



RESURRECTION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

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Paul and Gretel Haglin

EVANGELIZING THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER

Letters of Faith

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Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind
and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
I press on toward the goal for the prize of the
upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13-14 NASB

Dear Beloved,

This is an active Word to Gretel and me as we experience the presence of God through situations and physical conditions we had never imagined. We are increasingly being led to change our meditations about Jesus from knowing what He did (as we read the Gospels) to what He is doing today (as we read testimonies of His extravagant miracles). We are increasingly challenged to change our focus from who He WAS (here on earth, on the way to the cross) to who He IS NOW (resurrected, ascended to the right hand of our Father in heaven, glorified, *and in us*).

These changes make a revitalizing shift in our view of Jesus, and of God's precious Word, and about how God wants to use us even as we are presently in rather constricted conditions due to the blessed longevity of our presence here on this earth.

For example, notice in the familiar Romans 10:17 where Paul said: "... **faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word** (*rhema*: Holy Spirit-breathed word to you) **of Christ**" the word "hearing" is in the present continuous tense. It is not in the past tense! Faith to do the works of the Father—like Jesus did—doesn't come from *having heard*! It comes from *hearing*—now! What we are hearing as the present continuous Word to the Body of Christ today is: "*Press on! Press in! To the high calling to **be transformed** into His likeness.*" (ref: Phil. 3:13-16)

In the past we have emphasized Jesus' "go and do" words to His disciples as found in Matthew 28:18-20, especially the phrase: "... **teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**" In this last message to His disciples Jesus was saying: "*When you go in My Name, and when you use My Name in accordance with My words to you, it is as if I am there with you!*" But the aging Apostle John's first Epistle says: "... **we have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us...** " (1 John 4:16) And today, the aging Paul and Gretel can say that through all the physical challenges we are walking through, we have come to know and believe, and are constantly coming to know and believe better each day, the great love God has for us! And we realize afresh that His love for us is in no way related to what we are doing for Him (or even what we have done for Him!).

It is very important that we all understand this because: "... **God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this, love is perfected with us, that we**

may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world." (1 John 4:16-17) Note: as He IS—not as He was, or as He will be. As hard as this is to really believe, as Jesus IS so also are we in this world.

This isn't a "someday, by and by" word! It is a today word from one of God's dearest friends who saw Jesus as He is (see Rev. 1). And it calls for all of us to be: **"... reaching forward to what lies ahead, [and pressing] on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."**

Who is Jesus today? Not the buddy that John rested his head on at the final Passover covenant meal. He is glorified! His appearance on the Isle of Patmos scared John off his feet! Yet, he recognized Him! And we testify to you that all the blessed cards and love notes we received this Christmas season have manifested Jesus to us in an awesome new way. Thank you!

We have often declared that born again in Christ Jesus believers, filled to overflowing with God's Holy Spirit, are never too young, are never too old, and must not ever get too jaded, disappointed, or distracted to DO the works of the Father that Jesus did—and that He commands us to do! And we still believe that! Yet we are both aware that we are currently more restricted to being transformed into His image than being as actively doing His works as we have been in the past. That's right—there are seasons in God's plans for all of us.

Acts 2:22 says: **"Jesus, the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst..."** Jesus did signs and wonders and miracles—the works of His Father—as a human being in right relationship with God and yielded to His Holy Spirit. He did NOT do these as God!

Jesus said in John 5:19: **"Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner."** And the resurrected Jesus said to His disciples in John 20:21, **"... as the Father has sent Me, I also send you."**

Are you His disciple? Then Jesus said this to you!

Since He said it, we have to know that He has equipped us—you and me, His disciples—to fulfill this commission—to do it! We just have to be willing to truly listen, to really believe, and to fearlessly obey... even during a season in God's plan for us that is to just breathe in and out, be sweet, and love Him.

God gave me a powerful vision for an upcoming ministry. Then He asked: *"You saw the vision?"*

Yes, Lord, I did!

"Was it from Me?"

Yes, Lord! I know that I didn't make *that* up!

Then He clearly said: *"Believe what I showed you in the Spirit will be done on the earth!"*

I responded: Yes, Lord, I believe! Help me in my unbelief!! (Mark 9:24—That was my favorite Scripture for religiously pleading my faintheartedness!)

The Holy Spirit sweetly chastised me to understand: Jesus ministered to unbelievers so the heart cry of the epileptic's father in Mark 9:24 was acceptable to Him. But I have His New Heart and I am filled with the Holy Spirit of Almighty God, so He expects me to believe and obey His words, and not plead for Him to do the Father's works for me in spite of my unbelief!

And that is Scripture! **"... Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"** (Num. 23:19)

Beloved, there are only two ways to reveal Jesus to the unsaved world through your life: through revealing the fruit of the Holy Spirit as Jesus did, and through manifesting the power and authority of the Holy Spirit as Jesus did! Gretel and I are now in a season of primarily manifesting His fruit. I am delighted to report that in spite of the insidious attacks of Alzheimer's, Gretel still glows with the Holy Spirit and fights the good fight to stay sweet and manifest God's grace which helps us guide her through these uncharted waters. I know this is very pleasing to our God, and it is a clear sign that the fruit of the Holy Spirit is a spiritual reality that does not emanate from the mind!

We bless you, and we release over you the energizing power of the Holy Spirit of Almighty God. We pray that this year will be the year you will grow into your full responsibility of doing like Jesus did and becoming like Jesus *is*—in whatever combination of these manifestations of Him that He is desiring from you today. Please continue to pray for God to raise up ***bold and righteous leaders*** for our country in these tumultuous times—leadership we don't deserve, but so desperately need.

Huge Hugs of Hope,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul & Gretel". The script is cursive and fluid, with the ampersand connecting the two names.