

John Newlin Ministries, Inc.

- realizing the power of a life in Christ-

April 16, 2008

Dear Partners and Friends,

We love you! Please read this and pay attention:

HAVING A REAL RELATIONSHIP WITH A REAL GOD

God has given us all we need to live victorious lives, lives that honor God, lived according to the Word, guided by the Spirit. And God is not silent. He is here for you.

We live in perilous times, but if you are a believer, you know the truth, you can discern truth from falsehood, you know what is happening and what is going to happen. As Jesus said, the Holy Spirit reveals all truth to you and shows you what is to happen.

All this of course is for believers – those who truly know Jesus and who are open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. If that is not where you are in life and in your relationship to God, then begin to seek more. God specifically says you will find him when you seek him with all your heart (Jer 29:13).

Notice that I use the word believer, not Christian. So many people who go to church buildings on Sunday consider themselves Christians, but I'm not sure how many of those really are believers.

The type of relationship with God I am talking about here is a real one with a real person. I know many people occasionally look at the Bible, occasionally pray, and perhaps even attend a church service each week, one which they may enjoy or may just endure. But the truth is that a real relationship with Jesus is what he wants. It is possible to have a true relationship, one in which you really are guided. It is possible to have a prayer life in which answers really are given. It is possible to truly communicate with God, to know his presence, to understand clearly the leading of the Holy Spirit. Is that your faith life? If not, begin to seek.

So many Americans have their priorities upside down these days. They work and work, and go here and there, ever so busy. You frequently hear people talk about how busy they are and how they do not have enough time. Unfortunately, very little of that time is given to God.

But, you see, here's the problem: God really is real, Jesus is real, and the Holy Spirit is real. If you don't know that, haven't you ever wondered about those individuals you meet who have rock solid faith, who tell you they hear from God, that God has guided them to do this or that? Haven't you ever wondered about people who give up their secular activities suddenly to pursue some effort that they say God has called them to? Haven't you ever thought that perhaps they really did hear from our creator? What about those believers who are being persecuted, imprisoned, even killed in areas such as Indonesia, India, China, and elsewhere (Don't believe that is happening? Just search out Voice of the Martyrs on the internet and get on their mailing list.).

He really does communicate. That's what I'm trying to say in various ways. I know that some of the Sunday worship services are dry and lifeless and so many who have grown up in that type environment think that is what church and faith is. But I'm here to tell you it is not. Many go to a particular church

building out of tradition – they have gone there for years. Maybe their ancestors were members. But Jesus himself said that people make the Word of God of no effect by their traditions (Mt 15:6). Jesus is not about traditions. Knowing and believing God is a life of power and victory and amazing joy, a realization of what is in fact “really going on.” Don’t you want that?

Jesus wants you to know him. This is extremely important right now for your current life and also for your future, because he is indeed coming back very, very soon (see our CD’s on *The Return of Jesus*).

Once Jesus was in the home of some close friends (Lk 10:38-42). He was teaching a group, and one of the residents of the home, Mary, was sitting at his feet, taking in all he said. Her sister Martha was busy working to prepare a meal. At one point Martha came to Jesus and asked if he did not care that she was so busy working and her sister wasn’t helping her. Jesus responded to Martha that she was anxious about many things and that her sister Mary had chosen the better thing. In other words, nothing takes priority over spending time with Jesus. Nothing. It is your top priority in life. Ideally, you should begin each day spending time with God - in prayer, sitting quietly, reading the Bible, speaking to God, receiving from him. And really just stay in that until you realize it is time to go on. I usually never really end my prayers. I intend to be in a spirit of prayer all day long. And you can too. You can pray with your eyes open. You can talk with God anywhere.

There are various ways of hearing from God, as some of you have heard me say. You can read the “testimony” section on our web site for two dramatic such moments in which God stepped into my life and changed it forever, moments that are quite different from each other. If you’d like a paper copy, just let us know. Sometimes the communications are actually in words – you really have a conversation with God. At times it may be more of a sense, a leading of the Holy Spirit that you should do one thing or another. God may even communicate through events or perhaps words of other people, even though they may be unaware that they are being used that way.

Cathy and I pray often for you and your families, and we know from your remarks that many of you do the same for us, just as many of you contribute financially. Thank you! We would have great difficulty going forward at all in this ministry without such wonderful help. This is a very difficult time in which we live. It is also the time and world to which Jesus will soon be returning. Be sure you know him and always be alert.

As the banner in our office and the bottom of this page says, *Keep Your Eyes on Jesus!*
And live in the blessing that belongs to all believers.

John

[Please note: All contributions to John Newlin Ministries, Inc. – whether money or material goods or stocks or bonds – are tax deductible. John Newlin Ministries, Inc. is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit corporation.]

Keep Your Eyes on Jesus!

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