



Dear Friend of *Abiding Above*,

February 2015

In times like these, many people are anxious because of the political and financial landscape of America. Jesus said, *"Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"*

Matthew 6:25-26

Jesus is not saying we should live a life of passivity. Jesus is saying that we should simply trust God in times like these. If we can trust Him as Christians for our eternal destiny, can we not trust Him for these moments we call time? Remember, *"In God We Trust."* Jesus said, *"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."* **Matthew 11:28-30**

When we first came to Jesus, we were burdened with sin and a load of care. We realized we were sinners, looked at the cross where Jesus died for us and as us. We put our trust in His death for our sin and asked Him to come into our heart and He did! What did Jesus do? He gave you salvation rest. Jesus said, *"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart."* What did Jesus do? He gave you soul rest. My friend, loyalty cannot be displayed until there is adversity. Trust our heavenly Father who said, *"I'll never leave you or forsake you."*

During times like these, we must display our total trust in a sovereign God who can shine His gospel light into the darkened soul and into the darkest place on earth.

During times like these we must remember **Proverbs 3:5-6** – *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."*

My friend, this is a great time to shine for Jesus. Light shines brightest in the backdrop of darkness. As Winston Churchill once said in his shortest speech ever, *"Never, never, never, never give up!"*



Chris Hodges
President & CEO

I recently read this poem that reminds us what people need to see in a child of God:

Sermons We See

By: Edgar Guest

*"I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day; I'd rather one should walk with me than merely tell the way. The eye's a better pupil and more willing than the ear;
Fine counsel is confusing, but example's always clear;
And the best of all preachers
are the men who live their creeds,
For to see good put in action is what everybody needs.*

*I soon can learn to do it if you'll let me see it done;
I can watch your hands in action, but your tongue too fast may run.
And the lecture you deliver may be very wise and true,
But I'd rather get my lessons
by observing what you do;
For I might misunderstand you
and the high advice you give,
But there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live."*

This is very powerful! We all know that no one lives a perfect life, and the thought that others are watching how we live our lives can be very unsettling to say the least. As a child of God, we are to be an example to those who are lost in this world that they may find the Savior, Jesus Christ. When we look at the life of Jesus, we can see the work and person of God, and when others look at our lives they should be able to see the work and person of Jesus Christ in and through us. We are simply called to love and to be loved, and to love others the way God loves us! We are called to commit our very lives to Jesus and to entrust our hopes and dreams and possessions to His control. When we *"let go and let God,"* we will begin to experience His power transforming our lives because nothing is too hard for Him. We can rest assured that nothing in our lives is outside of God's purposeful control and that others will see the beauty of Jesus in us.

My friend, only God can satisfy the hungry human soul because only God's love never fails. So please continue to pray for us and continue to support us as we continue to fulfill the mission God has given us: ***"To share the gospel with every person, to encourage spiritual growth in every believer, by the power of the Holy Spirit and to the glory of God."***

May God bless you and your family as you walk along with Him Who is your Life.

Abiding above,



Chris S. Hodges

President

Abiding Above Ministries

Colossians 3:1-3