

COMMENTARY

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The Treaty of Peace

Greetings from Beautiful Bennington, Vermont! I pray that this letter finds you full of hope in Christ Jesus as we are near Easter Sunday.

We are chugging along at being the body of Christ here at Harvest; we are His hands and feet on earth. This ministry is having good success in the lives of those we are encountering each day, with new Bible studies, many new believers and groups.

I ask you to pray and ask God where you could help us, either in prayer, finances, or in a physical way. The Harvest is plenty as we speak, but many workers and provisions are needed in order to do what God has called this body to do.

My wife Nicole and I have three children of our own and during the forming of our relationship, I let her know my desire for a large family - "How large?" I can remember her asking tepidly. My reply made her laugh: "Ten!"

That was my answer. Did I really want ten kids? At the time, yes, but that's because I didn't fully comprehend what that would require of me. I saw the easy, good stuff as the attraction. How could I know what would be required without first experiencing it? I couldn't.

We have opened our home to international students over the last five years, for a total of nine (extra) kids over that time. South Korea, Russia, China, and Spain were all represented

in our home. We currently have two international students in our home bringing us to a total of five kids this year.

It's not ten kids, but the reality of it is more than I had understood would be required of us.

The reason I communicate these thoughts about my own life to you today is that we may have an idea or a small understanding of what is required of us when we want something or say yes to something, but we truly don't know what will have to be done until we experience it for ourselves,

firsthand.

There is one very large exception to this thought, however; God the Father, God the Spirit, and God the Son. To say God knows what will happen is an understatement. The Bible says, "Worthy are You, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they existed and were created."

Revelation 4:11 (ESV).

Something jumps out to me in that Scripture: God created all things, by His will were these things created, and stay in existence. We see the Creation around us, it's beautiful, but these created things continue to exist only because it is His will!

This gives me a picture of what it would look like if God's will was not for Creation to continue. I could envision the seas separating from land and retreating into the deep, or the moon falling out of the sky, or gravity being changed by 1%.

What if we were to see the forecast for tomorrow and note the comforting

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing,

Paul, 1 Thes. 5:11

I have given Him my faith, and sworn my allegiance to Him; how, then, can I go back from this, and not be hanged as a traitor?

John Bunyan

If we cannot believe God when circumstances seem be against us, we do not believe Him at all.

Charles Spurgeon

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going

Hebrews 11:8

Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.

Corrie Ten Boom

All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

I can do all things through Him Who strengthens me.

Paul, Phil. 4:13

Faith is like radar that sees through the fog -- the reality of things at a distance that the human eye cannot see.

Corrie Ten Boom



This is the Day that the Lord has made!

prediction that sunrise is at 6:40 AM, but we wake up the next day and there is NO SUN!!? That God had stopped making new days!! It would be complete and utter chaos; everything would cease to exist!

But life does go on, because God is faithful to His word, to perform it! God told Noah, "While the earth remains,... day and night shall not cease." He said He will make new days, and He does. "Today" is the day which the Lord hath made!

We are to "believe." Believe what? What does that look like, lived out? It means to know what God told us to do, and to do it, because He said so.

Thinking back to my early years I don't think I fully understood what faith is.

What I do remember is that the Bible says, "Faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ." (*Romans 10:17 NLT*) When we listen to the gospel, our faith is increased. Why would we listen to something else?

What I'm getting down to is this: many that come to believe in Jesus are being led to Him without a full explanation of what this relationship entails. They may say, "Aaron, how do you have so much peace? How are you not worried about what is going on in the world right now?" My answer will be, "Jesus."

I have a relationship with God. The world may see that, and may want that; they see the value in this belief system, and they come to Christ, but without yet fully understanding that we must turn away from our former life completely.

Paul tells us, "My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by

trusting (faith) in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me."

(*Galatians 2:20*)

We have to represent the Gospel in its most powerful form, submission. Jesus' entire ministry was founded on His submission to the Father. Everything Jesus said and did, He heard the Father tell Him to do. Faith is the key.

Get to know Him by spending time with Him. In Palm Sunday, we see Jesus riding on a donkey. He is offering peace in this action. The donkey was an animal used during treaties and peaceful times. This world has the offer of peace right now. In that peace He requires everything, but gives us back everything we need. We must leave our houses every day knowing we have a peace treaty in our back pocket to offer, however we must start speaking the reality of submission.

Jesus is coming back but not for peace (*Rev 19:11*). The animal He rides on next time is a war horse, and He's coming to set the wrongs right.

However, before that, there is still time. What I think it comes down to is us learning the best way to communicate to people the love of Jesus, along with the reality that living for self is no longer beneficial.

We are having young-in-their-faith Christians come into our church without understanding this submission, and in turn we are teaching them. God isn't an accessory to our life, He IS our life!

Pray and ask God to lead you with the right words to speak, but first get to know His voice and what submission looks like. This will have many signing their names to the treaty of peace. Get out there and share Jesus' love.

Thank you for reading my heart today, I love you, this ministry loves you,

- Aaron

Be sober-minded; be watchful.

Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace,

Who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you

1 Peter 5:8-10

Discouragement is not from God.

Ignatius of Loyola

Faith isn't the ability to believe long and far into the misty future.

It's simply taking God at His Word and taking the next step.

Joni Eareckson Tada

He that buildeth his nest upon a Divine promise shall find it abide and remain until he shall fly away to the land where promises are lost in fulfillments.

Charles Spurgeon

Faith in God is to be demonstrated, not defined.

AW Tozer

This is true faith, a living confidence in the goodness of God.

Martin Luther

"How can you see Christ in people?"

And we only say: It is an act of faith, constantly repeated. It is an act of love, resulting from an act of faith. It is an act of hope, that we can awaken these same acts in their hearts, too, with the help of God.

Dorothy Day