



RESURRECTION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

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EVANGELIZING THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER

Letters of Faith

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“And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.”

Luke 2:12-14 NASB

Dearly Beloved,

Peace! Most of the world yearns to experience peace and yet it is convulsed with threats, anger, hate, wars, destruction, envies, terrorism, murders, and strife—just like when Jesus was born in Bethlehem years ago.

Peace! What are we longing for when we say that we hope for peace? The answer depends upon to whom you are speaking!

The Muslims declare that they desire “peace,” but that it can only come if the whole world is Muslim, and to that end, they will fight and kill and terrorize to bring it to pass!

The Communists claim that they want “peace,” but in their writings they describe “peace” as the state in which there would be no more people or nations who would not live “peaceably” under Communism’s rule.

The gangs in the inner city talk eagerly to the media about ceasefires and “gang peace” which they describe as the time when there are no other gangs left to challenge them.

So it goes around the world: *“Under MY rule there will be peace—just as soon as we can crush the opposition once and for all.”* All of these “nations” want their agenda followed without question or protest, so they fight one another and oppress the innocent in order to forcefully bring about their idea of “peace!”

Our Father God chose to send His Son into a seething world of evil, to a place writhing under the yoke of Roman rule and the heavy burden of religious laws. Rebellion and revenge were twin bubbling volcanoes ready to explode.

In Isaiah 9:6c-7a, Isaiah writes of the glimpse he caught of this awesome gift to mankind of His peace: the One who was going to come down from heaven into our midst. He waxed eloquent about this coming Messiah, **“...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...”** No wonder the prophets and the people of God longed to see Him!

When He came, the Lord Jesus said to those who chose to follow Him, **“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.”** (John 14:27) The peace that Jesus offered His disciples was not intended to shield them from tumultuous events, the false accusations, or the unjust persecutions, but to sustain and strengthen them in and through all those circumstances.

They had witnessed Jesus standing in their wildly rocking fishing boat, calmly but firmly facing a howling gale and speaking quietly but authoritatively into its roar: **“Peace, be still.”**

(Mark 4:39 KJV) They remembered with awe seeing the furies immediately stop in their foamy tracks and the threatening waves quickly subside to mere ripples that lapped meekly against the sides of their boat.

His apostles experienced the same freedom in their lives when Jesus spoke “Peace!” to their souls. (Ref. John 14) The storms of fear and anger battering their hearts and minds were extinguished immediately by the power of His spoken Word! He gave them His peace in which they subsequently strode calmly through demonic storms of raging hatred and opposition to the amazement of all who watched them. The peace that remained in which His apostles worked, ministered, and lived was nourished because of their close relationship with Him. **“For He Himself is our peace...”** (Ephesians 2:14a) When we live with, or are closely associated with, someone who walks in God’s peace within themselves, it affects our life and leads us into that same peace.

His followers didn't understand Him when He told them, **“I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”** (John 16:33 NIV) But they knew that only He had the **“words of eternal life”** (John 6:68) and that gave them **“the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension (which would) guard (their) hearts and (their) minds in Christ Jesus.”** (Philippians 4:7)

Righteous people around the world will soon be corporately celebrating Jesus coming in the flesh. Once again, the Prince of Peace coming into a world where there is no peace. That is, there is no peace *except in Him!*

Jesus certainly never even implied that His disciples would be exempt from the world’s problems. Rather, He promised that in Him they could always find the peace that they needed to make the right decisions, to have the courage to overcome the forces of evil that try so hard to destroy the truth and our faith in it, and even to face a martyr’s death with joy in Him.

We can face storms that rise up out of nowhere and threaten our lives: the storms of doubt and unbelief, of lies and beguilement, of temptation and despair. At His Word they all must cease their battering of our thoughts and emotions! Backed by the quiet calm of Jesus’ authority, we can overcome the tumults because, **“...God has called us to peace.”** (1 Corinthians 7:15)

Let us therefore **“...be diligent to be found by Him in peace...”** (2 Peter 3:14) that we may be used to minister His peace: to quiet the disquieted, to bring His tranquility to the tormented, to harness reckless anger, and to speak peace to the frightened in His Name. **“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”** (Matt. 5:9)

Let us particularly be at peace with each other in the Body of Christ. It is by demonstrating the peace amongst us, and the love we have for each other, that the world will know that God has sent His Son, Jesus!

This is the season for joyously celebrating the miracle of the incarnation of God in Jesus: the birth of the Prince of Peace. Let us corporately thank God Almighty for this divine intervention on our behalf with a prayer for the hastening of the time for the establishing of God’s will on earth as it is in heaven, when we will see the God of Peace sitting on the throne in His Shekinah Glory, and the whole world bathed in His peace and light!

“Now (may) the God of peace...equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in (you) that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.” (Hebrews 13:20-21)

Peace and hugs to you and yours this Christmas, in Jesus’ Name!



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