



RESURRECTION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

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EVANGELIZING THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER

Letters of Faith

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Dearly Beloved,

At the beginning of this new year, we have been led back to meditating on the sequential passages from the Epistles that reveal the progression that our Father God has called us to ascend in our understanding of who we are in Christ. The Apostle Paul described his determination in Philippians 3:14: to **“...press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”** There are higher levels of faith that we are encouraged to stretch our spiritual muscles to reach! And each time we obtain a new knowledge and faith in our oneness with Jesus Christ and have walked in it in awe and joy, the heavens part and we are privileged to catch a glimpse of yet another exciting level of living in Him awaiting us ahead.

It is an exhilarating adventure to walk in the Spirit at the side of the Master learning the “trade.” There we learn what it means to be a fellow worker with Jesus, a partaker of His life, and a coheir with Him of the promises of God.

Let your spirit visually follow this upward flight of faith Jesus Christ has opened for us who yearn not only to become more like Him, but also to participate in the work of the Kingdom with Him. The Father has created us to be partakers of His glory and His love with His only Son.

Our prayer for the Church today is that the revelation of this truth might grab hold deep within us: **“If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is.”** (Colossians 3:1) Boldly become:

1. “Partakers of the promise”—Ephesians 3:6
2. “Partakers of grace.”—Philippians 1:7
3. “Partakers of a heavenly calling”—Hebrews 3:1
4. “Partakers of Christ”—Hebrews 3:14
5. “Partakers of the Holy Spirit”—Hebrews 6:4
6. “Partakers of His discipline”—Hebrews 12:8
7. “Partakers of the divine nature”—2 Peter 1:4

We pray that we might be able to convey to you how very much our Lord Jesus Christ wants to share His life and work with you. How He longs to fellowship with you, not only just in the prayer closet, but out in the marketplace doing His work together: you in Him and He in you, enjoying one another’s company and sharing secrets, and seeing the Kingdom of God being displayed in awesome ways. **But “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?”** (Amos 3:3 KJV) This proving ground is where the action is; where God is pouring out His Holy Spirit to set the captives free; where the character of Jesus is formed in us; where we see the sort of stuff we are made of as we join Him in exerting all we have learned at His knee in our quiet time with Him into the business of establishing His kingdom here on earth, person by person! Suddenly all that Jesus and we have shared in the early morning hours makes sense as we see **“the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience”** (Ephesians 2:2) being run out of people’s lives

because we are **“working together with Him... giving no cause for offense in anything...”** (2 Cor. 6:1a & 3a). Wow!

First level: At first, He shows us the joy of sharing in the promises given to His chosen ones. We still are in awe of the magnitude of His riches toward us who believe! But there is more to know about Him than the entry-level understanding of Him as a God that keeps His promises and bestows blessings on us whom He has saved from death.

Second level: Next, He demonstrates the power of His grace by transforming our hearts. His love floods in and begins to erode our selfishness. How we love to be partakers of His grace as we are searching for the course that He has designed for us, for we DO make mistakes! He rescues us and forgives us time after time, and, because of His gentle grace and the holy hope He has for us, we are encouraged to press on to the next level of faith and trust in Him.

Third level: Here, He begins to stir in us a longing to press on toward the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. We've come to realize with surprise that some things are expected of us by the One who has bought us with a terrible price—we are to be partakers of a heavenly calling, responding to the invitation to participate in His work with Him. As this truth sinks in, we yearn to **“press on in order that (we) may lay hold of that for which also (we were) laid hold of by Christ Jesus.”**

(Philippians 3:12) that we might be a useful servant and a faithful friend!

Fourth level: It is at this stage that we realize that we cannot obtain the goal our heart desires without forgetting what lies behind and immersing ourselves in the now with Him who is the very present. An eternally important decision must be made: to choose to become partakers of Christ in all areas of our lives now.

Fifth level: Now, He fills us with and immerses us in His Holy Spirit; making us partakers of the Holy Spirit and sends us out to **“heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons,”** and give greetings of peace, **“freely you received, freely give.”** (Matthew 10:8) And we go in fear and trembling, very much aware that it is Holy Spirit residing in us that is doing the works but, nevertheless, it is we who must be willing to be sent out in His name! Our ever-increasing faith in His faithfulness spurs us on.

Sixth level: Because we have been allowed to be coworkers with Him, the next step is a big one: we must be willing to suffer by becoming partakers of His discipline as well, for **“He disciplines us for our own good, that we may share His holiness”** (Hebrews 12:10). Fortunately, by this time in our walk, we understand that discipline does not mean punishment, but correction and training that develops self-control, character, orderliness and efficiency. This may entail His saying “No” or “Not yet” when we have prayed that He will say “Yes!” After all, to hurry God is to find fault with Him!

Seventh level: At last, we are ready to become partakers of the divine nature, for the character of Jesus Christ has been transforming our souls just as He transformed our spirits back at the threshold of our journey. Partaking means to become involved intimately with someone by sharing in their actions as well as their thoughts. What could be more satisfying than to exhibit the character of Jesus Christ to the world through our lives? Let us remember that it is good to remind each other, as well as our selves, that God offers a deeper and deeper relationship with Him, which should lead to an active and useful life modeling His Son, re-presenting Jesus.

God's greatest hope for us is that we would reach the highest level of life here on this earth! To that end, He moves heaven and earth on our behalf to thwart the enemy that would rain down upon us thoughts of despair, hopelessness, frustration, fear, confusion, and failure. All of heaven is cheering us on, urging us to stretch up to the higher mark everyday until we obtain all that He has for us. Go for it!!

Let's let Him make us great in 2008!

Hugs,

Paul & Gretel