

For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light.

Psalm 36:9

the LifeWord

with Michael Green



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Dear Friend:

NEW YEAR WORDS

When each New Year arrives we are inundated with prognostications and predictions regarding everything from the future price of oil, to who will win the Super Bowl or just to see if Brad and Angelina can stay together for another year.

Even in the spiritual world, our inboxes will be filled with a whole host of different thoughts and prophecies regarding the days ahead. Some will be insightful; some will be in left field. With all such words we need anointing, discernment and caution because, right now, you can pretty much hear whatever might tickle the ear. I am frequently reminded of Sandra Crouch's great lyric, *"We need to hear from You. We need a word from You. If we don't hear from You, what will we do?"* And, that is precisely what we need for 2009. His Word is the Word for the New Year.

In Genesis 15:1, we see six words that bring extraordinary hope, courage, direction, protection and favor... *"The Word of the Lord came"*. Specifically here, the Word from God to Abram was, *"Do not be afraid, I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward!"* We know God meant business because right after these words, He started talking covenant with His servant. Imagine that, a plan for an eternal arrangement between God and man is unveiled in mere moments when the Word came!

Often throughout scripture, these six words arrive to conundrums of confusion and conflict. It is the Word of the Lord that cuts through all of the junk, bringing the answer that illuminated the pathway for those who were seeking rescue, relief and restoration.

Noah became a master ship builder when the Word of the Lord came. Stuttering Moses turned into Charlton Heston when the Word of the Lord came. Esther's courage was bolstered big time and a nation was saved when the Word of the Lord came to her. No more Christians died by the hands of Saul after the Word of the Lord came to him! Let's put our names

in a scenario like this! In a blink, the Word of the Lord can change everything.

It's a fact; we can see things so much better when the Word truly comes forth in our lives. I'm talking mega watts of illumination. David said, *"The entrance of Your Word gives light and gives understanding to the simple."* [PS.119: 130]

There is great joy when the *"God Word"* happens. However, after it arrives, we are then responsible, accountable and committed to act on it but, many times, this is where the breakdown occurs. Right here it's probably the time when we need to be reminded about the *"do not be afraid"* part of His Word.

God, through Isaiah's pen, told His rebellious covenant people that He would be waiting for their cries and at that time, in a divine display of mercy and justice, He would tell them, *"Listen for my voice and I will say, this is the way, walk in it!"* He would point His people, and while He was delighted to help them, He expected specific response and action from them.

Most of the current predictive words speak of difficult days ahead and I am prone to feel we will indeed be challenged. My prayer is that, as we walk through the challenges and struggles of 2009, we will be able to one day look back at those times and say with an experienced assurance, *"Here's how we made it, the Word of the Lord came!"*

That Word is still quick, still powerful and still quite sharp. So, don't be afraid, the Word is on the way! 'Till then, keep reaching and keep listening, you'll hear it. Through our God, we will do valiantly!!!

"The Word of the Lord Came", twenty letters combined to form just six words with millions of possibilities. Priceless.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Michael

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Life+Gate