



RESURRECTION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

300 Eagles Nest Farm Road, Hawk Point, Missouri 63349 • Ph: 636-597-3755 • FAX: 636-597-3743

Paul and Gretel Haglin

EVANGELIZING THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER

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Letters of Faith

**Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast,
immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord...**

I Corinthians 15:58 NASB

Dear Beloved,

Our Christmas present to all of you readers is this Letter of Faith which is written by our faithful daughter, Alexis. We pray it blesses you as much as it blesses us!

Recently I have been devouring teaching CDs that report through testimony after testimony that God is “in a good mood” and is still performing attesting signs and wonders here on the earth! God is again revealing Himself through healings and miracles and it is so exciting that my heart has been giving Him “high-fives” of praise for all the wonderful things He is currently doing through His kids.

Then one day as I was basking in the glow of another anointed testimony-filled teaching CD by Bill Johnson, I suddenly turned off the boom box and sat quietly in my chair experiencing the strangest sensation... I was full! Completely and totally full! No kidding; I felt like I had stuffed myself to the bursting point on a Thanksgiving meal and couldn't possibly eat another bite! I couldn't bear to hear another thing anyone else could preach to me... I couldn't digest any more words!

It was then I felt like I heard the Spirit say to me: "I didn't give you all this food for you to just get fat and happy. I gave it to you so you would have the energy to go and do likewise: “Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons; freely you received, freely give.” (Matt. 10:8) Ouch! I hadn't been “exercising”—burning the spiritual calories given to me! I hadn't practiced what I had heard preached! I had just been content to enjoy listening to the tales of the Holy Spirit's exploits moving through special apostles and prophets—anointed men and women of other churches.

Mark 16:14-20 tells of Jesus appearing to the disciples as “they were reclining” and “reproached them” for their unbelief and hardness of heart. That is what I had been doing: reclining, and sitting back, and letting other people step out in faith and work with Him, while I only cheered them on.

After Jesus rebuked His disciples, He continued to give them instructions on how to proceed: “Go into all the world (your personal world) and preach the gospel...these signs will accompany those who have believed...they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.’... And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed.” Jesus wanted me to start actively going

out into my personal world and to start sharing His life and power to everyone that He has cross my path.

The word here for “world” is not the word for the “inhabited earth” like in Matt. 24:14, but more the concept of the “sphere of influence.” So He is not saying “Go to the nations and be a missionary ” in this passage! He is saying: “Go next door!” or “down the hall at the office!”

Nervous adrenaline began to flood my body as I thought—oh, my gosh... is He serious? I don't have a healing ministry, I am not an internationally recognized speaker, apostle, or prophet. Who did I think I was... expecting God to heal someone just because I personally prayed for them? Besides, I used to be bold like that back in the 1970's and 80's, and I wasn't anymore—was I? That was the era when we “worshipped” the Word of God, literally using the Bible as a silver bullet or as a clove of garlic to “magically” make Satan leave or to make God move. Our mantra was, “The Word Works” or “God said it, I believe it, that settles it.”

I cringed as I recalled times past when I had boldly prayed for someone and they had NOT been healed. And I realized that in an effort to “save face” I had begun to be less eager, less quick to pray, and much slower to pronounce the Word of Healing over the sick. After all, it is not fun to fail!

I shut my eyes tight and called out to my Jesus: I am sorry that I stopped “abounding in the work of the Lord” and embraced the fear of man. Please forgive me for reclining in my heart and spirit.

It was at that moment John 15:7 came to mind: “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”

He was letting me know that this season of the Holy Spirit outpouring is different from the one that came in the '70s in one major way: the emphasis is not on “the Word works” but on the joy of abiding and fellowshiping with Him personally!

How do we experience the joy of having our prayers for the sick answered? By abiding with Him. Not abided—past tense—once and that was it; but abiding—as in continually! To abide in Jesus is to Always Be In Divine Expectation. Do you get it? Yes, “the Word works,” when we are abiding in Him!

The Lord was letting me know that this season of signs and wonders was going to come through those of us, His kids, who have chosen to abide with Him, to fellowship with Him with our Bibles on our laps, and get to know Him intimately as our God and our Friend. It is no longer about finding the right scripture to make God do what we want, but it is about intimacy and fellowship with a living, loving God who wants us to work with Him, to walk with Him, and to participate with Him as He shows His resurrection power and life to the world through us. We are to re-present Jesus!

In John 15:14 Jesus said: “You are My friends if you do...” and that by doing we can actually glorify the Father and prove to be a disciple of Jesus by bearing much fruit! (vs. 8)

Then, as we walk with Him, if we happen to see someone who needs healing we can turn to our Friend Jesus walking beside us and ask Him to please heal them—and He does, because as Bill Johnson says: “He is indeed in a good mood these days!”

I knew what I had to do: find someone who was sick and pray for them!

My mind raced over the names of all the people I knew—were any of them sick? I found myself praying, “Lord, please show me who I am supposed to track down and pray for.” I was suddenly overwhelmed with a sense of love for my friend Gail. Knowing Psalm 89:14 NLT says: “Unfailing love and truth walk before you as attendants” I asked the Lord, “Is she the one?”

“Yes,” I heard the Lord say, “she blesses Me, and I want to heal her of the arthritis that has been plaguing her knees.” Then I saw Him give me a box with a white ribbon wrapped around it. And I knew He wanted me to give this “present” of healing to Gail.

Cool! My faith could handle being a messenger, the UPS delivery woman of God’s packages! Jesus was the one who purchased the healing with His blood and sacrifice—I was just delivering the gift! I could do that—after all, one of my favorite prayers is Isaiah 6:8: “Here I am, Lord, send me!”

I immediately got up from my chair and called her on the phone. Although it took three days for our schedules to coordinate, I finally was able to give her the Lord’s present and to pray over her knees. Tears started to run down my face as I was overwhelmed by the Father’s love for her! He wanted her free of pain, and was pleased with me for delivering the message. The presence of the Holy Spirit was sweet and real! And the pain left her knees! Go God!

Encouraged, I then prayed for a 43 year old client of mine, that had been trying for seven years to get pregnant with her first child (knowing full well that my boldness could have chased her away as a client). Soon, she called and said: “God did it! I’m pregnant!” And she just called to say she is having a healthy baby girl in two months! Way to go God!!

I can’t explain the joy in my heart that came as I risked stepping out and partnering with Jesus and the Holy Spirit to deliver packages of healing to those He led me to! It was true what John 15:11 said, that my joy would be made full as I bear much fruit.

I was beginning to understand: if I wanted to continue to enjoy listening to all those anointed teachings tapes again, I had to slip my hand into Jesus’ hand and have a “Take Your Child to Work Day” with my Father God! I was to start being a regular apprentice to the King of Kings, so that John 14:12 could come true in my life, “Truly, truly, I say to you, she who believes in Me, the works that I do, she will do also!”

As we celebrate this Christmas season let us ask the Holy Spirit to help us to always abound in the work of the Lord giving the gift of His love and real power to those who are in need around us. Let us daily snuggle or abide in His presence so that we can bear much fruit, glorify our Father, experience fullness of joy, and hear Jesus call us His friend!

The Hebrew word for “Testimony” comes from the root word that means “do it again” and “repeat.” My desire is that as I have shared my testimony of learning to pray for the sick as I abide with Christ, you will find yourself also believing that God can do it again and repeat the same miracles in your life, through your prayers too!

Join me in walking in the good works that we were created for (Eph 2:8-10) and let the grace of God enable us to be a “people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds!” (Titus 2:11, 14), proving to be “...doers of the word, and not merely hearers...” (James 1:22). History will prove whether we had faith or not!

Merry Christmas to my fellow “gift-deliverers!” Have fun with God during this wonderful Holy Season!

Hugs,

Alexis