



October 9, 2026

In These Times of Challenge Do Not Fear

Warm hellos once again friends, brethren, fellow laborers, spiritual family, and scattered children of God from here on the Gulf Coast of lower Alabama. My wife and I pray and hope this finds you doing well, and that again your week has been blessed.

It's been two weeks since my last Friday evening letter. Overall, we had an uplifting, encouraging, and inspiring Feast at the CGM U.S. site here in Spanish Fort on the eastern shore of Mobile Bay. However, toward the beginning of the Feast both my wife and Joe Myers began to notice they were not feeling well. Joe's voice deepened, and a cough onset. A couple days later I too began to feel absolutely exhausted and soon I too caught the bug! My voice held out for the Last Great Day sermon message, but when finished, I was frankly "finished". We're on the mend as I write, and each day I feel a little better, with energy levels obviously depleted. It will take a while to return to normal.

While ambulating now that the Feast is finished, and catching up with the details here in our offices while closed for the Feast, I have reflected on this last year.

Over the last few months, my inbox for email and texts has been inundated with prayer requests for multiple friends and scattered brethren, some with serious illnesses in the hospital...some are home now recovering, but many others continue to be challenged on a daily basis.

For those my wife and I serve both here in the U.S. and abroad, it has been a time of serious challenge for many.

We all also are very much aware of the death of beloved friends over the last few months.

We're continually reminded and asked to pray for others with serious health problems. We have read of their struggles with life threatening problems and then received the news they have died and have come to the end of their lives and await the resurrection. It may seem that in spite of being anointed and having many prayers offered that many end up dying from their cancers, heart problems and other afflictions. We may have several thoughts and reactions.

We could ask, "Why didn't God heal them?" After all, they were anointed and many in the body of Christ were asked to pray for them. Did God forget them? Does God take notice of the struggles of His people? What about the promises in James chapter 5?

Of course we know that our God is a loving and caring God and fully aware of the events in our lives. We are told, *"Precious in the sight of the LORD Is the death of His saints."* (Psalm 116:15) Jesus spoke of His disciples having to face those who could "kill the body." He told them to fear God and then made a comparison. *"Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows."* (Matthew 10:29-31) Our heavenly Father is very much aware of the "fall", death, and placing in the ground of His precious called out ones.

Later in the chapter Jesus referred to the challenges and struggles of being His disciple. *"And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it."* (Matthew 10:38-39) We will all eventually die if time goes on long enough until the end of the age. But if we have made an investment in preparing for the Kingdom and receiving eternal life, that is far more important than how long we may live in this life.

Jesus made a strong statement, *"He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life."* (John 12:25) It is a hyperbolic comparison similar to "hating father and mother" which meant loving less by comparison.

In the messages to the seven churches, Jesus mentioned the trials and persecutions faced by the "church in Smyrna." (Rev 2:8-9) He told them, "*Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.*" (Revelation 2:10)

Hebrews 11 is often called "the faith chapter" and reminds us of a number of men and women of faith who have preceded us in death and looked forward to receiving promises from God. But, "*These all died in faith, not having received the promises.*" (Hebrews 11:13)

Some of these experienced painful tests of faith and horrible events that took their lives. But, they remained faithful and endured to the end! The apostle Peter talks of that faith that is refined by fiery trials. "*that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*" (1 Peter 1:7) For some their "fiery trials" are health challenges and/or accidents that are life-threatening.

Jesus warns us of end time challenges and trying events in the Olivet prophecies. He admonishes those living then, "*Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.*" (Matthew 24:11-13)

God will allow these trying events to happen. But, He will use them to strengthen the faith and commitment of His true disciples. James tells us, "*knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.*" (James 1:3-4)

Let us pray for and share in the loss of those who have lost loved ones and try to encourage them, while rejoicing for the faithful endurance to the end of Gods' saints who have come to the end of their lives. As time marches on, there will be more, but remember, there is a new world coming! And, He will return!

We've just spent 8 days focusing on that time which is coming. I pray you were inspired and uplifted in keeping His Feast.

Arms up friends! Our sincere prayers and thoughts are with you daily. Thanks in advance for your heartfelt prayers for us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'T. S. Hoefker', with a stylized, scribbled end.

T. S. Hoefker

Senior Pastor, CGM

Church of God Ministries (CGM)/(*Ministerios de la Iglesias de Dios*)

tshoefker@cogministries.org / www.cogministries.org

P.O. Box 983, Daphne, AL, 36526-0983 / 251-930-1797 Offices