit will adjust that when the time comes. Thank you for your prayers for her, and for us. Love; Paul