

October 2, 2006

## H.I.S. Ministries October Newsletter, covering September 2006

Fall is such a lovely and beautiful time. We enjoy God's colorful paintings along the mountain sides - and because of snow and cold, just a couple of weeks ago, tops of the mountains are still white, adding beauty to these pictures we see. So much to be thankful for. And yet, many cannot even enjoy this beauty because of the worries for tomorrows.

Jesus calls us to put our future and all that may worry us in His hands,

*"Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? Or, What shall we drink? Or Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need for all these things. **But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for tomorrow: for tomorrow shall take thought for the things of itself...**"* (Matt. 6:311-34.)

Jesus is not saying that we should not plan ahead, but what He is saying is that **we should not be troubled** about tomorrow. All our anxieties are based on negative things *what might happen tomorrow*, keeping us from enjoying today. When tomorrow comes, we continue worrying about yet another tomorrow - and what might happen then. Jesus reminds us that *our heavenly Father knows what we need*, He knows what our tomorrows will be like and if our trust is in Him, no matter what happens He will take care of it and us. *He will never forsake us who have committed our lives to Him.* We have given Him our past, our yesterdays, we have seen Him take us through them, why can we not trust that He will see us through tomorrow also? Is it because we want to make our own plans, and we are not quite sure if we can trust that God would approve them?

We who are in Jesus are called children of Abraham. How are we identified with Abraham? It is because we called out wanting to please God by trusting and obeying Him even when we do not have any idea what the future might bring. In Genesis 12 God told Abraham to get out of his country, away from his family and from all that was familiar to him. Abraham obeyed **because he trusted God**, even though he had no idea what tomorrow might bring. Abraham *"believed in the LORD, and He counted it to him for righteousness"*. (Gen. 15:6.) When we are determined to lay aside all fears and anxieties about tomorrows, we are like Abraham, and are pleasing to God. When Paul wrote his letter to Philippians, he was in prison under terrible conditions. If you do some background studies of what it was like, you will see that he was chained to very rough, cursing prison guards, one on each side of him. Paul was a highly educated man and now a believer in the Lord Jesus, and yet he had to put up with this indignity day after day, week after week, month after month... We can be sure that he prayed for his release and he and his friends might have even wondered where was God in this? Why did God not answer his and his friends prayers and let Paul free? Paul had, like any of us, when we are faced with difficult situations, only two options: We can complain and be filled with self-pity and have our faith shaken, or we can ask the Lord to help us see how we can make this present situation bring glory to Jesus. How can we help others see that trials are to make us strong? **This is what Paul did.** He did not know that he even would get out of that prison alive, but he said that regardless of what is happening to

him, his God-given task is to defend the gospel and preach Christ. He wrote, “*Knowing that I am set for the defense of the gospel... Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice ...so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life or by death.*” (See Phil. 1:12-20.) He trusted that all that God allowed to happen to him was for “*furtherance of the gospel so that by bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace and in all other places.*” (vs. 12-13.) How was that possible? Simply because when these prison guards were through with their shift, they went away telling to others “*in the palace and in other places*” what Paul was saying and **how he rejoiced regardless of his terrible conditions**. His trials had only made him stronger and bolder. He acknowledged that God was fully aware of his conditions - and since God allowed them to happen to him, he did not complain but used them in the “*furtherance of the gospel*”. If we only would trust the Lord, we’d know that He is always in control and that we do not have anything to fear, and we too would use all circumstances for furthering of the gospel!! I heard Chuck Swindoll’s talk about trials, almost 20 years ago. I identified with what he said, “*If it has not happened to you, it cannot happen through you.*” We know that is so! We speak from experience. If we have had severe trials ourselves, we can relate and help when we see others experiencing them.

After we became believers in the Lord Jesus of the Bible, and after we lost everything we owned, I have to admit that I worried, I had anxieties, I had fears, but now looking back, I can see that **I was anxious for nothing**, God was in charge of all at all times. We cannot see the future, but He does. It is a good thing too, for had I known that our desperate times were to last 15 plus years, I may have felt even more miserable. However, these times were very important growing years and **I would not trade them for anything**. After going through these financially very hard times, we also went through many health problems - Dennis had two heart attacks and I had a thyroid cancer, but yet God was in control of all that too. I am not saying that we have no more troubles now, but what I am saying is that our past is our security for the future - God, who took care of us then, will do so also in the future. Lets not worry about the future, about what could happen, in a negative way, but lets trust in the Lord and He will direct our paths and use our experiences as a testimony for others who may be going through trials now, or may be going through in the future.

Remember that *your today is tomorrow your worried about yesterday*. Let’s not repeat that today, but instead count our blessings and not what we might be missing. God is indeed good - yesterday, today , tomorrow and everyday.

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**From our mailbox:**

**I will give you here my correspondence (it took place in 24 hours) with an LDS lady, who wrote:**

*“I have just found your site, and I am confused. Although a Mormon for some years only two week ago I got at revelation that the Church is true. Would you say that this revelation was of the devil? My friend and I definitely felt a wonderful sense of the Holy Spirit.  
Yours faithfully, \_\_\_\_\_”*

**My answer:**

God of the Bible **does not** ask us to pray about books, churches or prophets, but He tells us that we must **STUDY** to be approved to Him, that we’d know what **doctrine** is so **that we cannot be led astray by false spirits or by our feelings**. As we study, we are to ask for wisdom and understanding from God. (Wisdom and knowledge are not synonyms.)

Paul wrote to young Timothy, “*STUDY to shew thyself approved to God, a workman that needeth not to*

be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of God. " (2 Tim. 2:15.) That is saying that **he could** end up ashamed, if he did not study and correctly understand what God has said about Himself, doctrine and all things pertaining to God and salvation. Paul continued, "**ALL scripture** (the Bible) **is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness**". (2 Tim. 3:16.) From that we know that **God wants us to know what doctrine is**, so that we, after learning it, can *reproof, correct and instruct* those who have gone astray, who did not study the Word of God.

We are warned not to rely on feelings that may come from spirits that give us "testimonies", but we **must test them** (spirits and also our feelings) if they agree on what God has said. John, the beloved apostle, wrote: "*Beloved, **BELIEVE NOT EVERY SPIRIT, BUT TEST THE SPIRITS WHETHER THEY ARE OF GOD: BECAUSE MANY FALSE PROPHETS ARE GONE OUT INTO THE WORLD.***" (1 John 4:1; 1 Thess 5:21.) **The Spirit of God**, who gave us the scriptures, as 2 Tim. 3:16 says, **would not testify or give a revelation that the Mormon church is true, when Mormonism teaches "another gospel" and "another Jesus" and even "another spirit" than the Bible**, as is warned of in 2 Cor. 11:4. Paul continues and says that those who bring these different doctrines and "another Jesus" are "*false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing that his ministers also be transformed as ministers of righteousness...*" (2 Cor. 11:13-15.) **We must test and compare biblical doctrine of God to Mormon doctrine of God.** If we had believed in a false god, we cannot be saved, no matter how good we are, or how sincerely we believe. **The Mormon church teaches in opposition to the Word of God, the Bible.** *It teaches that God was once a mortal man, who had a God before Him and that men can become Gods after Him.* God said in Isaiah 43:10, "**I AM He, before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after Me.**" God said that He is God "*from everlasting to everlasting*" (Ps. 90:2.) There has never been a time when God of the Bible was not God and there will never be any other Gods after Him. **That idea that men can become gods, came from the enemy of our souls, the devil.** He brought fourth that doctrine, as is recorded in Genesis 3:5, which reflected his own desires to be like the Most High God (Isa. 14:12-14.)

**Any "revelation" or feeling that goes against what God of the Bible has said, is from "another spirit", which is a demonic spirit. They know how to give us good feelings**, because they are deceivers - and that is what deceivers do.

Ask yourself: **Would the Holy Spirit** give you a feeling that a church that teaches of a God who was once man, and not eternal God, as the Bible says He is (Isa. 43:10), and teaches of "another Jesus", is true? **Never!** The teachings in the Bible were given by **the Holy Spirit**, as Peter also wrote, "**holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**" (2 Peter. 1:21.) **The Holy Spirit of God would not witness against His Word!**

I understand how hard this is to hear, for I was once deceived also, and so was my husband - and hundreds of others we know, who also have now found the true God and Jesus and are now saved! Please feel free to ask any questions. I would love to help, for we have traveled that road ourselves. In Christ of the Bible, and for His sake,

Rauni Higley

[www.hismin.com/AboutUs.htm](http://www.hismin.com/AboutUs.htm)

### **She wrote back right away, and said:**

*Dear Rauni, Thank you for your prompt reply to my email. You have given me a lot to think and pray about. I have one question. **I was praying to God for truth so why would He let me be deceived by Satan. Can prayer be intercepted by Satan.** (That's two questions). Sincerely, \_\_\_\_\_"*

### **I replied:**

Thank you. I hope I can explain this clearly for you.

**Even in Mormon temples** (I don't know if you have been through a temple, but if you have, you'd know) **the devil answers a prayer that Adam prays.**

When I was a Mormon and prayed, I was praying to the Mormon god - and not to the true God, **whom I**

**did not know. The true God did not let you be deceived - you did it yourself, because you had not checked out what He has said in His Word about Himself, Jesus and Salvation.** For example, if you had known that **God of the Bible is Spirit, as Jesus said** (John 4:24), **and not a man** (Hosea 11:9; Numbers 23:19; Job 9:32), **you would not have accepted Mormonism's god, who is a man - and thus a false god.** I was there once, so I know how that works. **The same can be applied to any matters in life.** Knowledge is power. If we know that arsenic is a poison, we will not take it no matter who offers it - but **if we do not know**, but just trust someone who seems nice and who says that it is OK, - **we can die as a result.**

Read again, what I wrote earlier today. Check every scripture and keep reading, **in context. Jesus did not ask us to pray about truth, if a church is true, etc., but HE said, "Search the scriptures for IN THEM you have eternal life, and they are they which testify of Me."** (John 5:39. ) In other words, He compared **having eternal life to KNOWING HIM** - (John 17:3) and we can only know Him through His Word. One of **His titles is "the Word"**. (John 1:1, 14.) If we do not know Him, **the Only true God**, we will not have eternal life! (John 17:3, 17.) **God has warned us and commanded that we STUDY His Word so that we can detect when un-truths are presented.** Jesus said, "**Take heed that no man deceives you! For many shall come in my name and shall deceive many.**" (Matt. 24:4-5.)

It surely would be the "lazy way out" if all we had to do is pray, not study to know. But **that is not God's way.** He gave us His books to learn of Him and to seek Him through them. (66 books are the collection we call the Bible). If we have not searched Him from His Word, but have taken the easy way to just pray, then we are opening ourselves to this false "god" or the devil, that answers our prayers because **he can deceive those who do not know better. He cannot deceive those who KNOW God and what He has said through His Word.**

I joined the Mormon church as a young person. Then I did not know enough about the Bible and what it said, but I simply trusted the missionaries and assumed that they knew. **They did not**, and I followed Mormonism 20 years - until I started to compare and test Mormonism as the Bible says we must.

Command for that is found all through the Word of God. 1 Thess. 5:21 says, "**PROVE ALL THINGS.**" Hosea 4:6 warns us for God who says, "**My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee...**"

**Please read, study and ask wisdom from God.** He has promised that if we seek Him with all our heart, we will find Him, but that finding is **through His Word** - - then no one can deceive you! May God of the Bible bless you,  
Rauni

#### **Again she wrote back immediately:**

*"Dear Rauni, Thank you for your second email. I do have a lot of questions, but I am going on holiday, and will contact you when I get back. I will take a Bible with me to read and leave my Book of Mormon at home. Please pray for me. Sincerely,\_\_\_\_\_"*

#### **My reply:**

I thank God that you contacted us. **We will pray**, and keep on praying till you are set free and have come to know the true Jesus of the Bible and **we will ask others to pray for you too...**

Rauni

#### **She wrote again:**

*"Dear Rauni, Thank you for your email. Thank you also for your prayers, and for asking others to pray for me. I do need it. I will certainly read the scriptures you have pointed out, and I will start with the Gospel of John. Today I have been totally shocked. I can't believe that I let myself be so deceived. **The revelation that I got was not of God but the devil.** Tomorrow my friend and I are going for a holiday, so when I get back I will be in contact again with you...Sincerely\_\_\_\_\_"*

Please pray for her, and that she indeed will read the Gospel of John and keep on reading the Bible and, when she gets back from her vacation, that she will get in touch with me again.

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There are others whom with we are corresponding also. Please pray for them, and for those who are already in Christ, but who are having a difficult time because of family and friends who cannot accept them after they have left Mormonism. Please pray for Bruce, who is a believer, but who is living with his LDS brother. Please pray for Lisa, and her children that they will get well adjusted. There are many, many others...

Please pray for Tracy ( a former Mormon and a Christian) who lost two of her sons **back to Mormonism**. The older one of the two is leaving (next month) on his LDS mission. This is one of the saddest things I have seen, and is a result of false assurance received from an erring pastor who promotes "bridge building with Mormons" that confused these young men to think that Mormonism and Christianity are compatible. Because the friends of these young men are Mormons and most of their other relatives are also, it was easier to go back to Mormonism than disagree with them.

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We have lately heard from many Christians and also from some Mormons, who say that Mormonism is changing and coming "closer to Christianity". **It is not**. I will quote their prophet, Gordon B. Hinckley, who said, "*Those who observe us say that we are moving into mainstream of religion (Christianity). We are not changing. The world's perception of us is changing.*" (Ensign, Nov. 2001, p. 5. Emphasis added.) He has also declared that **he does not, nor does the Mormon church, believe in Jesus Christ of Christianity**, but "*Jesus Christ of Joseph Smith*", (Church News, June, 20, 1998, p. 7). From this we see that it is impossible to be a Christian if one believes in another, different Jesus than Jesus of traditional Christianity! We must remember that just talking to Mormons about Jesus, even asking them to pray and "be born again", **without first explaining who Jesus of the Bible is, will cause them to die in their sins**. It is Jesus Himself who said, "I said therefore unto you that ye SHALL DIE IN YOUR SINS: for IF YE BELIEVE NOT that I AM HE (God), ye shall die in your sins." (John 8:24.) **WE MUST KNOW HIM, Who He is, and then believe in Him**. When Jesus prayed for us, He said, "*This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*" (John 17:3) **Not knowing who God is, not knowing who Jesus is**, but instead having faith in a god who was once a man and in a "Jesus" who is a created being and a brother of Lucifer, **will not bring eternal life!**

**Doctrine is important.** (2 Tim. 3:16.) Knowing what the gospel is, is mandatory for salvation. (1 Cor. 15:1-4.) False Jesus and false gospel will not result in a new birth, nor will there be salvation for those who proclaim it or believe it, but only God's curse, even if an angel had declared it. (Gal. 1:8-9.) We must be bold, we must be truthful.

Paul was not afraid of men, for he knew the Lord so well, that what men could do to him did not frighten him. He wrote, "*But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God... For I have not shunned to declare unto you all (the whole) counsel of God.*" (Acts 20: 24-27.) These are serious issues, and we too must declare the whole counsel of God to all, and not compromise in any doctrinal matters, no matter whom that might offend. It has been said that to unbelievers, truth is offensive. It seems that Jesus offended just about everyone, so we should not be surprised if are not loved for telling the truth, but regardless, we must do so if we love the Lord and love **the lost whom He came to save** (Luke 19:10.). (See also Mark 6:3; Matt. 13:57; John 6:61; Matt. 24:4-12.)

We thank you for your support and prayers. We have had to put many of our planned projects on hold, and as you know already, because of the lack of funds, we were not able to go to Finland for the Helsinki temple opening that is taking place right now (Sept 21-Oct.7). God knows our

needs, so we refuse to worry, but please pray that I will get work opportunities outside of the ministry to get back on our feet financially and be able to continue in this ministry. Dennis has plenty of work, and we are very thankful for that, but his work alone will not support us and the ministry too. It's all in His hands.

God bless all of you.

We are serving Him in gladness.

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