



RESURRECTION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

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EVANGELIZING THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER

Letters of Faith

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“...Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come...”

Hebrews 9:11 NASB

Dear Beloved,

I live in a part of the United States where there are literally hundreds of thousands of NASCAR (National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing) fans. They talk about the races, wear the colors of their favorite drivers, collect mugs with NASCAR images, etc. In fact, they are pretty radically devoted to it. They literally love to cheer on a winner of a race that goes nowhere—just around and around a track, in circles!

I am glad that we, Christians, know that when we run with endurance the race that is set before us (Heb. 12:1), it is towards a goal of being an Overcomer and receiving the reward of being able to sit down with Jesus on His throne with Him in heaven (Rev. 3:21). To us, life is NOT just running in circles, it is NOT vanity of vanity like depressed Solomon declared in Ecclesiastes. It is full of excitement and purpose and partnership with the Living God!

Are you ready to smile? I am proclaiming to you today—that we should all be NATSAR fans! NATSAR is the Hebrew word that means "to watch, guard, keep, and preserve." It is the awesome word used in Psalm 31:23-24 where it says: **“O love the Lord, all you His godly ones! The Lord preserves (Natsar) the faithful...”** So, **“...Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who hope in the Lord!”**

As I live life, experiencing my share of its unfairnesses and struggles, I have found my joy returning when I pull out my wallet and look at the “Post-it” note that proclaims in bold letters “NATSAR FAN.” You see, I believe that the Lord is **“...a very present help in trouble”** (Psalm 46:1) and that my Lord, who promises to preserve and protect me, is faithful to do what He said He would do! After all, He is the High Priest of Good Things; and promises in all these things we can overwhelmingly conquer and prevail through Him! (Romans 8:37) We are on the Winner’s side! And the Winner is for us—so who can be against us? (Romans 8:31)

Join me in praying for our eyes to be opened to the reality of God’s NATSAR protection. If we could see with the eyes of our faith that we are truly being **“...kept for Jesus Christ”** (Jude 1:1), **“...protected by the power of God through faith...”** (I Peter 1:5), and that **“trusting the Lord means safety”** (Proverbs 29:25 NLT), we wouldn’t be so

quick to panic, become cynical, or depressed when things look negative in the natural realm.

The scriptural precedence for this is seen in 2 Kings 6:14-17 where Elisha prayed that his assistant's eyes would be open to see the troops of Almighty God (the King of NATSARs) surrounding, guarding, and protecting them in the midst of an overwhelming enemy.

When we hear of a friend's marriage crumbling, their children rebelling, and/or their finances tanking, let us stop and take the time to talk to our Awesome God in order to enable Him to show us His perspective of the situation. Yes, it might look grim in the natural world, but in the Spirit He is still in charge, and He won't let us be destroyed by the enemy! When we really know that, we will know that our God will preserve and protect us and we will gain the courage to look forward to the **"...good things to come."** (Heb. 9:11)

Imagine how different history would have been if the Children of Israel had learned to trust in God's NATSAR reality in their journey through the wilderness. Maybe they would not have circled the wilderness so many times (like NASCAR race car drivers). Wouldn't it have been great if the second time they found themselves thirsty in the desert, instead of grumbling and griping, they had said to each other: "I wonder how God is going to take care of us this time? He who turned water into blood to freak out Pharaoh (Exodus 7:20), He who drowned Pharaoh's troops with water (Exodus 14:26-28), He who sweetened bitter water with a tree branch at Marah (Exodus 15:22-25), and He who has promised to take care of us (Exodus 14:13) must have more water somewhere for us! He could even give us water from a rock!"

If that had happened, if they had trusted their NATSAR God, Moses would have been able to enter the Promised Land personally, and maybe the 40 years of circling the mountain would have been greatly reduced.

The enemy loves to tempt us to be discouraged or dismayed, literally "shattered" by the negative things that we face in life. The Scriptures warns us in 2 Chronicles 32:7: **"Be strong and courageous, do not fear or be dismayed because of the king of Assyria, nor because of all the multitude which is with him, for the one with us is greater than the one with him."** The Hebrew word used here for "dismayed" actually means "to be shattered." Our God not only wants us to be brave, but to be determined to not let ourselves be "shattered" by what happens to us in the natural realm.

I Samuel 2:10 says **"Those who contend with the Lord will be shattered..."** When we focus on the natural, i.e. our thirst, our financial or physical discomfort, etc., and not on Jesus our High Priest of the Good Things to Come, we can easily shipwreck our faith. Many of us know saints who have become shattered and disappointed because they got mad at God when He didn't do something they thought He should have. They

have forgotten the wonderful promise in Psalm 34:19: **“Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivers him out of them all!”**

When one of my good friends asked me to pray for her the night before her surgery, I found myself praying for her eyes to see Jesus standing there with her. And I reminded her of Deut. 33:12: **“May the beloved of the Lord dwell in security by Him, who shields him all the day, and he dwells between His shoulders.”** His shoulders were definitely strong enough to carry the responsibility of guarding, protecting and preserving her through the surgery! She told me later that tremendous peace swept over her as I prayed, and all fear left her mind and emotions as she rested in the arms of her NATSAR God.

Here is the fun thing: God knew we would need to be reminded that He was faithful and able to take care of us. So the Bible says that He placed the moon in the sky to faithfully testify in the darkness that God will never leave or forsake us and that He will never violate His covenant with us! **“My covenant I will not violate...It shall be established forever, like the moon, and the witness in the sky is faithful.”** (Psalm 89:34a & 37)

And guess what the Hebrew word for “Moon” is? "Ya-reach" or "Yah-reach!" No kidding! The moon reminds us that God (Yah) is reach-ing out to us in our darkness. Our Light is always with us, no matter how dark it seems in the natural. The next time you need an encouraging word from your Father God, try glancing up at the moon. He placed it there to faithfully witness that He is, and always will be, with us!

“When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained; what is man, that Thou dost care for him?” (Psalm 8:3-4) Thank You, Lord, for caring for us, for “NATSAR-ing” us, and for being consistently faithful! Thank You, Lord, that You tell us that, **“The old system in the law of Moses was only a shadow of the things to come, not the reality of the good things Christ has done for us...”** (Hebrews 10:1 NLT)

Please, Lord, show us Your reality, the good things You are high priest of, and what You are doing for us everyday and all night, so it can be said of us, as it was said of our forefathers in the faith, **“They trusted, and You delivered them.”** (Psalm 22:4b).

In Jesus’ mighty name, Amen!

Huge Haglin Hugs,

Alexis Haglin Richert