



# NEWSLETTER

The voice of those who escaped from the iron curtain

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Need Prayer? Call us at 530-520-2717

## *Never Surrender to Your Circumstance*

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Dear Friends,

We're so grateful for you! We're so honored that you are taking the time to read these words of hope and encouragement each month! Your faithful support, prayers and encouragement are vital to this Ministry and we never take that lightly. Basically because of YOU (and of course, Jesus!), we are able to continue taking the uncompromised Word of God to those who have never heard It. And we're just getting started! In John's words, *We are not retiring, we're re-firing!* Praise the Lord!

A few days ago while I was picking up some takeout, I noticed a woman wearing a shirt that read: PERMANENTLY TIRED. I was taken aback by that statement, but didn't give it much thought until later. The lady wearing the shirt looked like she had given up on herself and life in general. She looked like she was a few pounds overweight, if you catch my drift, and she looked disheveled. Let's just put it this way, she was wearing the right shirt because she really looked the part! As the day went on those two words came back to me and I couldn't get them out of my mind. *PERMANENTLY TIRED*. I started thinking about it from a spiritual point of view. This is the church today. Most Christians today are permanently tired physically, mentally, and emotionally. Some of you may be thinking, *I'll never get to that point*. Unfortunately, many times life takes us places we never thought we'd go. On the other hand, some of you may be in the thick of it right now and can barely keep your head above water. Maybe *permanently tired* is your life song at this moment and you're waving a white flag. The truth is we live in an evil, fallen world. The Word of God never promises that our life would be easy or that we will never face adversity. It DOES say that if we wait on the Lord, He will renew our strength (Isaiah 40:31). It DOES say that at just the right time, we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't get tired of doing good (Gal. 6:9). It DOES say that if our hearts are troubled and afraid, He will give us His peace (John 14:27). It DOES say that the Lord is faithful and He will establish and guard us from satan and His evil plans (2 Thess. 3:3). Satan attacks us when we're tired because that's when we're the most vulnerable. When we're tired, we open ourselves up to our emotions and give satan authority to come in through that open door of emotions.

Tiredness leads to hopelessness and hopelessness leads to surrender. When we come to the point of surrender, we've given up the fight and accept whatever the outcome is. This is the opposite of what the Word of God tells us to do. When we look at the example of Apostle Paul who was shipwrecked several times, imprisoned, beaten and flogged, we see that he *never* gave up or accepted his current circumstance. He was determined to fight the good fight until the very end because he knew that the things that are seen are temporary but the things that are unseen are eternal. In all of his adversity, Apostle Paul wanted his life to bring glory to God. He considered his life as being poured out as a sacrifice for the Gospel (2 Timothy 4:6, Philippians 2:17).

***Therefore we do not become discouraged (utterly spiritless, exhausted, and wearied out through fear). Though our outer man is [progressively] decaying and wasting away, yet our inner self is being [progressively] renewed day after day. For our light, momentary affliction (this slight distress of the passing hour) is ever more and more abundantly preparing and producing and achieving for us an everlasting weight of glory.***

***Since we consider and look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are visible are temporal (brief and fleeting), but the things that are invisible are deathless and everlasting. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18***

Most Christians are more focused on the *why* and *when* instead of asking God to take full control and prove that He is God. We **should** be asking, “How can my circumstance bring glory to You?” When we don’t see the results that we *want and when* we want to see them, we get discouraged and tired and throw a tantrum. Honestly, we act like big babies when we don’t get our way! Just like a baby reaches for his milk when he’s cranky, we tend to reach for our bottles of milk when things don’t go our way. But in reality, we need to put our big boy pants on and reach for the solid food, which is the meat of the Word, and stand firm on those promises. Just like the book of Hebrews teaches us, solid food is for those who are mature and can recognize what is wrong and right.

***There is much more we would like to say about this, but it is difficult to explain, especially since you are spiritually dull and don’t seem to listen. You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God’s word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food. For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn’t know how to do what is right. Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.*** Hebrews 5:11-14

The bottom line is this- ***We have to surrender our circumstances to the Lord instead of surrendering to our circumstances.*** We need to run to the meat of the Word of God and put It into practice. Basically, we need to do the opposite of what the world does. The world’s way of dealing with problems, obstacles, difficulties and hardships is to give up when it gets “too hard” or when we’re “too tired.” The world’s way is to begin to doubt God, murmur and complain, become double minded, and speak negatively and opposite of the Word of God. But praise God, the world’s way is NOT God’s way! God’s way is to be transformed by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:2). God’s way is to speak LIFE, speak things into existence, and speak that we CAN do all things through Christ because He gives us strength. His way is to proclaim His promises regardless of what we see with our eyes (Rom. 4:17, Prov. 18:21, Phil. 4:13). God’s ways are perfect.

***As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the LORD is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.***  
Psalm 18:20

Dear friend, our prayer for you is that you do not conform to this world and its patterns and behaviors. But that you will be TRANSFORMED by renewing your mind in the Word of God, and communing with the Father daily (Romans 12:2). We are not meant to walk through hard seasons alone! Please reach out and contact us if you need prayer! We are here for you! The prayer that you’ll find at the end is similar to how we pray in our family when we’re going through a hard day, week, month or season!

***Prayer:***

*Dear heavenly Father, I surrender everything in your hands. I surrender my family, my job, my finances, and all the problems that I’m facing today. I ask that You take full control of the situation and whatever the enemy means for evil, You Lord, will turn it into a blessing for me. My thoughts will line up to the Word of God, my speech will line up with the Word of God and my behavior will line up to the Word of God. I submit my emotions to You and help me to keep My eyes focused only on You. Even though it’s hard to understand how I’ll make it through this, I have the assurance in Your Word that you’ll never leave me or forsake me. Lord, I give it all to You. You take full control. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.*

In His Service,  
John & Alexandra