



NightLight

A NEWSLETTER OF McLEAN MINISTRIES

"take heed....as to a light that shines in a dark place." II Peter 1:19

Volume 327 • August 2020

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Dear Friends,



It is a temptation in this current climate of fast events and faster communication to become overwhelmed with digesting and regurgitating information. It is simply human nature to get caught up in all that, and we have to willfully resist being drowned in both ends of it. Mary and I believe the purpose of **Nightlight** is, and has always been, to shine a light in a dark place. That means we are not trying to add our voices to the millions of others just so we can give our opinions. Who needs another opinion?

We want **Nightlight** to be both helpful and informative, and not just another version of what you already receive from other sources. Most of all, we want this to be a light to you that encourages and strengthens you in this present darkness. So I have increasingly steered away from issues that are transient, no matter how large they loom in the current moment.

Still, to live in this present war, it is not possible to stay silent on certain subjects and still be faithful to the truth. We seek to be truly helpful in addressing many ongoing struggles, whether it be the racial issues, the virus, or any other of a dozen in-your-face battles. We don't know how many people are accessing **Nightlight** now, because so many are going to the web or some electronic device rather than direct mail. So it is sort of like putting a letter in a bottle and throwing it into the ocean. We simply trust the Holy Spirit to guide the message to reach wherever it may help. But there are things I cannot fit into this letter only once a month. So we have added a new feature on our website that is always accessible, and I can communicate to you anytime, not just monthly: *Clay's Corner*.

Go to our web home page, scroll down the menu to *Clay's Corner*, and click to find these additional communications from me. There, I offer items that are formed in prayer over the current warfare we are facing, and



write what I believe the Holy Spirit is saying to me personally, and maybe to us. The rule of thumb we use for what goes into these writings is this: will what we say here live on, beyond this current events issue? Will it feed the heart and point the reader to Jesus on a deeper level? If the answer is yes, then it gets posted. But if it is just me venting on whatever may be setting me off at the moment, and there are many of those, well... you are spared.

Clay's Corner is not a place of dialog or debate. I'm just not built that way, and don't believe such a format from me is really helpful to anyone. There are places for that venue and I respect them, but don't need to add to an already glutted playing field. We just offer you what little we can, and hope it will be something the Holy Spirit can bless. So please take a few moments to go to *Clay's Corner* and graze. We pray it will be helpful to you. We welcome your feedback.

A decorative border of palm trees surrounds the central text. The border consists of a top row of 18 palm trees, a bottom row of 18 palm trees, and two vertical columns of 10 palm trees each on the left and right sides.

Free of Ego Focus

Time is the place God has provided for us to grow and learn in. I think we get embarrassed by who and what we were in our past because we have the strange but understandable idea that we now are not laughable and funny-looking. It was only back then. But you do know if you could live long enough to look back on your present state, you would still be embarrassed by the hair, the clothes, the weight, the eye glasses, or whatever else it was your ego may have focused on that wasn't cool. Even in our older years, we may still be susceptible to that trap. It is a wonderful thing when you can learn to have grace towards your younger, more foolish, bell-bottomed, bad hair self. You find when you do, that you are also a lot more sensitive to others who may still be un-cool. And you are becoming more aware of what is inside someone, and responding to them in real love. You are becoming more like your Father who does not focus on the outward appearance but on the heart. How we present ourselves to others is so often more about us, and not them. And being set free of ego focus can provide you with a lot more energy to then truly give to others, with no thought of yourself. I pray I get there. I'm moving that way.

Forgiving Me

We are so often harder on ourselves than others. We may be able to choose forgiveness for others, but just cannot seem to ever get past forgiving me. We should have known better, done better, been better, chosen better. But we didn't, and we cannot let me off the hook. *I'm better than that, we say. And keep up the self hatred when we cannot make me a better me. I failed. I am nothing. I am just not worth it. I am beyond hope.*

The Cross is the same for you as it is for every single person. Jesus Christ is where the self hatred stops. Jesus Christ is where forgiving yourself begins and ends. We all need a Savior. We cannot save ourselves. When we try to do better, we fail. It takes two: Him and you. You yield to His love for you, and welcome Him in to clear out the self hatred. His love will empower you to see yourself through Father God's eyes. You will begin to think *less about yourself* because you will no longer think *less of yourself*. Your true self – the real you – is not your lowest opinion of yourself. It is your highest self – what you are becoming in Jesus Christ. Embrace His definition of you, not your own, and not what someone else says either.

Forgive yourself for hating yourself. For you are God's beloved. He loves you. How can you hate what God loves? Hate the evil that clings to you, and have mercy on you. You are not evil. You belong to God. You are His. True peace within comes only on the other side of forgiving yourself. We move out of self hatred into self acceptance. Are you ready?

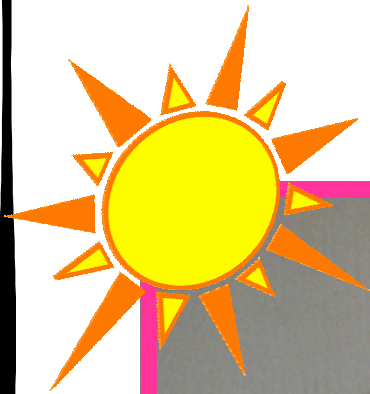


Closing Thoughts...



The oldies music is up and ready on YouTube! This includes the first song I wrote and recorded in 1971 (when I had just received my driver's license) called *Plenty of Time*. All songs from the album *Just Because I Love You* and several from the album *Things That Matter* are also available. Enjoy!

In His Joy, Clay & Mary



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