ZION FAITH HOMES NEWSLETTER

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"LET US RUN WITH PATIENCE THE RACE THAT IS SET BEFORE US, LOOKING UNTO JESUS THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH; WHO FOR THE JOY THAT WAS SET BEFORE HIM ENDURED THE CROSS… Heb. 12:1b-2a

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1940 NEW YEAR'S LETTER 1941

My dearly Beloved: .

I pen these words with trembling hand, knowing that before I can write "1941" such world events may take place, such personal and individual decisions be made, such tragedies occur, that only the shortening of those days would save us.

1940 has passed into history: 1941 is trembling on our threshold at the things it has to reveal. The New Year dawns, a new day awakens; new hopes arise, new vows are taken; new life springs up, new light is given; new bonds are made, old ones are riven.

Now after all these surmisings, probabilities and possibilities, what shall one do? Just the same as when there is not a cloud in the sky nor a ripple of a wave---LOOK TO JESUS! You cannot imagine anything too difficult for Him to handle; nothing too intricate for Him to unravel; nothing too great for Him to surmount. Your perplexities, problems and puzzles can be handled by Him with the ease with which a mother handles the infinitesimal problems of her child. Bring your troubles and lay them at the feet of Jesus and think of them no more. Indulge no longer in the vain hope that you can handle these difficult problems---your only security is in unloading the whole perplexing mass on Jesus.

I seem to be standing between two eternities: the one stretching back to an unknown past; the other reaching forward to an endless future. I have a little picture in my room: an eagle standing on a bleak crag high up on the mountain side, peering up the dizzy heights beyond her to another ledge where loved ones are eagerly waiting her coming. Soon she will spread her wings and soar upward to meet the waiting ones. So, I am standing on this narrow ledge of time, the sands crumbling beneath my feet, looking up the steeps of glory to my "house of many mansions" where loved ones are awaiting my coming.

I wish that I could tell you something of what strikes me now and again, but I have not got the power. I get a flash of light in my soul, and I see the majesty and magnitude- the immensity of God. How little we are, how small compared to the mighty Christ! I am speaking about spiritual things. I am not talking about so many cubic inches, or about weight. I am referring to this wonderful something that is coming hereafter. Who can guess? Who can imagine? *Eye hath not seen, ear hath not heard, neither has it entered into the heart of man, the things that God hath prepared for those that love Him*. That is the scripture description of what I am trying to express. The tremendous hereafter! The infiniteness of it! My Blessed LORD! If God shall ever permit us to cross the threshold of that glorious eternal life, "*hid with Christ in God*" beyond the vale, how marvelous it will be! How beautiful, and glorious, and wonderful it will be!

My brother, my sister, you cannot afford to miss this thing. You cannot afford to miss what God is preparing for those who love Him. You cannot afford to be careless or indifferent. You will be committing spiritual suicide if you let the

hours pass by, and the moments fly without adding line upon line, precept upon precept to bring you into that great presence of God, whom the angels fear. I tell you it is going to be something worthy of the glory and wisdom and power of God, to wake up and find out that this mortal coil is shuffled, that we have laid aside this garment of earth, that the deadness, and stupidity, and darkness of this earthly self is laid aside, and we are blooming in the Garden of God. We are going to wake up, because we could not see it in any other way---what God is going to show us of His wisdom, and power, and majesty and glory.

You cannot afford to miss it; and you cannot afford to be easy and careless. I tell you, if it took every moment of your life in one great strain and one great agonizing prayer, that God might lift you out of yourself and bring you into the heavenlies, that would not be too much of a price to pay. The boundlessness of it! The immeasurableness of it! It seems to be a universe in itself. And that it is all for little you and me---all for these urchins and street gamins. Think of it! All prepared for creatures such as us! It is marvelous indeed! This thing strikes me sometimes, and I wonder how we will ever stand it. Even though we are transformed and transfigured, as was Christ, and brought into the glory of the Millennial Kingdom, to reign with Him for a thousand years. I wonder how we shall behold and experience this marvelous majestic splendor that God has prepared for His people. We are now in the human form. We have not been translated; not yet transfigured. But we know It will be worth a life of suffering and sacrifice to be fitted to enter into this experience.

This last little while God has been revealing Himself to me in some little degree, touching me here and there. I get a flash now and again but am not able to express it in words. As He comes to me is this way, the knowledge of my lack of Him increases. I see what I have been missing. I see what I lack, but I see also how immense this Christ is, this Holy One of God, and what it would mean to possess Him. My poverty increases as my knowledge and light of Him increases. Instead of being satisfied, I am more dissatisfied with myself. Instead of being sufficient and feeling that I have obtained, I am waking up every day to see how tremendously great is my lack, how much I need Jesus and how immense and how marvelous is Christ! He fills everything, and the more you get of Him, the more you see that you never can get all, for He spreads out as you begin to possess a portion; He enlarges and broadens and deepens filling the whole universe. I do not know if we ever will be able to get satisfied completely, but there is a privilege that is afforded us- yes, that we may seek Him with all our hearts as He enables us, for "*It is Christ that works in you to will and to do of His good pleasure."* He is working out His own plan, His own purpose, and His good pleasure in us. You seek Him and think you are doing it. No, it is Christ working in you. It is not you that is doing it, for you would not do anything if it were not Jesus Himself working in you.

The idea of doing anything else, having any other goal, is perfectly foolish. If you have any other object, that thing comes between you and Jesus. If you are seeking for power, for faith, or for a great gift of healing (as one man told me recently he sought for the gift of healing for months)---that puts you on a wrong basis, on a false platform. It savors of the flesh. If you seek anything else but Jesus Himself, it divides, separates, and turns your thoughts and your worship from Him. For in Him, in Jesus, is all the fulness of the Godhead bodily, and that includes everything in the universe. He is the sum total of everything. He is the completion and perfection; the breadth of everything there is that is spiritual. What else can you go after? Where are you going

to find anything but in Him? Don't you see the folly of it? Doesn't God know what you need, and the Word says that the Spirit divides His gifts to each according to His will. There is pride, there is conceit wrapped up in the human desires---asking God for the gift of healing, so that you can get people attracted to you, so that you will have a manifestation before the world. I am not referring to our personal needs for we are told to ask God for what we need. But to seek for power, or faith so that we can work miracles, or wisdom so that we may be great, there is pride at the bottom of that. What you need is to know that you are a lump of clay, and throw yourself in the arms of Jesus having no desire, no question, but just want what He wills. Say, "I want you, Jesus. I need you. Take me and do anything you wish with me. Lord what wilt thou have me to do?" God knows what you need, and He will withhold what would be injurious.

Jesus is infinite in wisdom. His heart is so big, and His great compassion reaches and circumscribes everything. Glory to God! You can trust Jesus. You do not have to question and wonder. Just throw yourself helplessly into His arms and ask Him to do what He pleases with you. He is perfect, and wise, and good. His love for you is so complete and perfect that it would be impossible for Him to do anything that was not for your good and for His glory.

You will never have rest and contentment until you throw yourself and everything pertaining to you at His dear feet, and make an unqualified surrender of all, your own life also. This givenness of oneself is an absolute necessity to rid us of those earthly concerns which are silvering the hair, stooping the shoulders, and making furrows in the brow. If you possess aught, it will give you trouble. When all is given to Jesus, the cause of anxiety is gone, and in its place comes the rest, peace, and joy which only He can give. You lose nothing by giving to Him---He just multiplies it four-fold and sets you as steward over it. It is after such a transaction that the new day awakens, new hopes arise, and with this holy hope burning in my heart I pen these lines for 1941. Elder Eugene Brooks -Dec. 31, 1940

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May God be with you
In this coming year,
And may it be the sweetest
And deepest year
You ever had
---Lost in Him.

- M. W. Robinson

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A New Year has indeed begun. But let's not forget that we've also just celebrated the Advent of the Christ Child. Let's not neglect the <u>gift God gave, -His only begotten Son</u>. Our Father also gives us faith that He, by the Holy Spirit, makes to come alive within our own hearts, to any and all who will from our hearts and spirits respond with "**I believe**" that the baby born in Bethlehem was God incarnate, come to free us from the curse of our sin and to open Heaven's doors that we may enter in, through Christ our Lord. And our spirits receive new life in Him! Don't neglect this great salvation! Don't give the evil enemy of our soul, who hides behind rebellious unbelief, another day or hour of your life. God has a new heart for us freely given in Jesus' name. Why suffer the loss of eternity with God in love, peace and joy? Why succumb to eternal darkness in death? Oh, Jesus loves you! He chooses you! Don't neglect this great salvation. Only you can make Him your Lord. Yes! <u>He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Is He yours?</u>

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<u>OUR HUNGER FOR GOD TOUCHES MANY</u>

Mt. 7: 7-8 *Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you: For everyone that asks receives; and he that seeks finds; and to him that knocks it*

shall be opened. These verses from Matthew are an excellent backdrop for the intercession of Moses (Exodus 33) in behalf of the children of Israel. In this account the people had given themselves over to uncontrolled idol worship. Moses had received the terrible news from the Lord that because of their rebellious nature, He could not personally go with them to the promised land, but would send an angel instead. This was not acceptable to Moses. Like Abraham, Moses chose to do what any of us could choose. He decided to stand before God in behalf of all God's people. Ex. 33:12-14 *Then Moses said to the LORD, "See, You say to me, 'Bring up this people.' But You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found grace in My sight.' "Now therefore, I pray, If I have found grace in your sight, show me now your way, that I may know you and that I may find grace in your sight. And consider that this nation is your people." "And <u>He</u> said, 'My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."* Moses' prayer seems to be both personal and intercessory. Moses' hunger was really to know God beyond His acts of miraculous manifestations in relation to their deliverance from Egypt. His desire to know God's ways, or the paths of His heart and His Nature included the need at hand, but also his hunger to experientially and fully know God's heart can be discerned in his prayer. Moses' hunger for God himself proved to be a tremendous blessing to the whole house of Israel.

Our hunger to know and experience more of God never concludes with only ourselves. Many were beneficiaries from the cry of Moses' heart. God, in response to Moses' prayer said, "*My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."* This is God's desire for us today as well. Moses and his people were headed into the midst of their enemies and needed God's personal presence. In our time, we find ourselves increasingly in the presence of our enemies. Let us join Moses in that hunger for God's presence that brings rest to the soul.

We live in an age when God wants to manifest himself more clearly in and through His sons (children). Ro. 8:19 *For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.* He will have an undeniable testimony of His glory, nature and power. Part of that testimony is the peace and rest of God's people as He prepares a table for us in the presence of our enemies. The more present our opposition becomes the more visible that rest of God will appear. To have knowledge about God is good, but not enough in this darkening atmosphere. We must hunger for and seek the actual presence of God as Moses did.

Some may try to make this a theological conflict saying we have all of the LORD we need already. We are not thinking along theological lines at all. This kind of desperation for God to move and manifest himself transcends all time and all Christian denomination. The impassioned cry for God to come fill a need as well as it's precious and overflowing answer, are found throughout the New Testament. This includes the book of Revelation where the body of Christ is warned and encouraged to respond to God in many different ways, including answering the door of our hearts and letting Jesus be personally present and have fellowship with us. (Rev. 3:14-22)

Going back to Moses hunger and prayer in verses 14 & 16, it would seem he received his answer when the LORD said, "*My Presence will go with you and I will give you rest*." However, Moses wasn't done and doubled down in his talk with the LORD. One translation expresses his prayer like this, "*How else will we be distinguished from all other people on earth but by your presence?"*

The hunger that Moses had for God's presence is essential for our generation. This dark world desperately needs to see God's people walk with Him and display His glory as expressed in Isaiah 60: 1-*2 "Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you."*

This brings us to the third and last section of Moses prayer. "*Show me your glory!"* Moses was so hungry to know God more fully that he couldn't stop begging for more revelation. OH! That we could be more like him! "*I will make all my goodness pass before you*" was the LORD's answer. Wait, was this really the answer to Moses' prayer to see God's glory? Yes, indeed! The true glory of God is found in His nature, His goodness, mercy and truth.

When the LORD revealed His glory to Moses in Ex. 34:6-7, He proclaimed His Name and character to be: *The LORD! A God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abundant in loving kindness and truth. Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and fourth generation."* This is the glory that should appear in us and touch the world. In the New Testament, that glory appeared on and in Stephen as his face looked like the face of an angel. The words that came from his mouth, which so perfectly corresponded to the glory all over his face. *"Lord, lay not this sin to their charge!*" Here is God's glory all over Stephen's face and on his lips. This is that glory that Isaiah 60 speaks of. It is the glory of the nature of God's love and heart that completely forgives and pleads for his enemies. God wants to fill us with that glory, and reveal himself to a very desperate world.

When this glory of God appears in the nation of Israel as promised in Is. 60 it will not be of a different quality than in Stephen's life or the Apostle Paul. God's glory is always the splendor and overflowing essence of His nature. When Paul was finally filled with God and His glory, he cared nothing about ruling over others. Paul only wanted to give God's grace to others at his own cost. He suffered every day to give Jesus to the gentiles and prayed longingly that his Jewish brethren would find repentance unto life. When the whole house of Israel finally looks upon Him whom they have pierced and finds this repentance we should not expect anything less than what we see in the Apostle Paul or Stephen. They will become the head of the nations, but not with the desire to preside over everything. Like Paul, and more importantly like Jesus, they will desire to serve the nations. The gentiles have now been grafted in. God wants to fill us with His glory as well. We should anticipate nothing less than the burning desire to give the gospel and be servants to others.

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The "Mystery of the Eternal Most High God is that He is under all His works. That is why He is over them all, because He is the Upholder of all things. And He wants to uphold you, and He will uphold you, unless you are determined to uphold yourself or build on the shifting sands of the world's life. Then you are <u>bound</u> to uphold yourself or be upheld by the world. THAT IS UNBELIEF. SELF-belief is UNbelief. To believe in the world, or in yourself is Unbelief, and you do not realize that <u>God is upholding you</u>. This <u>Truth</u> will destroy the power of the devil, and all of his empire of <u>false</u> wisdom and knowledge. And that is going to be done by God's people on this earth -through people who are poor in spirit and who <u>KNOW THEIR GOD</u>. - RBA-Simplicity

LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down;
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art-
Visit us with Thy salvation
Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, oh, breathe Thy loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast;
Let us all in Thee inherit,
Let us find the promised rest;
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver,
Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray, and Praise Thee without ceasing,
Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

- Charles Wesley