

Dear Friend of *Abiding Above*,

December 2008

A Thankful Heart: It is certainly my prayer that you and your family had a wonderful Thanksgiving Day. God teaches us in His Word to be thankful for everything.

*“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18***

The wise theologian Matthew Henry writes, *“The way to rejoice always is to pray without ceasing. We should rejoice more if we prayed more. We should keep instant in prayer. We should pray always, and not faint: pray without weariness, and continue in prayer, till we come to that world where prayer shall be swallowed up in praise. The meaning is not that men should do nothing but pray, but that nothing else we do should hinder prayer.”*

There is an old hymn you may remember, **Count Your Blessings**.

“When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost, count your many blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord hath done. Are you ever burdened with a load of care? Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear? Count your many blessings every doubt will fly, and you will be singing as the days go by. So, amid the conflict, whether great or small, do not be discouraged, God is over all; count your many blessings.”

One of the greatest things I have learned to do in the Christian life is to take time to reflect on the past. I was preaching recently, and for some reason, I found myself reflecting on what God has done in my life, and I began to be moved in my soul and to weep. I can only say, *“God is so good, God is so good, God is so good, He’s so good to me.”*

I encourage you, right now, as a brother in Christ to move out on what God is nudging you to do. Not to do so is to miss God’s will and therefore God’s best for you. Time is slipping away for all of us.

*Only one life twill soon be past
only what is done for Christ will last.
And when I am dying how glad I will
be, that the light of my life was
burned out for Thee.*

A Commission To Go: I was recently eating breakfast with a long time friend in ministry. He was telling me that the number of churches that hold revivals in America are very few. The need for revival somehow escapes the notice of the average American Christian.

So, as a result, more American ministers are being invited to other countries in the world that are genuinely hungry for spiritual revival and long for a great awakening.

I love America, but we have been turning our back on God for many years now. Proof? The presidential election. How can we be surprised? We are not losing our identity as a nation, we have already lost it. This did not suddenly happen to us. We lost our way many years ago but could not see it.

God is not angry. How do you anger an all-knowing God? God our loving heavenly Father is grieved. He is grieved to the same depth He loves. But we must remember:

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. **John 3:16***

Notice, in these two very familiar verses the **world** is mentioned four times. This was written long before there was a United States of America. God does not see us as a favored child above all others. We think this emotionally. Whom does He favor? Every true child of God worldwide. God is not only wrapped up in America. He loves all people the world over.

As we abide above we see this world through His eyes and His will, and we are reminded of His great commission to us,

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” **Matthew 28:19-20***

I love America and my fellow countrymen, but most important, I love my Lord and choose to abide in His will, that is, to make disciples of all the nations.

“I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do.” ~Edward Everett Hale

Please, let this be our prayer, and partner with me in walking according to His will and plan. Jesus is coming soon. The signs are everywhere. Choose this day to be aware. Listen to the Holy Spirit and pay close attention. All that you have will remain here. Please help me reach the world! I am planning to be in Ethiopia in January doing a Pastor’s Conference and a Crusade. We are expecting more than 100,000 people to hear me preach the simple gospel. I need your help.

Abiding above,



Chris S. Hodges
President
Abiding Above Ministries
Colossians 3:1-3