

Living in the Light(*Letter from Elbert to Larry*)

Dear Larry,

You are on my heart! Love never fails — I love you dearly.

First of all, let me share with you the joy that I have received in my heart concerning a letter from one of the flock there, written to one of the flock here. The letter was a true confession, a real condition in this precious saint's life, not something made up because she thought it is good to be open about her life. It is easily detected, in letters and in person, when one is sharing in the flesh or in the Spirit. One blesses and one can identify in it and say, "Amen," or "Praise the Lord," and it relates or communicates to your very heart and soul. It lifts you up and out of the same ditch; heals and delivers. Yes, we are in the very Salvation of God. That is why it is said, "Wake up, O sleeper and rise from among the dead, and Messiah (God's anointed) will shed light upon you." What this precious saint said in her letter was light and shines of itself. Whatever shines of itself, is light, for it is light that makes everything visible and everything expressed by the light becomes visible. Everything can be tested by the light and thus be shown in its true colors. Everything that becomes visible is light.

It is also written somewhere else, that in Him was life and that life was the light of men. Whenever this life is shared, it is light to men. Whoever has this life and shares it is light to men. This life manifests itself as light to reveal the secrets of the heart, making darkness into light, exposing the hidden things. This is the true light which enlightens every man. The spoken word of God is life and light, exposing the intentions of the heart. God's message is full of life and power. It is the light which is keener than a two-edged sword. It pierces even to the severance of soul and spirit, and penetrates between the joints and the marrow and it reveals the secret thoughts and purposes and motives of the heart. No created thing is able to escape its scrutiny, but everything lies bare and completely exposed, like the victim whose neck is bent back for the knife, completely exposed before the eyes of Him with whom we have to do, or to whom we are responsible.

It says somewhere else that God is light and in Him there is no darkness, and, if while we are living in darkness, we profess to have fellowship with Him, we speak falsehood and deceit is found in us and we are not living by the truth. But, it is different if we live in the light, and we have wonderful fellowship with one another, being clean inside and all over, by the blood of Yeshua. How can one be cleansed by the blood if he or she is not living in the light? Why would anyone claim to have fellowship with God and confess his sins when he isn't even living in the light? What good does it do, except maybe to show a psychological forgiveness. But where is the communication of the very Spirit of God to your heart, soul, and mind. We must live in reality, not in make-believe.

All other ways aside from walking and living and abiding in the light, are a mere "form of godliness." Our beautiful form last until the Light of Life penetrates our darkness and brings us back to reality. This is the life we have. (Where else could we experience Salvation. The Wisdom of the Lord is incredible, isn't it?).

This is a quote from a letter sent to Charlotte: "One of the areas that the Lord has been dealing with me in lately is the area of recognition. It has been in the last two weeks that I've really begun to see my condition in this area. I find myself doing something from what I think is a pure motive, like hanging out someone's laundry for them, or doing all the dishes and cleaning the kitchen when I know everyone else has gone to bed or is out, but then later on I end up commenting about it, such as saying, "Oh, yes, I had to do all those dishes Saturday." I'm not really complaining, but thinking more about someone giving me a pat on the back or something. It makes me feel so awful when I say these things, because I see that my motives weren't clean to begin with. I haven't seen my way clear of this yet, but I'm waiting on the Lord for help in this area. I began to notice this after Elbert's letter was read to the Body, so I know it's connected with lawlessness, and I do want the Lord to get to the root of it ... so it brings me back to Elbert's letter where it said we are condemned criminals and when we see this we will gladly pick up the cross and go to Golgotha; we will want to aid in our own crucifixion (Jn 19:17; Lk 23:26).

Something that the Lord showed me concerning this was how Simon (not Peter) helped Yeshua with His cross. A few days ago I was having a hard time; I was getting weary in well-doing (probably because so much of what I was doing was in the flesh) and I was beginning to become frustrated. I am beginning to recognize the signals

of “falling from grace,” so I went and found Sharon and shared my heart with her. She just loved me, she didn’t condemn me or point out my faults, but encouraged me and identified with my faults, and comforted me. So then, as I was going downstairs, I was able to see that I had been listening to accusations and was starting to come under their sway. Well, praise the Lord. I could then see these accusations for what they were, and overcome, and then the Lord flooded me with His marvelous and wonderful grace which enabled me to go on. Anyway, what I saw (light) was my need for my brothers and sisters, even those who aggravate me sometimes, because how else would I ever have experienced the love and encouragement that Sharon gave to me if I had not had to deal with a situation involving my brethren. I saw how she helped me in carrying my cross and going to my own crucifixion. I did die that day to my self and my feelings, and that was when I found grace. Praise the Lord.

What Sharon did for me has made me aware of being that way to others instead of being so quick to point out their faults. Oh, what a life we have! Where else could we appreciate Salvation. The wisdom of the Lord is incredible, isn’t it?” (End of quoted part of Wendy’s letter to Charlotte.)

I have experienced grace and joy to my heart from her wonderful heart shared with us here in the Little Flock of our heavenly Father. Much love and appreciation to you and your godly husband, Thomas (Jessica, too.) May the Lord Himself grant you much grace and joy as you remain in Him. This is a trustworthy saying: “If you have died with Him, you shall also live with Him. If you patiently endure pain with Him, enduring with Him until the end, you shall also share His Kingship. If you disown Him, He will also disown you. But, even if our faith fails, He will remain true, for He cannot prove false to Himself, and we are a part of Him, and in this I rejoice. In this last verse underlined, is the Source and the means of the grace to do everything that He demands. There is no grace outside of this. Everything is wrapped up in Him. This is grace and Eternal Life.

Your letter, Wendy, was a supply of great grace to us. We dearly love you. I say thank you for your life and the light which you have shined on us here in Germany. This light could only come from one Source, the Son, for whoever has the Son has the life, and this life is the light of men.

By the letter, I have learned a bit more about the word “aggravate.” If we are not living in the light, we can only aggravate others. Whenever aggravation is present in a person, you know that he or she is not dwelling in the light of God’s presence.

“Aggravate” means to add weight to a burden, an addition to a burden, to add weight, to exasperate, to provoke, to irritate, to make a heavier person heavier.

The result of not abiding in the Vine is immediately obvious. Let us be filled with grace.

Elbert

P.S. Larry — Leave out the part about “aggravate” in the body of the letter until the end.

I am anxious to share this with you, so I will get to the second thing in another letter. If you have problems reading this, ask Eddie. I hope you will read this on Lord’s Day to the Church to bless them as we have been blessed. Thank you also, Thomas, for the up-date on the news of the Church and how you shared your heart with us.

P.P.S. We often talk around the table about the many things John Benjamin has said in the past years as the Lord brings them to our mind. Grace and peace added to you.