

## AS WE HAVE RECEIVED MERCY

We faint not.

Therefore seeing we have this ministry,  
as we have received mercy,  
we faint not.  
2 Corinthians 4:1





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### BY FAITH IN CHRIST ALONE

During the Fall season of 1989, on a stormy Winters eve, I surrendered my life to Jesus - the *biblical* Jesus. My friends and I read the Word of God together, and in doing so I became convinced of the infallible proofs of Scripture that testify of the life, death and resurrection of the prophesied Jewish Messiah, Jesus Christ, the Son of David (Romans 1:1-5). Personally reading the words of Jesus, I was overwhelmed with my own need of God's forgiveness based on Christ's Substitutionary atonement for my sins, and the supernatural grace that only the God of the Bible can bestow. On that amazing November evening, I accepted Christ's offer of forgiveness and all of my sins were forgiven. With deep contrition over my sinful nature, I asked the real and living *resurrected* Jesus of Nazareth to be my Lord, my Savior, and my God. Longing for His full pardon so that I would not go to hell, I embraced by faith the reality of His redeeming sacrifice, *bodily* death, and *bodily* resurrection accomplished on my behalf, and on behalf of every human in this sin cursed world. "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). In those miraculous moments of simple childlike faith in the Person of Christ and in the promises of God, *my Redeemer "saved" me!* I rejoice today, just as I have all these years, that God is faithful to fulfill His promises!

Through the Lord's grace I experienced change within my heart and mind. My ungodly and misdirected lifestyle was transformed as the Lord

Himself changed me; not a "church," not my friends, not *anything* except the Lord, His Word and His Holy Spirit.

### GOD'S POWER VS. FAKE REVIVALS

In the first week of yielding to Christ I realized that I was given *true* life, and that *more abundantly*. The most amazing thing to me was that I didn't need all the money-preacher junk that I had seen on TV. I did not need to do any of the crazy antics that

that God heals people of His *own* accord, when *He* wants to, not according to the Scripture perverting dictates of *counterfeit* revivalists. The Lord opened my eyes and *He* changed my heart. It was He Who died and bled in my place, so that I, the guilty, could be set free from the bondage and power of sin, death, Satan and the judgment of eternal doom. Considering these things, and according to God's warnings in Scripture, I have

recognized for many years now that money preachers, religious quacks and hyper-faith revivals are actually *hindrances* to true faith in Messiah Jesus. In fact, they destroy faith in God.

### DENY SELF, FOLLOW JESUS

Since 1989 I have also realized that having Jesus Christ as *the* Lord of my life does indeed include personal sacrifice and opposition from the world. I would eventually suffer great hardship many years later and even today for simply standing *against* evil *within* the church. Many in the West who profess faith in Christ seem to not even be aware that following Jesus *can entail* great persecution and personal loss, in numerous ways. Reading Scripture constantly reminds me that

being faithful to the *biblical* Gospel is *God's way* of getting things done, *not man's*. God's ways are not "politically correct," nor are they pragmatic and "religiously correct" according to the wisdom of men. "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God" (1 Corinthians 3:19). The hostile "world system" hates true Christians and oftentimes seeks to kill them, just as it killed Messiah Jesus. Jesus Himself said, "Blessed are ye, when men shall

**But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; 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. 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. So then death worketh in us, but life in you."**

(2 Corinthians 4:3-12)

false teachers engage in, such as getting amped up to "feel" God's presence, attend endless "revivals," "claim" miracle healing's, or fork out money to get a blessing (and approval) from God. Nor did I need to "sow seed-faith offerings," "name-it-and-claim-it," or follow after lying signs and wonders. As I read my Bible I recognized that Jesus said, "[a] wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign" (Matthew 16:4). I also realized

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revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you" (Matthew 5:11-12).

### SEEING WE HAVE THIS MINISTRY

The Christian life often times can be full of suffering. For untold millions throughout history is has been part of daily life. The truly heavenly-minded believer will recognize that suffering for Christ is "a gift that has been granted" (Philippians 1:29-30).

To not lose heart amidst growing persecution and the contemporary evangelical decay that abounds all around us these days, one must remember that "we have received mercy, [and therefore] we faint not." The biblical call is to keep our eyes on the Lord, and press on, regardless of the pain, trial and hardship. We, like the Apostle Paul, should have this mindset:

**"Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God." (2 Corinthians 4:1-2)**

### THE BOTTOM LINE

The bottom line is, we must look *up*, press *on* and move *forward*, regardless of the trials we are facing. Seasons of adversity will come, but it is through trials and in adverse circumstances that we learn to trust, obey and rely upon Jesus. Undiscerning spiritual activities, self-indulgence and the lack of forgiving others are oftentimes the greatest threat to a Christians faith. Paul the Apostle **warned** believers, reminding them of the necessity of enduring hardship (2 Timothy 2:3-5), forgiving others (Ephesians 4:32) and being spiritually discerning, "[I]est Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices" (2 Corinthians 2:11). The Christian then is *not* to be ignorant!

May we continue to discern the times in which we live, and to resist the

temptation to flinch when trials come and persecution arises. The "love of the world" *will* beckon us, but Jesus warned, "Remember Lot's wife. Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it" ( Luke 17:32-33). - CNL

## MINISTRY UPDATE

1. Writing/editing
2. Periodic Bible studies
3. Updates/maintenance (SRN)
4. Editing (video and audio)
5. Correspondence
6. Develop newer site (LC.ORG)

## PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Consistency with physical rehab
2. Occupational training (spouse)
3. Medical (2 more arm surgeries)
4. Dental work (spouse)

## FAMILY UPDATE

1. Family life with kids
  - Surfing
2. CA State Games (San Diego)
  - Basketball tournament

## PHYSICAL REHAB

1. Physical rehab - Chris
2. Plantar fasciitis (feet/rehab)
3. Trip: SoCal (Purchase VASA)
4. Swim/surf/paddle simulator
5. Recent surgery on arm

## THANK YOU

Thank you to all who helped us purchase the pre-owned Swim Ergometer/Trainer. It helps tremendously and I feel better and stronger than I have in a few years!



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<http://vasatrainer.com/>

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