

February 2021

For those who don't know me, I am known to the guys as Ms. G., I assist Chief with the ministry by making sure the newsletters are sent to your current units within the system.

As he mentioned in last month's letter he has been very ill, and has been hospitalized at UTMB since January 4<sup>th</sup>. As of this writing he is still there, but he has moved to an assisted living area within the hospital. At this point we aren't sure if he will be placed back in a unit or will remain there till he comes home in August.

Chief asked that I let you know he is improving but has a way to go, and he thanks you for your prayers and for continued prayers for his healing and restored health.

We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;  $v_9$  Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;  $v_{10}$  Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.  $v_{11}$  For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.  $v_{12}$  So then death worketh in us, but life in you.  $v_{13}$  We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;  $v_{14}$  Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you.  $v_{15}$  For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.  $v_{16}$  For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.  $v_{17}$ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;  $v_{18}$ While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. (II Cor. 4:8-18)

You know it is times like this that we must remain steadfast in our faith and trust in God and the promises He has made to us. Remembering that God is not man that He can lie and He changes not. So when He gives you a promise, it may (and usually does) take years to come to fruition, you can stand fast and hold on to that promise. All of God's promises are, Yes and amen, so when it starts getting tough, as believers, we are told that it will, that is not the time to give up or give in, but to put on the full armor of God (which you really should never take it off, just sayin') and claim and reclaim any ground the enemy is trying to take away

from you. That goes for your family too, if you are the only person in your family that is a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, you do have the authority to stand stead for them.

Everything we go through in this lifetime is Father filtered and nothing is a surprise to God, but more importantly He is with us in all of it. That truly is very comforting especially when it seems like we are all alone and forsaken by all. But God! Is always with us. As we die to self and transform to His image, becoming more like Him, we move from glory to glory. It is only when we have died to self and then we are able to walk in the promises He has given us. Which is probably why it takes years for those promises to come to fruition. So why is this important?

Well because this year is off and rolling by. I've asked God to help me get rid of my flesh this year, more and more each day. I didn't realize what I was asking I guess, but I'm beginning to see. Yuck! Death is an ugly, sad thing, but when one knows Jesus, it leads to something so much more glorious. But we don't see that with our earthly eyes, so we relegate death to what we see and it hurts to look at it. Cancer, accidents, disease, infirmities, infections bring about death to our flesh and those ugly things, but so is sin and it will do the same thing to our spirit if we let it overcome us. The middle letter of SIN is "I". "I" is prideful, all about me, my way or the highway. "I", puts blinders on our eyes to forget about those around us that we affect negatively with our sin and our ways. We don't care about them anyways. What do they know? This is my world. Yep! You're right! And that's exactly what you'll get. This world.

The devil is leading this world. Just open those eyes and look around. We've softened our resolve to come out and be separate. 2 Cor. 6:17 tells us this! We're to touch not the unclean thing. Yet, we constantly go back to the former things. 2 Peter 2:22 – But it happened unto them according to the true proverb, the dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the pig that was washed to her wallowing in the mire."

Heaven help us! God forgive us! Verse 21 says — "For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the Holy commandments given unto them" Christ is coming soon my friends. "But know this first, that there shall come in the last days, scoffers walking after their own lusts, saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? All things are going along just as they always were from the beginning". (2 Peter 3:3-4)

Don't grieve the Holy Spirit! Don't be willingly ignorant! We need to ask our Heavenly Father to get rid of our flesh. It only wants to satisfy itself. It's selfish, it's ugly just like those diseases and cancers are. They can do incredible damage in such a short amount of time. So, begin to take up that cross daily. He'll help you lift it, I assure you. In fact, if you don't let Him, it will crush you under its weight and you'll feel like "What's the use"! Even though pressed on every side, with trouble and fears near us, should the whole wide world deny Him, we need to shout it louder, His name – JESUS! We can't make it without Him! We mustn't go it alone either. Help your brother, reach out to the backslider or the weaker man.

Don't cast him aside or give up on them either. We need to come together and help one another rather than picking out everyone's faults!

That's a trick of the devil to keep us from changing for the better. We're too busy looking at everyone else's problems. Am I wrong? If you've gotten past the daily routine of griping about everyone else around you, I applaud you. I believe Jesus is standing and clapping too! I know God wants to increase His power amongst us and His Spirit wants to sweep in our midst and bless us to make it through our difficulties.

Our infirmities and diseases, HEALED! In Jesus Name! Our weaknesses and faults – REMOVED! In Jesus Name! Our doubts and fears – GONE! In Jesus Name! Our shame and pain – WIPED AWAY! In Jesus Name! All things RESTORED! In Jesus name!

So really work at it men! Don't just coast into the gates of heaven! Take as many as you can with you! Remember those promises and stand on them, don't allow the enemy to steal anything else from you. For greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world!!

"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God, and the books were opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books according to what they had done. (Rev. 20:12) And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God. He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. Behold He makes all things new. To the one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be My son." (Rev. 21:3-5,7)

To all the conquerors! To all His children!

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