



# RESURRECTION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

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*Paul and Gretel Haglin*

EVANGELIZING THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER

## Letters of Faith

September 2009

**“These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”**

John 16:33 (KJV)

Dear Beloved,

We want to continue pressing in to the scriptures that God has given us to walk in victoriously during these stress-filled times in our lives and in the life of our churches and our great Republic. Last month's exhortation to receive and walk in God's grace and peace continues to resonate in our hearts, and we rejoice that it has deeply moved many of you. We appreciate your letting us know that with your love notes and offerings. We pray that it does take root and grow in all of you as these stress-filled days ahead unfold.

Through the anointed mining of God's Word that our daughter Alexis has shared with us recently, we can amplify this concept of walking in grace and peace from our Lord Jesus into the further dimension of being of good cheer when we are under duress. It takes courage to be “of good cheer” in the pressure cooker times we are all experiencing in this country right now. As we said in our July letter, being of good cheer is more than a flip exhortation to “put on a happy face.” The Greek word used in the New Testament for “good cheer” is “tharseo” and literally means to be of “good courage, to be cheerful.” In fact, the NASB translation of this word is consistently “take courage.” So in the seven times Jesus specifically urged His disciples to choose to be of good cheer, He was really saying to them be courageously cheerful.

Why the emphasis on being cheerful along with courageous? Because the “cheerfulness” (the joy) of the Lord is our strength! (Ref. Nehemiah 8:10) And Beloved, we are all going to need every bit of God-given strength we can get to stand firm in the midst of the social, spiritual, and political whirlwinds already pounding us like waves of huge hurricanes. (Ref. Eph. 6:10-17)

We were in the process of making a faith-stand together during our morning special time with Jesus and each other when Alexis called to share a very timely Word from her morning time with Jesus. She was meditating in the book of Nehemiah as it related to the many attempts to deter his commitment to continue rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. “...Sanballat and Geshem sent a message to me, saying, ‘Come, let us meet together at Chephirim in the plain of Ono.’” (Neh. 6:2) In this scripture, Sanballat, the high priest of Samaria represented the religious spirit, and Geshem the Arab (a descendant of Ishmael) represented the spirit of the flesh. The Lord showed her that the combined spirits of religion and the flesh would be attempting to draw us all down into the self-destruct valley of “Oh No!”—the valley of despair!

The next verse gives Nehemiah's response, which must also be our response: “**So I sent messengers to them, saying, ‘I am doing a good work [a God work!] and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?’**” (Neh. 6:3 NASB) In other words, we must not sink into the valley of “Oh no!” at the invitation of the religious and flesh spirits that are trying to get us to confer and compromise with the pressures exerted against us, our faith, and the very core values of our nation.

We believe that the enemy of our souls is trying very hard right now to make us all adopt a discouraged “Oh no!” mind set about all of our faith declarations that depend upon the voracity

and undergirding strength of the foundational Words of God on which we are standing. He is certainly the antithesis and the enemy of the Church and of the Divine Destiny of the USA, and is attempting to dissolve our resolve to continue being the shining light on the hillside, as President Reagan once so aptly described us.

We must not let him succeed!

Now please take this seriously! We are facing very powerful principalities and powers which mean to destroy our faith (as Christians), our way of life and governance (as Americans), and our values (as human beings bringing a profit to the Kingdom of God here on this earth). They are determined to make us the tail and not the head, the borrowers and not the producers, and the takers and not the givers. We must not let them!

Lets take fresh heed of 2 Corinthians 10:4-6 NLT: **“We use God’s mighty weapons, not mere worldly weapons, to knock down the Devil’s strongholds. With these weapons we break down every proud argument that keeps people from knowing God. With these weapons we conquer their rebellious ideas, and we teach them to obey Christ. And [with these weapons] we will punish those who remained disobedient after the rest of you [us] became loyal and obedient.”**

One of our main weapons against these enemy powers and principalities is our courageous cheerfulness. I don’t mean scoffing at the enemy like “he is just a toothless lion!” He really is a lion roaring with real teeth—scary IF we let him get close enough to chomp on us. But we don’t have to let him get that close! When we are fully re-presenting Jesus here on this earth, the enemy hates us and hates to be anywhere near us!

He hates a cheerful giver (that takes courage when our economy is tanking). He hates the blood of the Lamb of God (with which we are cleansed and covered). He hates the Name of Jesus (in which we rebuke, renounce, and disarm him) because the Name of Jesus is above all other names that are named. And he hates knowing that he loses in the end because Jesus has already defeated him!

We have continually exhorted you to keep your focus on Jesus and what He is doing. Why? Because in the spirit realm, Jesus is the dread champion of whom all demonic parties are afraid and tremble. We now want to add the important admonitions of listen to His voice, and touch Him! Seeing Jesus in action sometimes brings fear, but hearing His voice and feeling His touch, even in terrifying, embarrassing, and mortifying situations, bring the courage to be at peace and to be courageously cheerful.

The disciples crossing the storm-tossed sea of Galilee were terrified when they saw Jesus walking past them on the water—until He spoke to them. **“For they all saw Him, and were troubled. [NASB says “terrified!”] And immediately He talked with them, and saith unto them, ‘Be of good cheer [be courageously cheerful]: it is I; be not afraid.’”** (Mark 6:50 KJV) His words trumped their fears! And Beloved, His written and Holy Spirit-breathed words to us will conquer our fears too!

The woman with the issue of blood tremulously sneaked up to touch Jesus’ garment amidst the crowd. She was horrified that she had been detected when Jesus stopped and asked who had touched Him. **“And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before Him, she declared unto Him before all the people for what cause she had touched Him, and how she was healed immediately. And He said unto her, ‘Daughter, be of good comfort [be of good cheer]: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace.’”** (Luke 8:47-48)

His words of encouraging comfort and cheer broke the fear of man that had overcome her as she boldly pressed through the powers of religion and tradition to touch her healer!

Beloved, God’s Word is our rock and foundation, and we can depend on it as He brings it to our minds and hearts in these tremulous times.

Be courageously cheerful as you contend for God’s will to be done here on earth as it is in heaven! Jesus does hear our cries and does accept us, heal us, and speak courage, grace, and peace to us when we cry out to Him!

Hugs,

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