

September 2022 Newsletter

From Heaven's Heart

“Do You Know How to Respond”

With a world seemingly out of control, we, as believers, should know how to respond. How are we doing? Our minds are bombarded daily with so much stuff, much of which is just clutter. The world is trying to get our attention in every conceivable way to sway our beliefs, our votes, to buy things we don't need? Everything is new and improved. Really?

Our world is in bad shape, and sometimes we feel that way too, don't we?

In our better moments we know our life is filled with God's blessing, yet we seem to struggle mightily with anxiety, fear, resentment, and discouragement. The chaos of the world seeps into our hearts and our lives. Fear can affect our faith in a negative way if we let it...and sometimes we do.

I ran into a stranger a few weeks ago who began talking about his relationship with Christ. He said, “Sometimes I feel so close to God and then moments later, I feel a million miles away.” I know this can be true because I've experienced the same thing. Is this true for you at times?

I eventually learned that staying mentally healthy in a crumbling world is my/our daily assignment from our Heavenly Father, but we can't do it without a strong spiritual foundation to build and sustain our lives. We need God! We need Christ and His teachings. We need the Holy Spirit and His indwelling. And we need the Scripture that gives us a clear picture about our futures and the End Times. God can clear away the clutter and He can help us make sense of it all. His words are filled with lessons to bring calm in the midst of the craziness, remove the distractions and see clearly. There is an endgame and the outcome is perfect.

During the final week of Jesus' life here on earth, He sat with four of His closest friends on the ridge of the Mount of Olives. He began to present to them God's master plan for the Last Days.

He began with a shocking prediction. It seemed impossible. The massive temple complex would come tumbling down...every single stone would be destroyed. These stones weighed several tons each. He then told them what would happen and it is already happening as we speak. Read about it in Matthew 24 & 25, Mark 13, and Luke 21.

Our Lord knows everything that has ever happened and that will happen. He knows it totally, in advance and in detail. He understands all we are going through right now and will go through including everything you are going through personal and will go through in your entire lifetime, and He has offered you powerful promises in His word to reassure you of His presence and protection...including how to respond to all we are going through right now as the world seems to be crumbling all around us.

Here's what matters! The future of the entire world is in His hands so as long as you are His, as long as you have handed over the control of your life to Christ, you have nothing to fear because you know how this is all going to end. And because of this fact, regardless of the headlines we see on TV, we can and should feel better thoughts, feel healthier emotions, and respond with more positive reactions and therefore do better things because our knowledge of what's ahead must determine our priorities right now.

The headlines in the news should not surprise us or change our thoughts and our plans because we know Christ is in control. We have hope as sure as the sunrise, as enduring as the Scripture, and as glorious as the almighty throne of Heaven.

Jesus said the signs of the end times are deceivers will arise; wars and rumors of wars will escalate; disasters such as plagues, famines, and earthquakes will spread worldwide; and God's people will face increasing persecution, betrayal, lawlessness, and lovelessness. Sound familiar? And in spite of it all, the gospel will spread to the ends of the earth, and Christ will return right on schedule. So how do you respond to all of this? The Bible says that those who keep going for Christ...who endure to the end...will be heroes in His sight and receive great rewards in Heaven.

This is why we must rededicate ourselves to Christ. How we respond to all that's going on as the End is just ahead of us matters. We must respond in every area and activity of life. With his help, we can stay calm, remain confident, well prepared, and faithfully serve others with unconditional love.

This is how we respond to a world that is crumbling right before us? We must do all we can to take the Gospel to the world and as we do, we will endure till the end. This is the cause of His Cross.

We Christians are on a mission to help others and to spread the gospel of hope. How are we doing? How are you doing?

My mind tells me that our time here on earth is short. Therefore, we must focus on God's priorities and energize His plans as we await Christ's return. This is how we respond to a world that's crumbling right before our eyes. Yet we can celebrate the new heaven and the new earth that's coming...complete and total peace, no sickness, no wars, no crime and rewards that are awaiting you, for what you are doing that's right...Perfection is coming!

Whose voice are you listening to when you choose how you will respond?

Looking with excitement to Christ return,

Pastor Steve

PS Please stop and think about this. What has God asked you to do recently that the Devil said, "You don't need to do this". So you didn't help. Here's the troubling news. Your no cost someone else something and it costs you even more.