



RESURRECTION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

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EVANGELIZING THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER

Letters of Faith

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“So let us know, let us press on to know the LORD.

His going forth is as certain as the dawn;

And He will come to us like the rain,

Like the spring rain watering the earth.

Hosea 6:3 NASB

Dearly Beloved,

Hosea had a really tough ministry! Thank God that on the resurrection side of the cross of Jesus, we aren't ever called to such extreme demonstrations of God's instructions to His people! But His promises for bringing forth the rain of the Holy Spirit are as valid today as they were on the day He spoke them through the prophets of old!

There is one way that our callings by God are similar to that of Hosea because we are all called to be His living witnesses, and that means how we behave, not just what we believe or preach. Hosea apparently knew how to receive the strength and courage required to do the rather bizarre things God called him to do, and that's the only way we can too, no matter how hard or how seemingly easy the task He puts before us!

We have just reread parts of *The Heavenly Man* which chronicles the trials of our brothers and sisters in China. They have grown in the Holy Spirit and grace of God to be able to handle deprivation and punishment that makes our flesh crawl! In the process, the presence of Jesus is formed in them so strongly and clearly that they find evangelizing the lost very easy. One such purified-by-fire saint says, “*When they see Jesus in me, they want to get to know Him.*” Sounds easy doesn't it? But the Jesus he reveals is the Jesus that he was transformed into through the fire. That's not so easy.

We know that learning to have faith to boldly witness—with our behavior— (especially on the job we depend on to support our family), or to dare to pray for the sick and demonized (especially in public, outside the walls of the sanctuary) is a far cry from maintaining a testimony of Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior through horrific physical torture. But we all face many spiritual challenges and God wants to establish our faith in Him wherever our walk with Him takes us and whatever that walk costs us.

The Apostle Paul declared that he **counted “...all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him...”** (Phil. 3:8-9)

Counting all things to be as loss for most of us here in America at this time would include our reputation, our friendships, our financial gains, or our position at work.

How hard is it for you to approach a stranger with a healing Word of Knowledge when the Holy Spirit softly speaks into your ear? We know it is harder for some than for others, but it is “walking on water” for all of us—even for those of you who are especially anointed for that purpose.

Why? Because we are all just learning to heed and obey the voice of God without fear of the consequences. That's a main facet of our pressing on to know the Lord and believing that He will be there for us as surely as the dawn will come and as refreshingly as the spring rain which waters the earth and makes another crop-year possible.

It doesn't matter that we aren't being imprisoned for believing in Jesus (yet), and it doesn't matter that we aren't being slaughtered for our faith in the living Son of the one true living and Almighty God

(yet). What matters is that we are pressing on to know Him intimately, and to know the fullness of His call on our lives. As long as we are doing that, we will be prepared by Him to stand in the midst of whatever persecution comes our way in the future.

This is not a time to relax or to settle down spiritually! This is a time for all of God's saints to press on and to reach forward to what lies ahead! And this doesn't just apply to our being available to witness to the unredeemed! It applies to all of us who are going through transitions from a former life (ministry, job, or "Christian tradition") into a new and yet unrevealed walk with Jesus. It may even involve our becoming up-front and active in the political arena!

So we all must set our hearts to join the Apostle Paul's cry; **"...I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."** (Phil. 3:12-14)

As we press on and press in, God is doing neat new (to us) things in all of our lives! I vividly remember the night some years ago when I was awakened by a gentle pressure on the side of my head. At first I thought it was Gretel's hand, but she was curled up on the other side of our king-sized bed.

Nevertheless, I was definitely "awakened!" so I got out of bed. I looked at my watch. It was 1:37AM. I sensed that Jesus had wakened me and wanted me to look up scriptures with the address in the Bible of 1:37. I thought I actually heard Him say, *"Luke."*

My Bible was in the office and I didn't want to wake Gretel up to get it but I wanted to be obedient! Then I sensed a compassionate Jesus approving my making a note to look up 1:37 scriptures in the morning, starting with Luke, so I went back to bed and fell sound asleep.

The next morning I could hardly wait to read my Bible and search for the 1:37 verses starting with Luke's gospel: **"For nothing will be impossible with God."** What a blessing! We had just been hearing about all of the "impossible" things God is doing through the young generations of believers that us "olders" are supposed to be spiritually parenting.

Then I looked up at the preceding verse (:36 NLT) and God's message struck home! **"What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she's already in her sixth month."** In Elizabeth's "old age" she brought forth the miracle birth of John the Baptist! She wasn't too old for miracles! Neither are we—or you!

No, we are not anticipating another child, but we are *expecting* great new things from God through us! And so should all of you—especially those of you who are on the senior side of life.

Surprisingly, there are only two other 1:37 verses in the New Testament: John and Mark. Read together they say: **"And the two disciples (Paul and Gretel) heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. And...they found Him..."** He has continued to alert us to His will in this way since this experience. Can you understand why we are so excited and expectant?

We are re-energized, excited, expectant, and just a little bit scared, but we are determined to press on and to press in to the throne room so that we can be part of God's victorious army. Yes, we are both on the "wounded list" of warriors today, but God surely knows that! After all, every morning when we share communion together and eat the bread from Heaven, Jesus' body, we remind Him of His Word that says when He delivered His people who had eaten the Passover Lamb in Egypt, **"...there were no sick or feeble people among them."** (Psalm 105:37 NLT)

So we press on to the best of our physical, mental, and spiritual ability so that we will be what He needs, we will be where He needs us, and we will be available to Him when He needs us to finish His work through the Body of Christ here on earth.

We pray that you will be there with us.

Love, and huge expectant hugs,

