



January 2011

Dear Friend of Light of the Word,

“For with God nothing will be impossible . . . ” Luke 1:37

As you start this new year, is your attitude one of faith or is your heart filled with fear? Are you looking forward to what the Lord is going to do in your life this year, or are you dreading what this new year may bring?

Maybe 2010 was not a good year for you. Perhaps you struggled with finances, lost your job, had relationship difficulties, or endured poor health. As you face the coming year, you can't help but think about what else you are going to have to endure in the days ahead.

It's easy to fear the future. And if you are coming off a difficult year, it's even easier to fear what may lie ahead. BUT, this is not a picture of faith—and it certainly is not the attitude that God would want us to have. In fact, our fears don't take into account the work of God in our lives. You might have had a rough year in 2010, but what about all the times that God came to your rescue? What about God's miraculous provision? What about God's love and care for you?

1 John 4:18 says, *“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.”*

In other words, God's love for us drives out our fears. When you understand how much the Lord loves you, it leaves no room to fear the future. Why? Because God is in control of your life. He knows all about you and will not allow anything to come into your life that He has not first permitted. And if the Lord allows something difficult in your life, then He has a good reason for it and will use it to bring about His goodness.

When we have the right image of God, we do not live in fear because we know that the Lord is with us and will take care of us in ALL situations.

If you continue to live in fear and dread of what each day may bring, you can bring about a self-fulfilling prophecy. So many live in utter despair, and some tragically even take their life because they are controlled by their fear. The Lord does not want you to be afraid. Repeatedly we are told in the Scriptures to FEAR NOT. If fear is paralyzing you, I want you to understand that it is not from God.

2 Timothy 1:7 says, *“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”*

So how should your attitude be towards the new year (and every day for that matter)?

I want you to ring in the new year with strong faith and a heart of anticipation over how God is going to work in your life! Faith says, “I can't wait to see how the Lord is going to turn around my financial situation.” Faith says, “Lord, fill me mightily with Your Holy Spirit so that I may reach many with the Gospel!” Faith says, “Lord, I am committed to You and want to see my marriage grow leaps and bounds this year. Fill me with Your Spirit and enable me to be a godly spouse.”

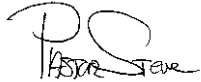
(Continued on reverse side)

When you look at the future through the eyes of faith—faith in an all-powerful, all-knowing God who loves you so much that He gave His Son so that you can not only be assured of eternal life, but also enjoy abundant life now—you will not have fear, but rather, you will be filled with anticipation and hope.

Hebrews 11:1 says, *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”*

My prayer for you is that you look at the New Year and everyday thereafter with a heart of faith. Wait on the Lord, dear child of God—have courage and be assured of God’s love. He will not disappoint. There is no circumstance that God cannot turn around. There is no reason to fear when the God of the Universe is with you and guiding you each step of the way!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pastor Steve". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "P" and "S".

Pastor Steve