



# RESURRECTION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

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EVANGELIZING THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER

## Letters of Faith

October 2015

**If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.**

Galatians 5:25

Dearly Beloved,

Almost all of the headlines scream in our ears and eyes, “The world is going to Hell in a hurry!” Some are a bit more introspective with, “Is the USA at a tipping point toward self-destruction?” No matter what the following fine print declares however, our big name pundits of responsible governance are apparently unanimously judging us as being headed to the destruction of America as we have known her. And to our shame, the bulk of our big church leaders are right up front in agreement with them, but may I add, for entirely different reasons.

So have I been wrong in declaring we must not tremble and be afraid by saying, **“For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.”** (2 Tim. 1:7 – May and September LOF); and, **“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change and though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains quake at its swelling pride. Selah.”**? (Psalm 46:1-3 – August LOF)

Have I been indulging in “Pollyanna” wishful thinking?

What follows is a summary of my ponderings on this subject. I’d love to hear your thoughts on this pertinent and timely subject and on what you are basing your thinking.

Please note, my source for the following data and insights is the World Revival Network Blog's article from August 18th, 2015 which can be found in its entirety, along with their documentation, at [www.worldrevivalnetwork.blogspot.com](http://www.worldrevivalnetwork.blogspot.com)

The statement leading off the presentation of their data is most arresting: “Based on social media and television news reports, multitudes are convinced that the world is growing worse and worse. Yet, there’s absolutely no evidence of this. By every measurable standard, life is improving around the globe. Darkness is fading and the goodness of God’s Kingdom is truly taking root. This statement isn’t just a matter of opinion, but a reflection of verifiable statistics.”

The first basis presented for this conclusion, believe it or not, are statistics showing war, violence, and desperation historically decreasing worldwide:

- ❖ Annual War Battle Deaths, 1946-2007—way down.
- ❖ Annual Mass Killings, 1945-2013 way down—“Today we may be living in the most peaceable era in the existence of the species.”
- ❖ Global Poverty, 1820-2010 amazingly reduced—“Since 1980 world poverty declined from 50% to 21% —the fastest rate in history.”
- ❖ Health and Life Expectancy, huge increases—“In just 100 years, the average American’s life expectancy has gone from 40 to 75.”

Most important to us as believers, is the detailed analysis of the growth of Evangelical Christianity worldwide, especially in previously unchallenged Muslim dominated areas: “The number of those who claim to be Christians around the world has nearly quadrupled in the last century, from about 600 million in 1910 to more than 2.3 billion as of 2011.” And: “Every year, 6 million Muslims convert to Christianity.”

The formal conclusions set forth in this study are worth quoting: “Unbiased analysis and a multitude of relevant statistics confirm that the world is actually getting better. There is greater prosperity, peace, and health than ever before in recorded history. The Kingdom of God is boldly advancing and it is transforming everything in its wake.”

In addition to all this good news is the fact that Evangelical Christianity growth is faster than the country population growth all around the world *except* in a scattered handful of countries. Unfortunately three of these countries where Christian growth is lagging stick out like a sore thumb on a world map: *the United States of America and Canada and Great Britain.*

Our mentor in God’s revealed Word, Bob Mumford, taught extensively on The Kingdom of God and our part and place in it while we are still here on this earthly plane. He emphasized the importance of knowing and experiencing the truth that, “**...the Kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.**” (Romans 14:17) But unlike so many of his contemporaries, he also almost always pointed out the deep truth of the next verse, “**For he who in this way serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men.**” (Rom. 14:18, emphasis added) For years church teaching has emphasized the difficulties we will experience when we publicly confess Jesus as our Lord and Savior. As a result, many Christians have lost their joy, and have either become very private about their beliefs, or have accepted a defiling bitterroot expectation that the world would despise them for their “bizarre beliefs,” and therefore often experience their bitterroot expectations eagerly fulfilled by increasingly activist atheists.

Bob’s proper exegetical understanding of these Scriptures saved us from either of these two misunderstandings that tend to paralyze the Body of Christ. But in general, the American Church is suffering from a cooling on the centrality of the Holy Spirit of God which is being replaced by teachings that scratch itching ears instead of stoking the fires of experiencing and demonstrating the love and power of our glorious Lord Jesus just as He commanded us to do.

Saints anointed and called to take the whole Gospel around the world seem to not be held back by the many faith-deadening traditions reigning here at home. As this statistical study proves, even the majority of the Muslim world eagerly accepts the full Gospel when presented *and demonstrated effectively.*

As this above summarized study concludes, “What is now transpiring in the nations really shouldn’t surprise any Bible-believing Christian. It’s something that the Prophet Isaiah assured us centuries ago: ‘**...the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore.**’” (Isaiah 9:6b-7a NASB, emphasis added)

Now let’s get down to our own experiences in our home churches. To what extent does our experience verify or contradict these worldwide statistical conclusions?

The fellowship I am part of includes in its statement of faith an emphasis on honoring the Holy Spirit and living a Holy Spirit-led life. When we gather together, we share current testimonies of His

manifest agape love and power in our lives, our families' lives, and in the overseas fellowships that we are connected to by faith and by personal contact. We rejoice over a steady stream of fabulous testimonies of healings and miracles being ministered and received by saints here in our midst as well as those abroad.

I received the following testimony from my granddaughter as I was writing this epistle: "My pregnant sister-in-law had an ultrasound a few weeks ago. The doctors found multiple cysts on the baby's brain and the head was too small. Their best-case scenario was the baby would have deformed hands that could not straighten out, and their worst-case was the baby would be stillborn. We all agreed in prayer and stood together in faith for the cysts to go, the baby to be made right, and the next scan to be clear. They had the scan Monday and **THE CYSTS WERE ALL GONE**, the baby's head was **NORMAL SIZE**, and she even had her hands fully stretched out as if to show us **NO DEFORMITIES HERE!** The doctors were shocked but said the baby is **completely FINE!** Praise the **LORD!**"

I dare say that there were very few, if any, American churches that had a steady flow of Holy Spirit testimonies like this 60-70 years ago. So we must confess that the Holy Spirit-honoring Church has grown much more "New Testament-like."

A prophetic word of the Lord came to me while Gretel and I were ministering together at a major conference in England ten or more years ago, saying:

*I am going to divide the gatherings of My people with a plumb line. On one side of the base line shall be those gatherings where I am invited, honored, and extolled; received, heard, and responded to in obedience. On the other side shall be all those gatherings in which man's programs and traditions hold sway and are exalted, and where My presence is not invited or even missed! The people of the world whom I am drawing into My Kingdom will recognize My presence, or lack of it, and will move only into those bodies of believers where I Am—where they can experience My manifest presence!*

Some of the leadership of this conference, along with several of the other main speakers, digested it and discussed it with us during break-times *and accepted it*. There were more tapes of that session sold to conferees than to any other session, showing that the majority of the "sheep of His pasture" took it to heart. I believe we are seeing that word being manifested in our local church experiences today.

There is an increased commitment among many church leaders to return the Holy Spirit to His position of prominence in their assemblies, with Bethel Church in Redding, California as a prime example for churches of all sizes. And of course, it is our life here at Higher Ground International Church, St. Louis! ([www.highergroundstl.org](http://www.highergroundstl.org))

I pray that you are enjoying the life, and challenges, and great blessings that are available to you when you assemble to worship, praise, and be edified and exhorted together in the manifest presence of the Holy Spirit.

If not, why not?

As to the future, who are you believing, CNN (and friends) or Isaiah?

Blessed Holy Spirit Hugs,

