

# First Light Herald

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## Trusting Confidence

In times like today it is a real stretch to have confidence in things we used to swear by. Politicians have always been in the “iffy” category, but today they are in the “are you joking” category. The flag which used to represent “One nation under God” is now one nation under “whatever floats your boat”. American pride and integrity used to go hand in hand, but today most of what we buy and trade is “Made in China”. So what are we to do? Some people are just plain angry at all the changes. Some folks want to “do something” to change things. Others have given up and do little more than put their faith in the “rapture”. For the rest of us there is a work to work. Once before a group of believers asked the Lord, “What must we do to work the works of God?”



### Special points of interest:

- *Share the newsletter with loved ones. They can download and print them from: [proverbial-woman.com](http://proverbial-woman.com)*
- *No apostle in your area? Call and talk to Jeff.*
- *Want to know more about the oracles of Christ and the first principals? Learn these apostolic truths by contacting Jeff.*
- *The Lord taught to whosoever would come to hear and be healed. We are here to help you find the grace you need for your life. All meetings are open and you are welcome to attend or to open your home for those in new areas to be blessed.*
- *We covet your letters, your prayers, your words of encouragement and we desire to see fruit in your lives. Sow into our lives as we have sown into yours. We need you and hope you will share your gifts with us.*

*John 6: Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? 29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye **believe on him whom he hath sent.***

Today we are tempted to forsake the Lord. It isn't “politically correct” to say that someone is headed for hell. It isn't popular to tell folks they can be “saved”. Believing in a God one can't see isn't fashionable, but you can find idols for sale in the local department store! It feels like things are really hopeless.

There is an awesome story of hope for us in the bible. A man of God is faced with a horrendous situation. His only daughter is dying and so near to death in his mind she IS dead. The man is beside himself and reaches out to the Lord in his hour of great despair. It feels as if it couldn't get any worse, but some sick woman interrupts the Lord's reaching his daughter. Some woman touches the hem of the Lord's garment and causes a halt in the progress towards his daughter. Worse yet, the woman who touched him is afflicted with an issue of blood. Normally the man of God would have to officiate over such a situation. She has broken the laws of the bible and has snuck into a crowd without saying, “unclean”. He is distracted with problems of his own. Some “helpful” person tells Jairus (the man of God) that his daughter is dead and it's a waste of time to bother the Lord. The Lord utters these great words, “Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole”. (Luke 8:50) By the time the Lord reaches her the mourners are in full gear. They are so full of death and hopelessness that when he speaks words of faith they laugh and mock him. He sends them all out and goes into where the dead girl lays. He speaks the words that the Heavenly Father would have him say, “Maid arise.” She wakes and the Lord tells them to feed her. Life has returned to her, hope is restored, faith is restored and the multitudes of mourners are in shock.

We are in the last days; we are in the last of the last days. We should not be surprised at what we are seeing or hearing. If we spend time in the word and in prayer we should be prepared for what is coming. We are told not to conform to this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds! We are told that there will be famines, wars, earthquakes, and death will abound. What are we supposed to do? Arise! If we don't believe the unbelievers will take over. I can't imagine that, I refuse to imagine that. I will fear not and believe only.

## Confidence.....continued



I know it's a challenge to believe the word of God in the midst of such scary "evil reports", but unless we desire to die like the children of Israel who came SO CLOSE to entering into the Promised Land but didn't, we must fear not and believe only.

What is it to believe when things are easy and there is never a trial? Our faith is proved in hard times. Folks who ask for miracles ask for impossible situations. So the more impossible it appears the better chance we're going to have of seeing the miracles we desperately need.

It is vital for us to have confidence in God. We need to trust God. We've seen miracles in our past. We've experienced life changing touches from God. We simply must believe and trust that God is truly aware and fully in control. He did after all warn us about every single thing that is happening. We want our comfort zone and the idea of suffering persecution or hardship is something we just don't want to consider. The less confidence we put in God's word, the more the enemy will pour on the circumstances. If we are moved by natural things, he will keep us moving. His target is to get us to fear, because if we are afraid he can steal, kill and destroy!

God's entire will is wrapped up in believing His word. His Son is His word made flesh. Hearing him means we hear God. Hearing God means we know His will. Knowing His will means we can pray effectively. Praying effectively means we get what we ask for! Turn off your TVs, put down the paper, turn off your radios and turn off your computers. Pick up those dusty black books with the words, "Holy Bible" on them and take a look for God's will for your life.

*1 John 5: 14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: 15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.*

## God's Job



I enjoy looking back at the stories in the old testament in order to find similarities in things I'm experiencing today. I was at a local coffee shop the other day working on our website. While the computer was uploading changes to our site I turned and saw a local paper on a nearby table. The front page was full of hopelessness and bad reports. By the time I had read the headline I was fighting discouragement. Later when I got home I was downright blue. It surprises me how easily my soul is discouraged and how quickly my faith flies out of the window.

I've been reading through the bible on my cell phone. In reading I've been in Genesis and recently reading the story of Joseph. I'm reminded of how foresighted God is. He is a planner and prepares solutions for His children. In the natural a really awful situation was once again turned for the best good of God's kids. Joseph had some really unusual dreams as a young boy. We know what they meant because we have the advantage of knowing the "rest of the story". Joseph woke from his dreams and rushed to share them with his family. His family had their own perception of what his "dreams" meant. Actually I think they didn't believe the dreams were real, but more to the point, they thought the dreams were creations of an overactive imagination. Back in those days dreams were regularly attributed to God. Joseph's brothers refused to imagine God giving him a dream that had them bowing down to their little brother. It's hard enough for them to face the fact that their father preferred little Joe to them.

## God's Job.....continued

Their jealousy and anger would later be expressed in really ugly ways.

Fast forward to the end of story and we see that God had a plan. He knew long before these people were in need that famine was coming. He used the lost in Egypt, He used the young boy Joseph, He used the brothers of Joseph, He used the men who bought Joseph, He used Potiphar, and He even used Potiphar's wicked wife! God used all of these people to save a nation. He saved a nation in order to bring forth His son. He brought forth His son to destroy the originator of all the problems that man has ever suffered. God manifested His son to destroy the works of the adversary. We are His sons as well. The Lord told us to call God "Father", which makes us His kids! God doesn't ever forget His kids. He makes provision for His children.

If I take the time to meditate on different places where God has prepared for our provision I find myself peaceful. God didn't put us on a planet void of what we would need for life.

Peter gives us words of encouragement, big words with huge promises!

*2 Peter 1: 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might **be partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

Just before these words Peter tells us that the knowledge of God and the Lord gives us everything that pertains to life and godliness! Why, because God wants us to be partakers of His nature. To be godly is to be like God! God is love and that's God's goal, for us to be lovers! God knows we need food to exist. He knows we need clothing to function. The natural stuff is vital as much as the spiritual stuff of God. He provides what we need so we can do what He created us for.

Instead of looking at horrible headlines and having our faith fade like an old pair of jeans, we should stir up our faith with the stories of God's glorious planning and provision for His children. If God can provide for six million of His children in the wilderness, He is more than able to provide for us today.



## Believing is Revelation

*Isaiah 53:1 Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?*

I love camping. I love the quiet peace that I have experienced when in the mountains of Montana. The clean smell of the pines is refreshing; the floor of the forest is carpeted with the most fragrant of wild flowers and there aren't too many things that compare. I haven't camped in my home state of Montana for decades, but right now I'm camping out in the forest of several verses in the bible. I don't want to move from them until I glean all the life I can find in them.

The above verse is full of light. Believing is how God reveals to us His will. The word of



## Revelation.....continued



God is more beautiful than the forests of my childhood memories. When I'm hit with something negative in my life, I can run to the word and find solace. Believing is acting on what God says. As we act on God's word, He reveals such things as "the arm of Lord".

Unbelief is either being ignorant of what the word says or knowing the word in our heads, but not acting upon them. For instance, "love is patient". We may say we believe that, but do we love those who are unlovable? Faith is action and precept upon precept we must act on what we first find in the written word and then upon the specific instructions of the Lord.

## Studying for Today and Tomorrows

Every investment you make in the eternal kingdom has a rich reward. The more time you spend in the word, the greater the revelation. The more revelation, the more light you have access to. Because we live in a world that is perpetually getting darker, we NEED the light of God's word. Thankfully the darkness and the light are the same to God. He isn't one bit daunted by darkness. He created everything and is not influenced by the corruption of His beauty.

Oh to have unshakeable faith. I'm sure you've thought that, but the reality is we have God's faith and His faith is unshakeable. Faith comes by hearing and our ability to hear comes by the word. The time you invest in slowly and deliberately studying and meditating on the word, the better the results you glean. Faith is tried or proved in the fires of affliction. God has told us that in the last days He will shake anything that can be shaken. Once again I will remind you we are in the last days. It isn't fun to go through fire, but we have God's promise that first He will be with us in trouble and secondly the fire will not burn us. Only that which can be shaken or burnt will burn!



How many words do you know? When you were tiny you learned your ABCs. You came home from either kindergarten or first grade proclaiming your new found ability to read. You spouted out, "A, B, C and so forth". Your lovely parents didn't say to you, "You moron, you can't read yet. All you know is your alphabet." If your parents did call you names, forgive them. You have a new Father and new siblings. We are all on the same playing field and we are to work like a healthy body, cooperating and working to do the will of God. Over the course of time you learned more and more words. You started with simple sentences and progressed. Soon you were learning grammar and concepts. You then applied your reading skills to other areas of education and your knowledge base grew. When you finished school you took what you learned and applied it to a career or field of expertise. So it is with spiritual things. You put precept upon precept, putting faith to work by acting upon what is revealed to you. If you never applied what you learned, you have a problem.

Living today and preparing for tomorrows is about acting upon the word. First we learn to hear God's voice by reading the first covenant and then after we are lead to the new covenant we begin reading what the apostles wrote in letters to the Body that lived on the earth during their lifetimes.

We need to pray in the spirit to have revelation of what is hidden in the word. Just to study and read with your natural mind will only yield partial results. The Lord said it best, "Man does not live by bread (written word) alone, but by EVERY word that proceeds from the mouth of God." He was telling us not to depend upon the law for life, but get fresh manna from God. Don't attempt to feed yourself with just the written, but have an intimate walk with God so that you won't end up in pride thinking you've accomplished everything on your own.

## Study.....continued

Read Deuteronomy 8 AFTER you read the three gospel versions of the Lord's temptation. (Matthew 4, Mark 1 and Luke 4). After being filled with the Holy Spirit the Lord was taken to the wilderness to be tried 40 days and nights. We only have three of the manifold temptations he suffered, but they cover the areas of life you and I will be tempted in; feed yourself or provide for yourself, bow down to the prince of this world and kill yourself.

Every second you invest in the word has a positive effect upon your daily life IF you act on what you see there. However, if you study and never DO what is written or what God instructs, you will end up self-deceived. James (Yacov) warned believers not to be forgetful hearers. Be doers of the word. Yeshua told us that we would be founded on bedrock IF we heard and did what he told us to do.

The rewards of focusing on the eternal kingdom far outweigh the sacrifice of time it takes. One does not have to spend hours and hours reading huge sections of the word. A simple focus on one verse is more than enough UNTIL you understand what you've read. What good is it to read vast sections and not understand a single thing you've read?

Once again, I exhort each one of you who may actually take the time read these words to make it a daily practice to read the word, meditate on what you've read and then ask the Lord to give you light and godly wisdom about what you've read. Once you get light, apply what you've learned. If God tells you to love; love. If God tells you to forgive; forgive! You get the idea.



## The Perfecting of the Saints

*Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, **apostles**; and some, **prophets**; and some, **evangelists**; and some, **pastors** and **teachers**; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.*

It's easy to read these words and just pass over them as just a little too familiar, but there are some really huge truths contained in these few sentences Paul penned so many years ago. First of all he told the Ephesian believers that Jesus gave five distinct gifts for the body of Christ; apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. He never says that any of these gifts will be repealed at his demise but that they are to continue UNTIL we all come in the unity of the faith. I can tell you emphatically that we have NOT come together in the unity of the faith. Faith is not as many have taught, a Baptist faith, a Catholic faith, but as is written elsewhere ONE FAITH. Faith comes simply by hearing and our ability to hear comes by the word of God or Yeshua/Jesus.

The adversary would like to see the body of Christ fractured and worthless, but God has commanded that the rock can only be smitten ONCE. The body of Christ was smitten and will never again be smitten in judgment for sin. All of creation is groaning for the manifestation of the SONS of God. He has one Son who has manifested His will, but He wants us all to be of like mind. This will only come through the unity of the faith. The persecution that is coming upon the Body of Christ will force us to unite and to stand in the light and will of God. We need these five gifts to be in full manifestation as well.

Selah.

