



# RESURRECTION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

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*Paul Haglin*

EVANGELIZING THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER

## Letters of Faith

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**“...now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light  
(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth),  
trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.”**

Ephesians 5:8-10 NASB

**“...walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects...”**

Colossians 1:10

Dearly Beloved,

Summer seems to have arrived early this year, but Spring events still happened and nature is still enthusiastically preening itself to please the Lord. The graceful willows wrapped themselves in a shimmering gauze of spring-green leaves, and in spite of the heat, the myriads of spring beauty blossoms unfolded their petals each morning to create a living canvas to show off the vivid colors and shapes of the violets and bloodroots. Many of these exquisite blossoms appear in our deep woods and will never be discovered or admired by human beings, yet they faithfully display the unique creativity and power of God for His eyes to enjoy.

How the Lord longs for His highest creation to want to please Him more than we want to please ourselves or others; to please Him even when no one else is looking or admiring our effort; to please Him like the flowers and the trees do even in the remote areas.

Our present life is the sum of all our past decisions—both good and bad. The consequences of both mold our character and, in a great part, affect our future. We would be doomed to reap the full repercussions of the bad ones for the rest of our lives if it weren't for the grace, kindness, and mercy of the Lord! When we enter into the Kingdom through faith in the saving grace of Jesus Christ, our past horribly-wrong decisions, attitudes, and actions are weighed, and when we confess them as sins against God and our fellow man, they are pronounced forgiven! Jesus said, **“Neither do I condemn you; go your way; from now on sin no more.”** (John 8:11) Jesus is the King of Grace!

In this way, Jesus grants us a new “slate,” a clear conscience, and the Holy Spirit to be our teacher, helper, and empowerer to make righteous decisions. Once we accept what Christ has done for us on the cross, we have a real choice not to sin, because we are free from its control and condemnation. We suddenly realize that we want to please God more than we want to sin, because we have been given a new heart.

That we Christians have been given the power and courage, the ability and desire, to choose righteously is one of the most exciting messages of Christianity! Therefore, it is very important that each decision we make now should be a righteous one, one with which the Holy Spirit within us is at peace. Unbelievers are watching to see if the gospel is really true in our lives. No amount of pious talk is as effective a witness as the

fact of our living a holy and honorable life through the One whom we call our Lord, Jesus.

Even those who are not in the Kingdom of God recognize the truth that “actions speak louder than words!” God gave us sage advice and models of various aspects of righteousness through His prophets, but He also sent us a perfect model for us to imitate in His Son, Jesus. It is important to Him that we represent Him accurately! Friedrich Nietzsche, the German philosopher whose bitterness toward Christianity greatly influenced Adolf Hitler, had a character in one of his novels declare that for him to learn to have faith in their Redeemer, “...his disciples would have to look more redeemed!”

In some Christian circles, the truth that we don’t need to “earn” God’s love has been so over-emphasized that this other important basic truth has been ignored. God expects us to reflect His Son in everything we think, do, and say because *that* is what pleases Him.

God is not morally indifferent, and we must not act toward Him as if He were. The only way to show real respect and love for God’s purity is to ask God to give us such a hatred of sin that we are repulsed by it, and such a love for Jesus that we would not do anything to add another sin to the pain He bore for us on the cross.

When we, who are supposed to personify divine love and righteousness, act unbecomingly, we impute a lie to First Corinthians 13:5 that says love “...**does not act unbecomingly...**” We can cause others to stumble by our God-dishonoring actions, and this grieves the Holy Spirit who is trying to teach them and us the ways of the Lord.

We are deceived if we think that what we do privately does not matter to God or affect the rest of the Body of Christ! It is easy to become beguiled into thinking, “*I am doing my job very well, and what I do in my private life is no one else’s business!*” No matter how many times this hackneyed expression is quoted through famous lips, it is still a delusion!

When we believers observe behavior that dishonors Christ in a self-professed Christian, we should cringe and check our own actions in similar circumstances.

It pleases God when being honest in financial matters comes naturally to us. In Second Corinthians 8:20-21, the Apostle Paul wrote that he was “**taking precaution that no one should discredit us in our administration of this generous gift; for we have regard for what is honorable, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.**” And Peter cautioned his readers: “**Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may on account of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.**” (1 Peter 2:12) Peter knew that people will believe in a supernatural God especially when their eyes and hearts are opened to experience how He has changed known sinners into saints.

The Apostle Paul reminded the Philippians in 2:14-16a: “**Do all things without grumbling or disputing; that you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life...**” He taught the people that their personal behavior does cast reflection on all other Christians. He writes in Titus 3:8, “**...I want you to speak confidently, so that**

**those who have believed God may be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men.”** Because, **“When a man’s ways are pleasing to the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.”** (Proverbs 16:7)

With a promise like this, we can easily consider it all joy to make any changes in us He wants to make in order for us to be pleasing to Him. **“So we [must] make it our goal to please Him...”** (2 Corinthians 5:9a NIV)

*Precious Lord Jesus, I think it is my primary goal to be pleasing to You. When You see something in me that has preempted that desire, please show me, forgive me, deliver me, and teach me how to replace it with what honors You, so that I will walk day-by-day, step-by-step, pleasing You in all respects. Amen.*

Huge Haglin Hugs,



#### MINISTRY UPDATE:

I am sure that some of you have noticed an increase in the times I have failed to get you a *Letters of Faith* on the usual first of the month. I assure you that this has in no way been because of any deficiency in proofing, editing, printing, and distributing of LOF by Joel and Meg (The Faithful RCM “staff” forever) who have consistently performed herculean efforts in these aspects of monthly publishing of LOF for nearly forty years. Rather, it has been a combination of some health issues sidelining me for several “quick cures” (thank you for the “quick” as well as the cures, Jesus!) and a general lack of my accustomed strength and energy.

While pondering the implications of these interruptions, the Holy Spirit engineered some brilliant words of encouragement from some precious saints He ministered to through us years ago proclaiming their desire for me to continue providing them with “epistles of encouragement and faith.”

Simultaneously I received a prophetic exhortation to continue from our dear Apostolic British co-laborer, Robert Weston, who added a practical word of counsel: “Set the calendar aside and wait on the Holy Spirit to point you to treasures in your teaching and ministry experiences that will encourage, bless, and edify today’s saints facing the same ‘roadblocks’ in their faith walks.”

I am sharing this with you all so that hopefully you will be comfortable with continuing your support of *Letters of Faith* even if it is on a schedule established by the Holy Spirit instead of our calendars. I also hope it conveys how important we consider your feedback on what we think is of value to us all on our walks into eternity with Jesus. Bless you, and thank you for all of your recent expressions of love and appreciation and support!