



# RESURRECTION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

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EVANGELIZING THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER

## Letters of Faith

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**“When I am raised to life again,  
you will know that I am in my Father,  
and you are in me, and I am in you.”**

John 14:20 NLT

Dearly Beloved,

It's all about His presence!

The Lord seems to be emphasizing the importance of walking and talking in the reality of His presence—the blessings and the glory of the presence of the resurrected Christ Jesus. Not in any way to deprecate the Old Testament and the revelations of God and His ways we find there, but to really know and experience that we are, and He is, what the New Testament says we are, and says He is, here and now.

It is important to note that Jesus did not breathe on His disciples and give them the Holy Spirit (John 20:19-22) until *after* He was resurrected from the grave. Surely He knew they would need all the help they could get to go through the trauma of His crucifixion and death and burial! But He also knew that until His disciples were born again (which could not happen until He paid the price for them on the Cross) they must not receive the Holy Spirit because He didn't want them becoming like He was on His way to the Cross, He wanted them to be transformed into who He is *this side* of the resurrection after His work on the Cross.

In spite of anointed-sounding teaching from the Old Testament, we can see nothing in the New Testament that would even hint at Jesus leaving us to wade through deep waters on our own without Him. He is constantly saying to His disciples, like the Holy Spirit spoke through Isaiah so many years before Jesus came to this earth: **“Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.”** (Is. 41:10 NLT)

Isaiah had the clearest vision of the coming Christ of any of the Prophets, and he understood what we have to know with a revelation certainty: **“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, nor will the flame burn you.”** (Is. 43:2 NASB)

Not only did Jesus say that He never said *anything* that He didn't first hear from His Father, but He also knew well the frailty of man's mind to retain all that He did say. Therefore it is fair to believe that the very last words Jesus spoke to His disciples before He re-ascended to the right hand of His Father in heaven were of utmost importance. As He left His faithful friends here on earth for the last time, He again declared to them that He would never leave them! **“Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”** (Matt. 28:20 NLT)

As He left them, He said: **“...be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”** And then He left them! Can you relate to what they were thinking right then?

But now they were born of God spiritually and had received the Holy Spirit from Him, so they were able to *decide to believe*, if not comprehend, what Jesus had declared to them in so many different ways: **“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in**

**Me, and I in Him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.”** (John 15:4-5 NASB)

You see, it is all about His presence!

When Jesus taught His disciples about the Holy Spirit whom the Father would send them in His name, He declared that He (the Holy Spirit) would bring to their remembrance all that He (Jesus) had said to them. (Ref John 14:26) We suspect that the Holy Spirit reminded the disciples of Jesus’ final prayer to His Father before He went to the Cross: **“I in them, and you in Me, all being perfected into one. Then the world will know that You sent Me and will understand that You love them as much as you love Me.”** (John 17:23 NLT)

Thus assured of Jesus’ love, and the love of their Father in Heaven even though Jesus was not physically with them, they gathered together to pray and to await the fulfillment of His promise of the empowering of the Holy Spirit.

What kept them together for ten days? What prevented them from becoming full of fear that they too would be crucified? What quieted their natural anxiety that they had been duped or deceived about Jesus really being the Messiah?

It was the deep inner revelation from the indwelling Holy Spirit that although they had seen Jesus ascend bodily into the clouds of heaven, He was truly with them—He really was abiding in them as they were praying and sharing, and obeying His command to wait and learn to abide in Him.

They had received the peace that passes all human understanding that Jesus had promised them: **“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 NASB)

It’s hard to conceive of a more stressful situation than the disciples were in. They had committed their lives to the Lordship of Jesus, the long promised Messiah. They had witnessed miracle upon miracle from His hands, and through their own hands. They had experienced Him alive with them after they had witnessed His death and burial. They had seen Him ascend into heaven. They were obeying His final instructions to wait for the promise of the Father, but they had no idea what they were waiting for or when it would come.

Yet they were at peace because they knew they were in His presence!

They were at peace because they knew His presence was in them!

They were at peace with each other, at peace with their situation, and at peace with believing the almost unreal proposition that they were filled with the same storm-stilling Spirit that filled and empowered Jesus during His life here on earth. As John would write years later: **“And the one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And we know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit which He has given us.”** (1 John 3:24 NASB)

Beloved, some of us are going through almost equally un-understandable situations, and we sense in the Spirit that there are coming even more severe and difficult times ahead. So we all must know in our deepest hearts that our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, really is with us and in us and we are in Him. There is no other way we are going to be able to stay strong and fearless and stand in the midst of the whirlwinds but in the strength of His might.

It is time to make sure that we really know the truth of the Apostle Paul’s declaration: **“Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ...For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”** (Rom. 8:35, 38-39 NASB)

So we pray for you in the Apostle Paul’s own words: **“Now may the Lord of peace Himself continually grant you peace in every circumstance. The Lord be with you all!”** (2 Thes. 3:16 NASB) The Lord will be with you, and may you never let there be any doubt that He is and always will be with you, because He is in you and you are in Him.

There is nothing that can separate you from God’s presence.

Jesus declared to His disciples **“In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.”** (John 14:20 NASB) **“That day”** for us is today. This is the day we all need to know experientially that we are in Him, and He is in us, and nothing—no thing and no one—can separate us from the presence of our Lord and our Father God, because Jesus proclaimed, **“...Father ...just as you are in me and I am in you, so they will be in us...”** (John 17:21 NLT).

Hugs,

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

PS: Thank you to all who are receiving this letter via e-mail or the web. Please let us know if your e-mail address changes; otherwise we might lose track of you!!