



# NightLight

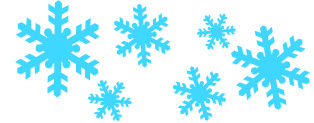
A NEWSLETTER OF McLEAN MINISTRIES

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

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## Dear Friends,



*I desire mercy and not sacrifice... Hosea 6:6*

*To love Him with all your heart and your mind and your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself; this is worth more than all burnt offerings... Mark 12:33*

*Perfect love casts out all fear... I John 4:18*

*For I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I've committed unto Him against that day.... II Timothy 1:12*



To speak of impending judgments makes us inwardly shake. Actually imagining how such judgments might manifest based on daily headlines can provide material for real fear to take hold. Men's hearts will fail them from fear of what is coming on the earth. (Luke 21:26) But God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind. (II Timothy 1:7) We are told 360 plus times in Scripture not to be afraid. That is at least one time for every day of the year! Jesus repeatedly told his disciples (and that includes us) that we are not to let our hearts be troubled. This obviously means we do have a choice whether we allow fear to come in or not.

Why would God shake a nation knowing it will awaken fear, but then command His children not to be afraid? He shakes the nation in order to awaken us out of our slumber in sin and selfishness in to the clarity of life in Him. Those who are at ease in materialistic blindness are being offered a severe mercy by the shaking. Fear is not God's goal; love is. While that chastening rod is being wielded, we who belong to Him do not fear as if we are the lost or as if His word to us is not good. We are to rest in His love, and trust Him against whatever may come.

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As troubles come and danger approaches, be wary of the temptation to bargain with God. “Oh I realize there is this or that thing in my life that is not right so I better get serious about God!” That may seem good to some whose understanding of His heart is still shadowed by a religious shroud, but think of what that says. “I haven’t been serious, and had no motivation to be serious, but now that trouble is coming, I better act serious enough so God will be more inclined to love me.” This kind of thinking is an insult to God’s love for you, which is unconditional. That means you cannot do better to earn it. He loves you. Period. No if, and, or but! While we were yet sinners, God revealed His love for us at Calvary. **(Romans 5:8)** Fear of this kind will only awaken a works righteous facade of shallow bargaining. Another devastating result of living in fear is an even more distorted concept of God. This is a modern version of a pagan offering on the legalistic altar to a false god who we think can be appeased by our sacrifice. What an insult to the Lover of our souls! He is the Wisdom that created the universe, the Passion that so loved us that the only satisfaction of His longing for us was Calvary. It is fear that makes us think we can simply placate God with shallow offerings. God does not want our sacrifices, our weak promises, or our bargaining chips. He wants a vibrant living relationship with you and me.

If we can grasp this, and allow it to grasp us, we will come to know Him whom we first believed, and we will become persuaded little by little, in the every day struggles, and in the big shakings, that He is able to keep that which we have entrusted to Him against that final Day. And we will find that that perfected love is casting out all our fear.

So what is it we have committed to Him? How are we becoming persuaded that He is able to keep it safe? See, you will be becoming persuaded He is able to keep it safe if you have committed what ever or whoever it may be, into His care.

He will help you. How many times have I committed and re-committed and re- re- re-committed to Him my wife, my children, and my other loved ones! Why do we not rest in that commitment so that we don’t have to re-do it? Could it be we are trying to bargain? Are we offering a pagan sacrifice to a false god we carry in our imagination? Are we trying to dance fast enough to make God like us? There is no grace for that kind of interaction with God. In other words, we are living in fear. We are not trusting that He loves us and not resting in His word. The opposite of fear is faith. **When you are fearing, you are not faithing in His faithfulness.** So we end up having to keep re-doing it over and over. God is not angry at our effort. Rather, He is helping us get to the real thing: living loved.

We have a choice when fear knocks at our door. We can unwittingly let it in to eventually rule our lives, or we can refuse it entrance by sending it to the Cross. In humility, recognize that you cannot defeat fear. It is *not* about having enough of your own faith to conquer fear. It *is* about coming to rely on the One who is faithful. In Christ, we identify and face our fears head-on, so that we might then give

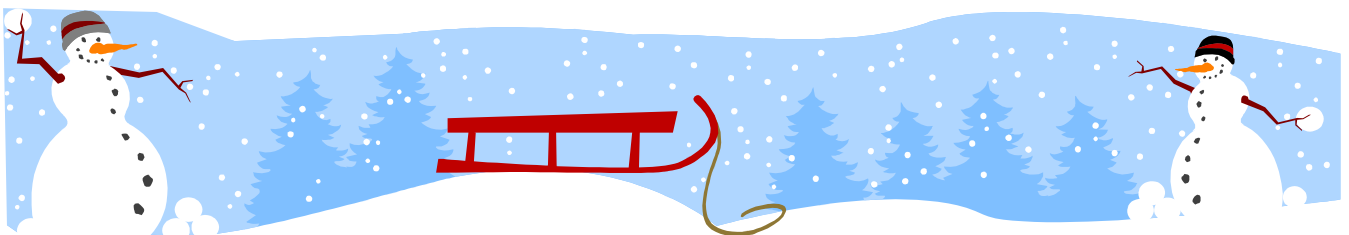
them all into His hands. We cast all our anxiety on Him, day in and day out. (1 Peter 5:7) For by doing so, we become more grounded in Father God's love for us. Soon fear will have lost its foothold in us as it withers and shrinks in the steady flame of His love.

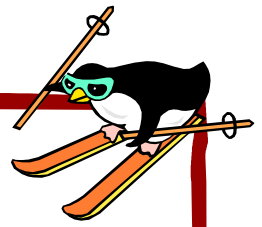
*Romans 8: 35-39*

*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*



*Happy New Year!*



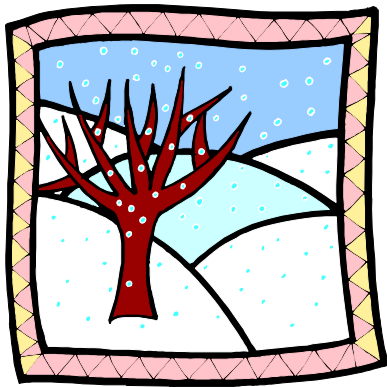


# Closing Thoughts...

Mary and I are always so grateful at this time of year for all the cards, greetings, family newsletters, pictures, and financial gifts to the ministry. Please don't think we take any of that for granted. How we wish we could see each one of you face to face and tell you thank you and join you in prayer together for those things most pressing on your heart.

May you know His Peace and Joy in the celebration of His Incarnation, and the power and greatness of living loved in the coming year. Soon, and very soon.....we are going to see The King.

*Blessed New Year,  
Clay & Mary*



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