



RESURRECTION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

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EVANGELIZING THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER

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Letters of Faith

“...if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way where I am going.” Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going; how do we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.”

(John 14:3-6 NASB)

Dear Beloved,

Aren't you grateful for Thomas? If he hadn't been so bold in expressing his sincere desire to know what Jesus was really saying to His disciples, we would not have His most precious words: **“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.”** We know Thomas gets a bad rap because of his other famous line: *“I doubt it!”* (see John 20:24-25) But don't sell Thomas short; he evangelized the whole continent of India before his martyr's blood seeded that far distant land for the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth!

He could do that because he really took Jesus' words seriously. He wanted to understand them and believe them, so they would become such a part of him that he could reproduce Jesus everywhere he went. That, Beloved, is the increasingly serious calling on each of us today: take God's Word seriously and act on it—experience it!

While we were celebrating Alexis' pentecostal (50th) natal day on Maui in December, we experienced the most vicious hurricane that island had endured for over 15 years. While being quite disquieting in its ferocity, and preventing us from seeing much of this “jewel of the Pacific” for the first four days we were there, it did afford us plenty of uninterrupted time to read, sleep, and be alone with our Lord.

It was during one of these first raw days that I (Paul) heard two words rather more clearly than I am accustomed to hearing. First I heard: “This will be a very severe winter.” Since we were in the process (we hoped) of enjoying a lovely time in tropical splendor, I was reluctant to share this with anybody—so I haven't before now. However, whilst writing this letter we are enjoying single digit temperatures and anticipating some meaningful snowfall in the days ahead, so I feel rather confident in sharing it with you now for whatever it might have in store for your particular location.

Then, a day later, I heard almost audibly: “Vast!”

That's all! Just one word: “Vast!” And the exclamation mark printed here was as audible as the single word itself.

I shared this “word” with Gretel, and since we were rather isolated in our condo-quarters for several days, we had plenty of time to ruminate about its

meaning. As the loud, rhythmic roar of the storm driven waves crashed 100 yards outside the leaking patio doors of our rooms, we thought of many things God might be telling us through this one word. Following are “the top seven” (with apologies to David Letterman’s “Top Ten” routine).

1. There is a Vast gulf between life in the flesh in the Old Testament and life in the Spirit in the New Testament. Like the Jews led out of Egypt by Moses, so many saints of today drag their former life’s “household idols” into the promised land of the New Covenant with them, instead of realizing that at the cross of Jesus their “old man” was killed and stripped, and they were made wholly new creatures who were wholly separated from the sinful and religious trappings of the past.

2. There is a Vast difference between intellectual Christianity and experiential Christianity! We challenge you to read Bill Johnson’s “The Supernatural Power of the Transformed Mind” (Destiny Image), and “Face to Face with God” (Charisma House) if there is any doubt in your mind about that statement. And even if you agree with it, they will be life changing!

3. There is a Vast expanse of the Pacific Ocean between California and Asia and this little hot spots in the underwater earth’s crust where God formed these beautiful volcanic little islands (though we have no idea what spiritual meaning this thought purveys!).

4. There is a Vast and unfathomable love of Jesus for us; and in Him there is a Vast and unfathomable love in us for His kids; and in us (His kids) for our neighbors (the kids of the world).

5. There is a Vast gap between being “born again” into the Kingdom of God and being transformed into the likeness of Jesus! (see Heb. 5:14 and 1 John 3:1-3)

6. There is a Vast variety of God’s creation: like the still expanding universe, the human races, the animal species, the angelic hosts, and even the topography and climate on our own tiny little globe.

7. There is a Vast and largely untapped realm of God’s “**...wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him**” that He wants us to grow into before He returns! (see Eph. 1:16-17)

As interesting as these mental meandering were at the time, it was just recently that Holy Spirit opened up what He meant for our pondering by this word “Vast.” It wasn’t meant as just a word, it was meant as an acronym as well!

V.A.S.T. ! He then revealed to us that each letter stood for the vast difference between two opposing positions and/or experiences in our walk with Christ here on this earth.

V: Victory or Victimhood!

A: Authority in Christ or Aborted and Abandoned!

S: Spiritual or Sensual!

T: Thermostat or Thermometer!

Meditation on all of these confronting phrases will produce great profit in the Kingdom for you, but it is the last one that really got our attention because we so very much want to be thermostats that determine the spiritual environment around us and not just thermometers that reveal it!

We can become spiritual thermostats for the physical space we occupy when we actually believe and put into practice, just like Thomas did with Jesus’ words, the

prayer of the apostle Paul to the Ephesians: **“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come.”** (1:18-21) And: **“Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.”** (3:20-21, italics added)

We are experiencing these Words!

We were waiting at the airport through repeated arrival time extensions of a flight from Canada we were meeting. Bad weather was delaying all flights across the midwest from Chicago to Atlanta. Everyone who stomped down our concourse had their cell phone to their ears and were scowling and grouching because they had missed their connections or their meeting appointments. So we stood up with our “Welcome to St. Louis” sign (the flight we were awaiting hadn’t even left Toronto yet!) and “*shined for Jesus*” at everyone as they approached. **“According to the power that works within us”** the spiritual atmosphere in the whole concourse changed from fear and anger and fatigue to peace and even joy! One lady said as she smiled past us: “Can I come home with you guys?”

Beloved, we can all be spiritual thermostats for Jesus wherever we go! God’s Word says we can, and Holy Spirit will do **“far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us”** when we release the brightness of God in us into the dark world around us.

Shine for Jesus!

Hugs,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul & Gretel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

P.S. Take a peek at our web site <http://www.rcmin.org/>

We are archiving Letters of Faith there, and including some personal stuff about us, and the ministry.