
My dear friends,

It is with great joy and expectation that I greet you in this New Year. The Scripture I have for you is found in Psalms 62:5 (NKJV) "***My soul, wait silently for God alone, For my expectation (hope) is from Him.***"

As we start this new year, we know that Jesus has our future in the palm of His hand. We have absolutely nothing to be concerned or fearful about, but let us make a resolution this year: TO WALK BY FAITH AND NOT BY SIGHT. 2 Corinthians 5:7. We cannot allow our emotions or our decisions to be based on what we hear on the news or what we see with our carnal eyes. Instead, we need to be men and women of faith, who solely act upon God's Word. The only way that we will get faith is by spending time with the Lord Jesus.

My prayer for you this year is that you would be known as men and women who spend time in the presence of God.

We need to stop rushing about and start sitting at the feet of Jesus. This is where we will receive clear cut direction. We need to follow the example of Mary, who was prepared to sit at Jesus' feet and listen to Him, instead of running around trying to get everything ready and organized, like Martha. Even the Lord told Martha that Mary had chosen a better way. (Luke 10:42) We need to start to wait on the Lord for answers. When we do this, we will find that we will make the right decision, the first time.

When I was a young man, I had boundless energy, and would often find myself running around doing the same job about six times before I got it right. As I grow older, I don't have that energy anymore, so now I sit down quietly and count the cost, plan out what I'm going to do, and do it once. Usually, the decision I make or job I complete is better than when I did it as a younger, more impulsive person, who just doesn't have time to listen. We need to pace our lives in a more realistic way this year.

This year we are so excited for where Shalom is headed. God is leading us to preach the Gospel more and more in these last days. Our heart is for those who do not know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. I want to also encourage you to do exactly what God has called you to. Many of us may find we have too many "irons in the fire" and we are not being effective in any one area. We need to concentrate on the gift God has given to us and then do it with all our hearts. That is how we will become more effective.

May God bless you in this year as you put Jesus first, your spouse second, your family third and the rest after that.

Yours in Christ's service

Angus, Jill and the Shalom team
