



# 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,



*Faith is not a pathetic sentiment, but robust vigorous confidence built on the fact that God is holy love.*  
(Oswald Chambers)

*Faith is the heroic effort of your life that brings you into right relationship with God.*  
(Oswald Chambers)

*Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him...*  
(Job 13:15)

*...the life which I now live in the body, I LIVE BY THE FAITH OF THE SON OF GOD, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.*  
(Galatians 2:20)



What is faith? There is a principle which gives us a picture in the first use of a word that then carries throughout the entire Scriptures, telling us something very important about that word. The Hebrew word for faith is **emunah**, which is kin to the root **emet** - truth. To give us a clear picture of how God views real faith, let us look at it in action. In Exodus 17, we find the story of the Amalekites shamelessly attacking Israel unprovoked. Moses stood over the battlefield, and as long as he held up his arms, the battle went to Israel. But when he would drop his arms, the Amalekites began to gain ground. So Aaron and Hur sat Moses on a stone, and it tells us in verse 12 that as they held up his faltering arms "**his hands remained steady.**" The word **steady** here is **emunah**. To be steady is to be of faith. That is why our life is to be a *walk* of faith - a steady continuous journey with our eyes fixed upon Jesus. Faith is a verb more than a noun - it is active, a *faithing* in the One who is the Faithful One. That is why almost all uses of the word in Hebrew imply *faithfulness* to the One who is True.

Real faith is manifested at its highest when things seem to be going the opposite of what we had desired or thought. We remain steady, steadfast, faithful, faithing. Why? Because we believe the One who is Truth, the One who is Faithful, the One who is Holy Love. Our faith is not our faith, but a Person whose character we

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trust, even when we do not understand what is happening around us. We choose to remain true to God's character whatever He may do.

There is another important point we see in Exodus 17. It is good to know that when our **emunah** gets shaky and weak, those by our side can hold up our arms to help us remain steady. We are a community of faith. We should stay close enough to each other to be able to readily give and/or receive such help. We are invited first into relationship with the Blessed Trinity, then into right relationships with our brothers and sisters. The love that God shares with us, we are to share with others. **Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:2)**



**Psalm 23: a rendition  
by Joshua Alan Sturgill**

The Lord is my Shepherd,  
I shall not rush.

He makes me to attend carefully  
each arising insight.

He leads me to enjoy the Moonrise when no one else is watching;

He restores the broken parts of my mind.

He leads me in cooperation with natures high and low

for the sake of union with Him,

and though the winter is long, I observe the life

waiting in the roots of all things.

You, Lord, prepare the tea ceremony for me at a beautiful table  
(a handmade table, unique among the worthless machine-made million).

You give me delight in growth, cleanliness and simplicity  
joy and the capacity for joy from the same Source.

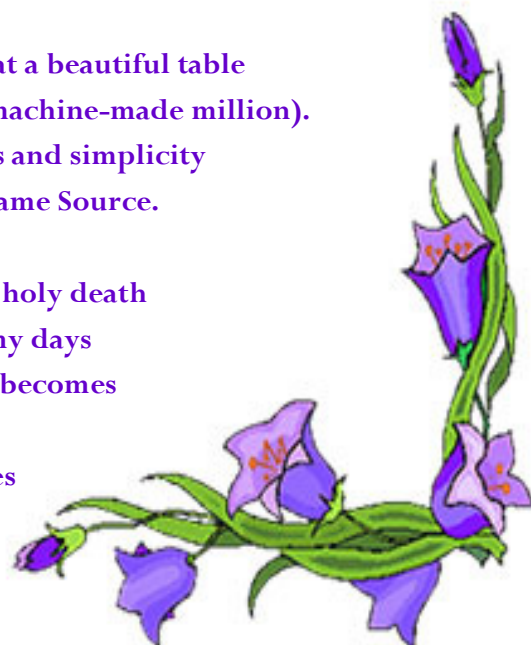
Surely humility and preparation for a holy death

will be my vocation throughout my days

until this world is transfigured and becomes

(or is revealed as)

Your House from all the Ages





## *On a Personal Note...*

*It has come to a point in time for me when the flow of life circumstances is forcing me to pull back and retreat into physical and emotional examination and recovery with the Lord.*

*I have dealt with kidney stones over the years, always bouncing back. But the silence of no pain over the past two years had given me a false sense of health. I was seeking help for several other issues when, by His grace, the kidney problems were then discovered by the doctors. Developments demanded that two surgeries were necessary – the first on the left kidney (done on March 27); the second one on the right kidney is scheduled May 5 for the back stint out patient, then May 8 in hospital. I am not a good patient! As I am still dealing with the original set of issues as well, I am quite overwhelmed with the degree of weakness in both body and mind. This deprivation of activity is way more difficult and demanding on me than I ever anticipated. My goal is to stay in His presence and peace, which I struggle with at times.*

*The silence and uninterrupted quietness of this time has been helpful in certain ways. I won't deny that. But over all, a retreat away from the almost constant hustle and bustle of this type of ministry has taken another sort of toll I was not anticipating. The work load on Mary has greatly increased, yet she never complains. She takes great care of me and helps me face whatever I am not facing, with wisdom and grace. I am more grateful for her every day of our lives together. Our kids have been a great blessing as well, taking care of daily errands, grocery shopping, doctor appointments, and any other needs that call for driving a car, as I cannot, and Mary does not drive.*

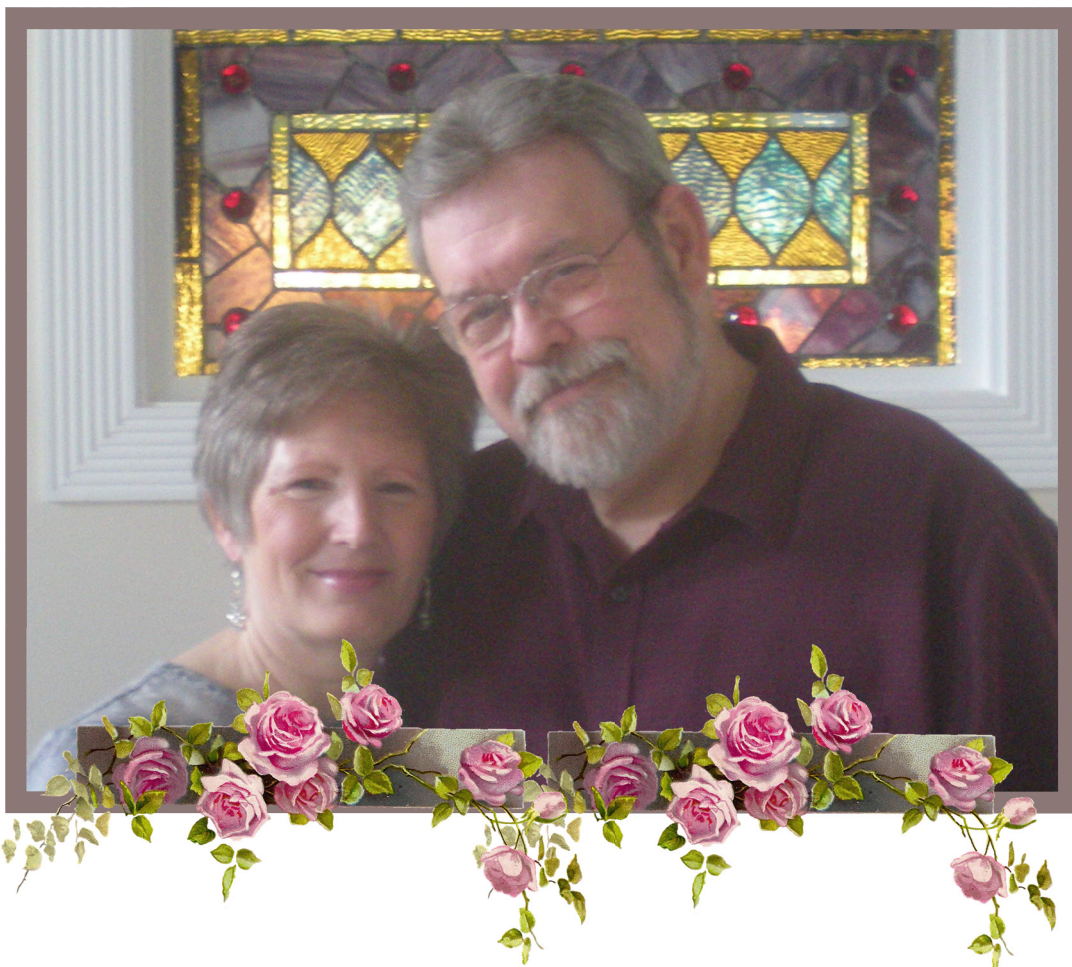
*Why am I telling you my personal struggles? It is because I covet your ongoing prayers on my behalf. I need the Lord's grace to know how to wisely respond to the immediate demands of this recovery period. I need you, dear Nightlight family, to lift up my shaky arms so that I remain steady through this present personal battle. Blessed be the Name of the Lord!*



# Closing Thoughts...



"Surely humility and preparation for a holy death will be my vocation throughout my days..." May we all live well, delighting in growth in the Lord as we journey Home, and die well as we make that transition into His loving Presence. For if we live well, we shall die well, to live again!



*In His Loving Embrace, Clay & Mary*

## **McLean Ministries**

P.O. Box 2088 • Hickory, North Carolina 28603 • 828.322.5402  
website: [www.mcleanministries.org](http://www.mcleanministries.org) • email: [claymcleanministries@pobox.com](mailto:claymcleanministries@pobox.com)

