



RESURRECTION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

1 Monarch Trace Ct. #106, Chesterfield, MO 63017-4618 - Ph: 636-778-9361 - rcmin2@charter.net

Paul and Gretel Haglin

EVANGELIZING THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER

Letters of Faith

August 2016

“The man, the lord of the land, said to us, ‘By this I will know that you are honest men: leave one of your brothers with me and take grain for the famine of your households, and go. But bring your youngest brother to me that I may know that you are not spies, but honest men. I will give your brother to you, and you may trade in the land.’” (Genesis 42:33-34)

Dearly Beloved,

Honesty has always been held high as a personal characteristic but often held in suspicion until demonstrated. We are in such a position in our society right now.

I keep hearing in my spirit parts of a prophetic word I was given to speak many years ago at a Women’s Aglow meeting here in St. Louis. When Gretel completed her teaching ministry to the group, and we had ministered together to some of the saints in tongues and interpretations, I sensed a powerful unction of the Holy Spirit to release a prophecy starting with the strong injunction: *“Seek the honest man!”*

My problem with this was twofold. First, that is all I heard. I was used to getting more of the words to come, or a vision to describe, before being comfortable with speaking forth and allowing the Holy Spirit to faithfully finish the complete message.

My second problem was that I did not want to distract in any way from the superb teaching ministry that Gretel had released or the personal Holy Spirit ministry that had followed through the two of us. But I still felt compelled to speak, which I finally did.

I have searched my files to find a copy of that long ago word, but with no success. So I am trusting in the Lord with all my heart that He is bringing back the main sense and meaning of that word which He spoke through me so long ago:

Seek the honest man! Do not fear speaking what you hear in the ears of your heart. Those who have spiritual ears to hear Me will hear and will understand and take heed of My warning. But those who have their ears and eyes and heart intent only on their own dishonest gain will experience My ears being closed to their cries for help in their times of greed.

Seek the honest man! You will find his sword of truth is stronger and sharper than that of any who hear and heed the lies of the enemy. You can trust a liar to lie because they do the works of their father, and the father of all liars is the Devil. If a man will lie about his covenant relationship, he is a liar and will lie about anything.

While I was doing a word study on “honesty” for this letter, I found many places where the Scripture says somewhat similar things. You might enjoy checking out the following references: Jer. 22:17; John 8:44; Rom. 3:4; 1 John 2:4.

When I gave this word originally, I was severely castigated by one of the local pastors for whom I had (and still have) great respect and affection. He mistakenly thought I was making an untimely public rebuke of another local pastor who had just been discovered to be in several sinful situations. The fact was that I had no idea of this other brother’s transgressions against His Lord and the Body of Christ at that time, and the admonition to walk in honesty was directly applicable to, and (thank God) received by, a totally different local pastor. I’m grateful to be able to report that my “chastiser” was understanding when corrected and quick to heal me from his scorching.

We have a God-given inner desire to be honest and a natural repugnance to the dishonesty of liars. It's a good thing that we do because it provides much-needed natural boundaries in our practice of righteous judgment.

The revival love story of Ananias and Sapphira found in the fifth chapter of Acts clearly presents the importance that our Lord places on His beloved being honest with each other and with Him. When the Holy Spirit gave Peter the Word of Knowledge that Ananias and Sapphira were not being honest with him about their offering being all they had made from selling a piece of their property, he pronounced the death penalty upon each one of them for lying to him and to God: **“While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.”** (Acts 5:4)

Proverbs 19:22 comes to mind: **“What is desirable in a man is his kindness, and it is better to be a poor man than a liar.”**

When I first began to understand the principles of the love of God and the forgiveness Jesus purchased for our sins on the cross, I was stumbled by the idea that God would totally whack this couple for lying to Peter. Although the Apostle Paul clearly states that **“...the wages of sin is death...”** I was learning that since we all sin and don't immediately die physically, this death was a spiritual thing, not a literal physical thing for repentant believers.

After all, Isaiah 53:4-5 clearly states that Jesus bore on the cross all of the physical chastisements due us: **“Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed.”** How could God knock off His kids?

During a rather intense time of struggling with this apparent aberrance in God's Word, the Holy Spirit gently asked me a simple question: *Where in Scripture does it say that Ananias and Sapphira were believers in Christ Jesus?*

I read and reread the Acts 5 account, and realized that they are never referred to as believers. Therefore, God was free to deal with them physically as He did on several occasions with the Old Testament saints in the wilderness (think snake bites and the ground opening up to swallow a whole family).

One thing remained seriously impressed on me: God does not accept liars!

He is seeking honest men and women to make up the Bride of His Son.

The opposite of being honest is being a liar. Our beloved John makes very clear statements about Father God's definition and attitude towards liars: **“The one who says, ‘I have come to know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him...”** (1 John 2:4) **“Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.”** (1 John 2:22) **“If someone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.”** (1 John 4:20)

There is no ambiguity about the destiny of liars in the Book of Revelation: **“But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”** (Rev. 21:8) Surely we must all be careful to not be part of that bunch of reprobates.

Moses' father-in-law clearly established honesty in his guidelines for the character requirements of leaders and administrators selected for governance:

“Furthermore, you shall select out of all the people able men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain; and you shall place these over them as leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens.” (Ex. 18:21)

So we really see from the beginning to the end of our Scriptures great emphasis on honesty in God's servants.

Is it therefore not important to us today to consider honesty a critical characteristic of any leader in our family, our community, and our government?

Beloved, I am not hesitant to point out that there is one candidate for the Presidency of the United States today that has such a proven record of lies and misrepresentations that the character of being honest cannot possibly be applied. Since honesty is such a big thing to our God, it should also be a major consideration to us when we are making voting decisions that so directly affect the future existence of this country under God!

As believers in the one true God, we are responsible to live by the standards that He has so clearly set down for us to know and apply in our daily lives. Being honest is a very important trait for all of us to pursue and expect in each other.

Let it be the major point in every Christian's decision-making in this coming election.

Huge hugs,



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