



# NightLight

A NEWSLETTER OF McLEAN MINISTRIES

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

Volume 353 • October 2022

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## Dear Friends,



*Take heed...as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the Morning Star rises in your hearts.*

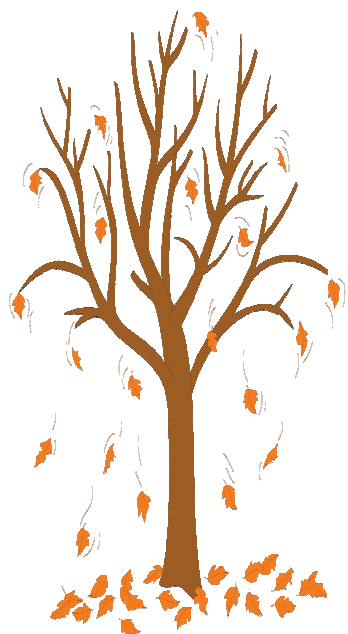
*2 Peter 1:19*

*In the last days scoffers will come...saying, "Where is this 'coming' He promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation."*

*2 Peter 3:3,4*

*In just a very little while, "He who is coming will come and will not delay."*

*Hebrews 10:37*



Years ago, we offered a 12 hour series on the book of Revelation. But no longer; I pulled it. Not because I'm unsure of basic truths concerning the close of this age, but because I am unsure of many details. And it is in those unclear details that so much pop culture speculation gets propagated as fact in this present culture. Then the craziness gets multiplied.

How many of us have been far too engaged with such speculations, thinking we are responding to 'real' interpretations, only to find out later that we have, once again, been wasting our time and energies on vapor. Then...we do it again!

On the other hand, we may have become so jaded by the flow of pop culture speculations out there, that we no longer **take heed to the word of the prophets, as to a light shining in a dark place.** (See **2 Peter 1:19**) Notice: prophecy is not a dark word that seeps into the light. It is a LIGHT that shines in a dark place! It is meant to instruct, comfort, and guide us along the journey of life. The prophet **speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement, and comfort...words that build up the church.** (See **1 Corinthians 14:3-4**) Are we choosing to give our attention to real prophecy that is building us up, training us in discernment, and empowering us to take fruitful action? If so, we are taking in light. Otherwise, we are wandering in the dark, bogged down by men's ideas. True prophecy lights the way through the dark, and is full of hope.

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I get a lot of emails pointing me to the next demonic manifestation, world tragedy, or overwhelming impending ploy of antichrist. And the folks sending them certainly mean well. They are trying to sound the alarm. But often the spirit behind these reports is not edifying, exhorting, or comforting. It is more often fearful and angry (which I have been guilty of at times). If it does not strengthen, teach, and empower me for action, what exactly is it for? After five decades of experiencing this scenario over and over, I have become immune to alarmist messages. But - please hear me! - I am NOT deaf to the real messages. **If the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle? (See 1 Corinthians 14:8)**

Because I do not respond to every alarm, I am available to answer the one I AM called to deal with. For we are most certainly at war! There is one missing element in prophetic discernment that will help us all learn to discern more clearly. That is to live in union with a corporate humble listening body of prayerful obedient followers of Christ. In other words, we were never meant to sit alone in a room with just ourselves, and read or listen to some prophetic word, and then react to it. We were meant to listen together - corporately - and discern together. No single man or woman has the whole message. We sharpen and balance each other as we live together with other believers and allow their points of view to sharpen ours. This is by divine design. We were designed for relationships. Our ultimate purpose is to learn how to be loved and to love. We can only do that in relation to others. And we can only hear that clarion call together in community. God is not concerned that we gain knowledge to understand all mysteries. He is focused on providing us with the light we need (true prophecy) that helps us grow in love with one another.

I know some of you are somewhat isolated where you are. But you can still communicate with others, even if it is only electronically. Surely there are people in your world you don't yet know, with whom you can connect, and who will provide the missing iron that will sharpen your iron. It may be that a few of you meeting together to earnestly seek the Lord will become the birthing of a functioning prophetic body of believers – the true church. I don't mean another church in the traditional sense, but a real expression of the body manifesting the elements of His life in you. Pray for it. It may be like a tiny cloud at first, but have faith for the abundance of rain.





# *The Way of Love*

*(1 Corinthians 13:1-7,12-13) The Message*

If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy  
but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate.  
If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries  
and making everything plain as day,  
and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps,  
but I don't love, I'm nothing.

If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr,  
but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere.

So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.

Love never gives up.

Love cares more for others than for self.

Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.

Love doesn't strut, doesn't have a swelled head,

Doesn't force itself on others, isn't always "me first,"

Doesn't fly off the handle,

Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,

Doesn't revel when others grovel,

Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,

Puts up with anything, trusts God always,

Always looks for the best,

Never looks back, but keeps going to the end.

We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist.

But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright!

We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us,


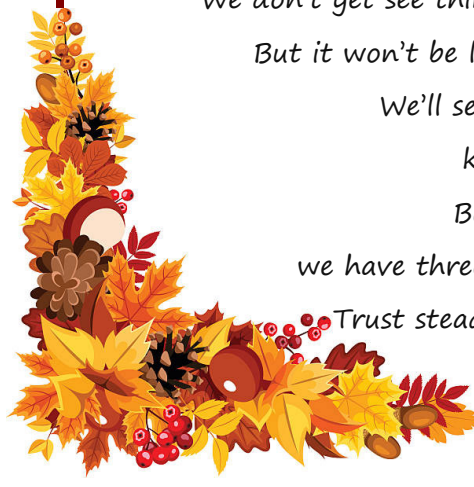
knowing him directly just as he knows us!

But for right now, until that completeness,

we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation:

Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly.

And the best of the three is love.



# Closing Thoughts...



*Love never fails.*

*But where there are prophecies, they will cease;  
where there are tongues, they will be stilled;  
where there is knowledge, it will pass away.*

*For we know in part and we prophesy in part,  
but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears.*

*(1 Corinthians 13:8-10)*

*Come, Lord Jesus, the Perfection of all things!*



*With Love, Clay & Mary*



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