

CHIEF

MINISTRIES

December 2012

To the family of God:

Well, were down to the last month of 2012. Once again, another year down but is your life and spirit up? I do know this.... God's ways are not our ways and His thoughts are not our thoughts. But he didn't say it would *always* be like that. When we spend time with Him and let Him truly become one with us, He transforms us, transfigures us and He'll speak to us. He will give us glimpses of His ways and tell us some of His thoughts. How else would we know which direction to go? Well, you can know this! No matter what it looks like, if God is in you, the result will be great! Everything is filtered through God, the Father, so don't sweat it when it seems like everything around you is crumbling. It's been "Father Filtered".

Do you have a heart like David? He was a man after God's own heart. 1 Samuel 13:14 says, "*But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought out a man after His own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be prince over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you.*" This was told to Saul, his mentor, his King, his leader. God sent Satan to vex him. What? God did that? Yes! Why? Because Saul had turned his heart away from God. Remember, His ways are not our ways, His thoughts not our thoughts. You see, God knows the "Big Picture" of our lives. He knows what it is going to take to get things properly aligned. He knows the "end" result. Are you willing to remain faithful to the end?

Revelation 2:10 says, "*fear none of these things which you shall suffer, behold, the devil shall Some of you in prison, that you may be tried, and you shall have tribulation 10 days: be faithful unto death, and I will give you a crown of life!*" Usually, it's the trials, the tribulations, the "prison" that we have trouble understanding. Recently, in doing good, loving Him, seeking Him, listening to Him, everything was turned upside down. It was like the enemy had been given free reign in a number of areas that I felt God was bringing justice to. Well, I'm learning He is! It just doesn't look like I might want to. It's His way! Isn't that our prayer? "Not my way anymore, O God, but Your way!"

Everything in God's plan has a proper time: the gap between the present and *that* proper time cultivates our faith. Galatians 6:9 says, "*Let us not become weary in well doing, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*"! Are we not praying for the harvest. In the prisons? It's our job to trust him. What have you invested? I know I have..... A lot! "*Whoever sows sparingly will reap sparingly, whoever sows bountifully will reap bountifully.*" (2 Corinthians 9:6 ESV). God says, "*He will repay the wicked 'in due time'* (Deuteronomy 32:35ESV). Just as He will lift up the humble 'in due time'. The Bible promises ultimate justice, not immediate justice. John 5:28-29 says: "*A time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear His voice and come out-those who have done good will rise and live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.*"

God keeps track. I assure you. You've probably no doubt witnessed it wherever you're at perhaps firsthand. The kind man receives kindness in turn. The generous man reaps generosity. The liar loses trust. The gossip gets gossiped about. The one who gets his co-worker fired for reasons of animosity,

gets fired himself. Of course, "what goes around" doesn't always "come around" immediately. Two men owned farms side-by-side. One was a bitter atheist, the other a devout Christian. Constantly annoyed at the Christian for trusting God, the atheist said to him one winter, "let's plant our crops as usual this spring, each the same number of acres. You pray to your God and I will curse Him, then come October let's see who has the bigger crop." When October came, the atheist was delighted because his crops were larger. "See, you fool!, he taunted, "what do you have to say for your God now?" "My God", the other farmer said, "doesn't settle all of his accounts in October."

My brothers, God uses the strangest of things; the spiritually blind, the un-anointed, the haters, the "religious", the evil, to sometimes see where *our* heart is. Where is yours to your adversity? I know we wonder why we must suffer these things, those happenings, these people. But, God uses these sufferings to purge sin from our own lives, strengthen our commitment to Him, force us to depend on His grace, bind us together with other believers, produce discernment, foster sensitivity, discipline our minds, impart wisdom, stretch our hope, cause us to know Christ better, make us long for truth, lead us to repentance of sin, teach us to give thanks in times of sorrow, increase our faith, and strengthen our character. God doesn't simply want us to *feel* good. He wants us to *be* good. And often the road to *being* good involves not *feeling* good. Man, the best is yet to come! Proverbs 4:18 says, "*The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, shining ever brighter till the full light of day.*" Are you shining? Are you leaning towards the right direction? Pursue excellence and righteousness my friends. Pass the tests, God allows to come our way. He'll let you see them coming. You won't be blindsided.

A prayer: Father, I may never fully understand why certain things don't make sense to me, but I'm going to try my best to trust You to see me through. Help me give You more control. Make me into a usable vessel. I don't want to serve anyone else. Help me to shine with Your glory. Continue to mold me into a man after Your own heart. You have been so good to me this past year, but I know there is a deeper level in You, a higher place to attain, a new dimension of Your Spirit to help me live right. So.... I humbly ask for You to take me there and reveal Yourself to me so that I can make it to the end. Find me faithful, O God. In the little and the great.... Find me faithful.... There is no depth so deep that You are not deeper still. Thank you for Your Son and for preparing a place for me. No one else and nowhere else will satisfy now that I'm getting to really know You. Let me live by Your Spirit. Let Your Word dwell in me richly. Let me be a shining example of Your glory. Your love is better than life so let me continue to lose mine and be found worthy of Your calling, Your life and heart in me, but most of all Your love. You are the strength of my life and my portion forever. My rewarder because I seek You. I love You and I will rejoice and leap for joy even in suffering, for great is my reward on that day when I see You face-to-face. What a day that will be! Thank-you for blessing me and wrapping Your arms of love around me. Thank you!
Amen & Amen.

Get ready for this coming year!
We're going up!

Love and peace to you all during this Blessed time of year!

Chief

If you want to know more about CHIEF Ministries or would like to be a part of this, please go to www.chiefministries.com and www.chiefshouse.org

Christ's

Heart

In

Every

Felon