HOLD ON TO YOUR FAITH

**AND DON’T LET GO!**

*Written By: Tommy Romans January 2022*

I would like to say to all my readers – you may be battling in mind, body and soul; you may be suffering and going through hardships but HOLD ON to your Faith for it will soon pay off when our Lord Jesus Christ comes for the Church to get His saints and take them out of here! Surely, He is coming soon by the signs of the time that we see all around us! You may lose a lot of things in life and have to sacrifice and give them up, but DON’T EVER lose or let go of your FAITH! It is your Life, your strength and Hope. Don’t ever let your trials and sufferings dwindle and dampen your Faith, for if it dies in you, you are gone!!

\*For we walk by Faith and not by sight – **2Cor. 5:7).** If you go by your natural senses of what you see and feel, you’ll sink your own boat in the sea of life. \*The just shall live by his Faith - **Hab. 2:4).** Holding fast the faithful Word – **Titus 1:9).** Believe and Hold on to God’s Holy and incorruptible, unchanging, infallible Word of Truth. Faith embraces God’s promises for they are yea and amen! \*Holding Faith and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning Faith have made shipwreck – **1Tim. 1:19).**

You cannot afford to surrender your Faith in this dark trying hour. Remember, your Faith started you out on your spiritual journey and it will take you through and all the way home! Heaven is the ultimate goal of Faith. I started out to win this race, to be with my Lord and look upon His face. I’ve come too far to give up now! Faith is of the Heart, it is the hearts desire and determination. It is a Fight. Faith has spiritual eyes that looks beyond this world of woe to a mighty Faithful God who sits high on the throne. Faith always has a goal in mind and it will not turn loose or give up till it reaches that longed for goal. Faith sails on through the stormy sea of time, there’s no turning back. She will soon pull in to Heaven’s port to sail the troubled waters no more.

**2Tim. 6:12** – The Holy Ghost through Paul exhorted Timothy as well as us, saying: Fight the good Fight of Faith, lay Hold on eternal life whereunto thou art also called.

WE ARE ALL BATTLING, BUT HOLD ON

**1Pet. 5:6** – Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time. What’s the Lord saying here? There will come times that you will be brought low by something and you will need God to lift you up and get you back on your feet spiritually. He goes on in **Verse 7** to say – Casting all your Care upon Him for He careth for you. The Greek word for care is Mer’im-nah which means anxiety, worries, fears, inner turmoil and nervousness. (Jesus is saying – bring all your cares to me, I affectionally care about you. I will comfort, help and sustain you.)

**Verse 8** – Be sober, be vigilant (which means to be alert, cautious and serious minded and on watchful guard), because your adversary the Devil as a roaring lion walketh about seeking whom he may devour: (the Greek word for Devour is kat ap ee’ no which means to swallow up, to gulp down and drown. It’s not just your body that Satan would like to destroy and drag down but he comes for your mind to try to drown you mentally with worldly cares. He seeks to pull you under, destroy and drown you spiritually. He’ll wool you until he drains every bit of the life and Faith out of you.) **Verse 9** - goes on to say – Whom Resist (Satan) stedfast in the Faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

Do you know what the apostle Peter is telling us here? Don’t get discouraged and let these things drag you down. Don’t feel bad when you are going through it - we are all in the same boat together. You are not by yourself. You are not the only one going through trials. We are all battling something. Hold on to your Faith and trust in God. The devil is clever, he works on our minds. If he can get you to feel isolated and cause you to feel that you are the only one suffering and going through it, then he can cause you to doubt and give up the fight. The same afflictions are accomplished in your brothers and sisters in Christ everywhere.

Your Faith is MUCH MORE Precious than Gold that perisheth. It will be tested and go through the Fire, but Hold on to your Faith, God will strengthen your heart and you will be able to help others who are suffering and going through it!

WHY DOES THE ENEMY FIGHT?

 So, why does the Devil fight so hard? Why does he fight you in every area he can, and in every way possible? Why does he attack you in your mind, your body and soul? The Church of Jesus Christ right now is being assailed by the powers of Hell. It seems that every kind of demon has been unleashed against the saints of God. The enemy is using and throwing everything he can at God’s people to weaken them and wear them down and out. Do you not understand why? It’s all out war on the Christians’ Faith!! That is exactly what he is after – it is YOUR FAITH! That is his aim and his goal. He’ll use your troubles against you in order to fill you with doubt! You are the object of his animosity. You and your testimony are a threat to him. He hates you with cruel hatred. What you have inside of you is what he is after, and THAT IS YOUR FAITH! If he can get that Faith, he has got you – there’ll be no resistance, you won’t have the strength to stand. Your dedicated prayer life and your work for God is a threat to his kingdom. If he can stop or hinder you in your service for the Lord, then he knows others won’t get help, they won’t be encouraged!

 Don’t ever forget that it was Faith that saved you in the first place. For by Grace are ye Saved through Faith. You are kept by the power of God and preserved through Faith. If the devil can take that out of you – he wins and you lose. We might lose a lot of things in life and have to give them up, but if we ever let go of our Faith – we are gone – it is over!

Yes, Satan’s aim is to replace your Faith with doubt and unbelief. How does he do it? He will use your troubles, trials and afflictions against you. He knows you are vulnerable and will come more nigh listening to him and his lies in the midst of your problems when you are suffering! The devil knows when you are struggling, it shows in your prayer life and reading God’s Holy Word. Because of your troubles, you begin to slack up. The zeal and desire is not there like it used to be. He knows when you are getting spiritually weak. He’s cunning and sly and will hit you when you’re right in the middle of a hardship and trial.

Oh the many avenues that the devil, the enemy of man’s soul uses to get to people to discourage them! Don’t ever forget, Satan is the Master of Deceit. He’s the greatest cunning artist this world has ever known. He will take your circumstances and paint God uncaring and bad. He will get people to think – “If I was really saved and God really cared, I wouldn’t be suffering and going through this.” He will paint the Christian way too hard to live and he’ll tell you to let up, that you don’t have to live that strict, it’s too much of a sacrifice! He will blow your trials out of proportion and make your mountains and problems look much bigger than what they really are. NOW you Know why you are being fought so hard!

PLEASE HOLD ON TO YOUR FAITH!

God is saying to you in this Newsletter – “HOLD ON TO YOUR FAITH!” Your love and service for the Lord is not in vain. You have come too far to slack up now!

Do not let the enemy steal your dedication and commitment. Don’t let him have your joy of Salvation. Don’t let him steal your song and praise. Do not surrender your gifts and callings that God has given you and placed in your life!!

In my almost 48 years of serving the Lord, I have seen many good people who were Christians come and go. I have seen the devil use his evil tactics and tools to discourage them and I sadly watched them give up in their trials. Did you know that you can get to the point that you feel so useless, no good, unworthy in your sufferings that you surrender your Faith inside?

Be very careful and on guard in your time of hardship because you can easily surrender everything you have known about God – everything you have felt and experienced in the Lord – everything you have been taught and shown by the Holy Ghost! You can get to the place in your trials that you get spiritually numb! When you are under stress and can’t feel God, the Devil can turn you hard and bitter. Your enemy will pump you so full of his lies of discouragement and doubt that you will say – what’s the use? You will slack up on going to Church, you will quit praying and daily reading God’s Word. You will push the Bible aside and reach for other things to entertain, and when your Faith dwindles down to nothing, that’s when you give up and walk away from Jesus into the arms of this world!

LIFE’S PRESSURES WILL BUILD FAITH

**Poem:**

We are:

Pressed out of measure and pressed to all length; Pressed so intensely, it seems beyond strength;

Pressed in the body and Pressed in the soul,

Pressed in the mind till the dark surges roll.

Pressure by foes, and Pressure from friends,

Pressure upon Pressure till life nearly ends.

**But through all of life’s Pressures-**

I’m Pressed into knowing no helper but God;

Pressed into loving the staff and the rod;

Pressed into liberty where nothing clings,

Pressed into FAITH for impossible things.

I’m Pressed into living my life for the Lord,

Pressed into living a Christ-life outpoured.

 Yes dear Jesus, I will not let my troubles and my trials pull me away from you, but draw me ever nearer and into your loving arms. Your mercy will keep me! The pressures of the hard places make us value life. It helps us to understand the trials of others and more able to show compassion. Show me just one person that is not going through something! We surely need the prayers and encouragement and the support of each other in this trying hour.

**2Cor. 1:3** ¶ Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;

 **4** - Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

 The Holy Ghost is saying – take your answers to prayer, your help and comfort that you have received from the Lord and reach out and encourage others!

**1Tim 1:18** ¶ This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;

 **19** Holding Faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:

 Paul was telling Timothy – Son, you know what the Lord has told you, and what He promised you when He called you into the ministry, that by these prophecies you might war a good warfare. Take this Gospel and reach out to the lost, to the suffering and the hurting and bring them to Jesus before it is too late.

 Many souls have started out good, they were strong and determined and God blessed them – but problems came and they became tired and weary and discouraged. Their Faith weakened and they let up. They left Jesus and turned back. Now their lives are in a mess. Have you ever seen a shipwreck from being dashed into the rocks and the waves beating it? Boards lying everywhere – the cargo and treasures it was carrying sunk to the bottom beneath the waves and lost. So many lives, homes and marriages have ended up on the rocks. Ministries have been lost to sea. I have heard it many times – another soul went down, another one gave up - another ship has sunk.

 I am writing this Newsletter to encourage you to hold on to your Faith. No matter what you go through – suffering, pain or loss, Hold on to your Faith – IT IS NOT IN VAIN!! Take heart children - Your prayers and labors will surely be rewarded!

**1Pet 1:13** ¶ Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be Sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

The Greek word for **Sober** is – Nay’fo which means to have a sound mind; to maintain a calm and collected spirit; to exercise self-control of your feelings. Don’t let the devil work on your mind, keep it spiritual. Keep your mind stayed upon the Lord and His Word! Do not doubt in your heart and go to pieces and fall apart in your trials. The devil, your enemy uses things, he uses people and circumstances to get you upset and knock you off balance. He’ll bring worry, fear and frustration. He wants you troubled so he can break your communion and connection to God.

It is the enemy that pulls on your thought life to get you focused on the bad and by it he brings discouragement. If you dwell on the bad and the negative long enough, your enemy will drain every bit of the life of God and the joy of the Lord out of you. He will dampen your Faith to the point that you will get the feeling – what’s the use, I can’t handle this anymore and you give up inside.

**Sober** also means to have temperance and maintain self-control of all carnal, worldly, earthly desires and impulses. It is self-discipline. **Php 4:6** -Be careful for nothing (fear not or worry); but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. **7** - And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall **keep** your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. **8** - Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, **think** on these things. (May God Bless all my readers!!)