



RESURRECTION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

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EVANGELIZING THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER

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Letters of Faith

“...the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.’”

Luke 2:10-11 NASB

“Joy to the World, the Lord has come. Let earth receive her King...”

Hymn by Isaac Watts, 1719

Dearly Beloved

Fox News had a recent segment about the American Humanist Association sponsored signs on the busses in Washington, D.C. that say: “*Why believe in a god? Just be good for goodness’ sake.*” This is one of the least offensive statements we are hearing as our Thanksgiving Day passes and our Christmas Day approaches. Expect much worse as days progress towards the culmination of all things with the great and glorious day of the Lord’s ruling and reigning as Lord of lords and King of kings.

But Beloved, “***Do not be afraid...!***”

Remember, “**...perfect love casts out fear...**” (1 John 4:18) and recognize that the current offensive of the enemy of our souls is trying to get us to let fear cast out love!

Everywhere we go to minister or to soak in His Spirit, we are hearing “*The kingdom of Heaven is coming as we have been instructed to pray that it will.*” So we continue to believe this and to pray as Jesus taught us: “**Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**” (Matthew 6:10) But quite frankly, it doesn’t look to most of us like His Kingdom is coming in this great country of ours right now!

So we think it is very important to remind ourselves constantly what the Kingdom really is! It is defined for us in the simplest terms in Romans 14:16-18: “**Therefore do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil; for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, [or politics, or finance, or employment, or...you name it] but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he who in this way serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men.**”

The Kingdom, *our* Kingdom, is Righteousness, Peace, and Joy in the Holy Spirit!

That is exactly what the world is saying is unnecessary, undesirable, unattainable, and unimportant (plus any other un-words you can think of)! And that is all designed by our enemy to discourage us, to quash our faith, and to scare us spitless.

The angel announcing God’s gift of Love, His only begotten Son, Jesus, being sent down from heaven to us here on earth said, “***Do not be afraid...***” as he brought those shepherds the good news of this greatest event in human or spiritual history. And that good news (remember, it’s the “God news” from our previous letters) was so all-sufficient to fill them with Holy JOY that there was no room for debilitating fear to be lodged in them.

Please note that the scriptures say the shepherds were frightened, terribly frightened: “**And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.**” (Luke 2:9) But unlike other angelic appearances among men chronicled in God’s Word, the shepherds apparently didn’t fall unconscious on their faces in the grass!

Why? Because the angel proclaimed the greatest news man had ever heard (or would ever hear), and that proclamation contained so much power of love, joy, and peace that they could not be overcome by terror, even while experiencing a visitation of God's angels and hearing a bit of His heavenly choir. That is a 'Selah' word, right there!

Beloved, we are sensing that the devil is trying to fill the Body of Christ with such fear today that we will be immobilized! Fear over finances (yes, we are all in deep "doodoo" financially—individually, ministerially, and nationally), over political issues, over unanswered prayers, and over unresolved health issues. But the angel of God said to us, as well as to the shepherds years ago, "**Do not be afraid...**" and the message he brought—and the message that we have the privilege to bring—carries so much Holy JOY that there must be no room in any of us for fear of any kind!

We cannot minister Life in Christ Jesus to a dying and hungry world from a spirit of fear! It must come from faith in God's supreme gift of Love, Joy, and Peace—Jesus—and the 'Kingdom of Heaven is at hand' message Jesus commissioned us to proclaim!

We must appropriate this gift of fear-defying joy. The angel proclaimed to the shepherds: "**...good news of great JOY which will be for all the people...**" The God news is for all the people—that includes us! Our part in this Kingdom proclamation is to demonstrate in our lives, with our words and our behavior, that the coming of Messiah Jesus is truly God's good news for *all* people, and is actually the *only* true source of peace and joy in this "**crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world.**" (Philippians 2:15) This message is so power-packed with divine joy that it can overcome all the fears the devil is pouring upon the earth through his demonic minions and their human victim-tools!

So... "**do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil...**" Do not let anyone tell you that a heartfelt proclamation, recognition, or celebration of the incredible day of Messiah's birth is worldly! Sure, it can become worldly if all it means is a day off work and presents under a tree in the living room. But we are speaking to you as believers, or you wouldn't even be getting this letter!

So move on to *PEACE* and *JOY* "**in the Holy Spirit.**" Paul says in Romans 14:18 that you will be acceptable to God *and approved by men*! That should forever deliver us all from the fear of man that tries to prevent us from boldly proclaiming and displaying our awe and love for God in corporate celebrations of "**...the Word [that] became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.**" (John 1:14)

Beloved, we are filled with *peace* and *joy* as we join the angelic hosts of Heaven and earth proclaiming "**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth PEACE among men with whom He is pleased.**" (Luke 2:14)

So prophesy the God news: "**Joy to the World, the Lord has come. Let earth receive her King... Repeat the sounding joy...**"

Beloved, let love, joy, and peace rule your hearts during this coming celebration of Christ Jesus' birth, and let them continue to rule your life during the whole coming year! Do not allow fear or disappointment to erode your love, joy, and peace!

By His all-consuming grace and favor, we all can walk in His joy and His peace in the Holy Spirit, and bring joy to the world around us and proclaim that the earth will receive her King and all God's people will repeat His sounding joy!

"Now may the Lord of peace Himself continually grant you peace in every circumstance. The Lord be with you all!" (2 Thess. 3:16)

Holy and Huge,
Joyful and Peaceful,
Christmas Haglin Hugs,

