

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

Psalm 36:9

# — the Life Word —

with Michael Green



April 17, 2009

Dear Friend:

## THREE THREADS

Words are so important and according to THE Word, the words that trickle out have their origin in our heart. Sometimes, something seemingly from *"left field"* blurts out and we say, *"Where did that come from?"* After a person commits a tragic act, the common question is asked, *"Did they say anything that might have given a clue to this problem?"* Yeah, words are enlightening, powerful, creative, motivating, fear inciting, soothing, scalding and, in spite of the old adage, can hurt worse than a stick or a stone. Words can imprison or set free.

In direct contrast to congress and other government agencies, it doesn't take many words to get a message out. The recent phone book sized bailout monster was over 1000 pages and was given out the night before the vote. Many of us are still in numb shock after wading through the new 1040 millstone when it could have been whittled down to one page... *"Send it all in and we'll decide what you can have"*. It just seems they strive to keep things complicated...and deeper.

It doesn't take much to be profound and powerful and it also doesn't take much to be goofy or wreck havoc with some well placed words. Some of my most powerful connecting prayers consisted of an eloquent, *"Oh God, Help"*.

Mr. Lincoln's Gettysburg Address was under 250 words. (I've just written a bit over 200 words to this point). The Lord's Prayer is only about 65 words and Winston Churchill's *"Never Give Up"* speech was only three words.

Three words. A lot can be said in three words. *"I love you, I miss you, I forgive you, Can I help, Hit the road, Hot and cold, Up and down, P's and Q's, Paid in full, Just like new, Same old stuff, War against terror, etc."*

The number *"3"* is also a big time God number, starting with our Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. John writes that He will reprove the world of, three things, *"sin, righteousness and of judgment"*. When Thomas saw the three wounds in His hands and side, the lights came on. Three crosses, the three transfiguration guests and the list goes on.

Even our Founders, in the establishing of our Three Branches of Government, credit the influence of Isaiah as he said, *"God is our King, God is our Lawgiver and God is our Judge"*.

In our relating to one another, Ecclesiastes reminds us, *"A three-fold cord is not easily broken"*. Powerful and insightful.

During our Good Friday Communion time we looked at the three powerful words, *"It Is Finished"*, words of emphatic completion regarding THE assignment. Then, three days later, as the sun work up the earth, three more words shook the planet, *"He Is Risen!"*

The Easter weekend was a blessed time and the "3" word truths seemed to keep popping up and dominating the proceedings. Over and over, sounds of, *"It Is Finished"* and *"He Is Risen"* rang through our gatherings and the sound was great.

The exit point of each service was to let these joy-filled, hope generating, words get down into our deepest core of confession, belief and action. These three words must be operational and relevant even after the white shoes are put up and the candy bunnies have melted. It is not a once a year message for *"Pew Packing Sunday"*. We need them on the front burner of our minds before we even dare to poke our heads out of the door on Monday morning. He Is Risen, revel in it and walk in it!

The Psalmist was right; the entrance of His Word does bring light.

Another cool Easter side bar, I couldn't help but applaud the extraordinary Navy Seal's (Easter Seals?) precision rescue of the hero captain from the three punk terrorist pirates; three bullets and *"It Was Finished"*.

PS: Incidentally, Chris Paul wears #3, Go Hornets!

*Michael*

*The*  
**LifeGate**