

God also tells us that providing that help will bring us a blessing....in due time.

These works help us overcome the hatred spawned by Satan and directed toward God's children. They help us learn the difference between hate and love. Verse 10 ends by telling us that we must not allow ourselves to weaken and stop helping even when we tire of whatever that responsibility may be. The practice of love is the opposite of hate and it is a practice God wants us to embrace. Christ proved His love for His Father and for the children of God when He laid down His life for us and bore His burden until Satan's grip on us was broken.

God tells us to pray incessantly. This does not mean that we are to kneel, fold our hands, and bow our heads every few minutes. But it does mean that as we move through our daily activities our thoughts go to God and the Plan of Salvation which He instituted for our benefit. Our thoughts should focus on the coming of Christ which is the fruition of that plan rather than the struggles we must go through as hate reaches a climax here on earth. It means that we think (or speak to ourselves) words of thanks and ask God to bless and protect all His children all over the world. Praying incessantly means that many times a day...even many times each hour... we reflect on the return of Christ and the evil which is being perpetrated to delay the return of Christ. We must pray that God will provide everything we, and all God's children, need to overcome the evil which we see so prevalent in the world and that He will help all of us remain faithful. When our thoughts, thus our hearts are filled with these thoughts, even as we move through the responsibilities of our day, it touches God's heart and invokes the power to thwart Satan's desire to use hatred to push the finish line further ahead. Stay strong brothers and sisters, pray incessantly for one another and hold the coming of Christ foremost in your heart.



Brought to you by Scriptural Insight, Inc.

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Scriptural Insight

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Prior to the establishment of Scriptural Insight, Inc., Helen, sent books to the mission schools supported by the Henwood Foundation in Zambia, Africa, to the Sunday Schools of the New Apostolic Church in Lahore, Pakistan, and to various ministers, counselors and youth leaders all over the world. Helen was first in direct and personal communication with those who oversee these various venues, and then with others who sought to promote the word of God. Her very popular articles are used all over the world to bring testimony, and are often used as a part of a church service.

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Hate By Any Other Name

The Christian heart is a heart which strives to love, to be kind and gracious, to be long suffering and forgiving. The Christian believes that God is in control of everything...this earth and our lives...that God is actively fulfilling His Plan of Salvation for mankind and that Christ gave His life so we could be redeemed from sin. Those who have studied God's Plan of Salvation understand that it was formulated to separate good from evil for all eternity, and will create a special people who choose to love God and to live under the rule of righteousness

God's Plan describes the time when this plan will be fulfilled, and God's children must endure the persecution of their faith and the martyrdom of many faithful Christians. While it is natural to be heartbroken over the persecutions, attacks, murders and denigrating of the Christian faith, it is even worse to see these atrocities take place with no consequences to those who commit them. Thus these hateful and unjust acts can cause us to question God's plan and wonder when God will step in and end this evil.

Some of us only know of these atrocities from what we see and hear on the news. We become horrified by what is occurring, and often feel that there is nothing we can do to help. But we can help through the power of our prayers. We must diligently pray for those who are in the midst of these persecutions.



We must plead for each of them to be provided with the strength to endure, the courage to stay the course, the wisdom to see God's hand in everything, and thus have peace in their heart.

This will occur because the hate spawned by Satan will no longer be as the subtle serpent in the Garden of Eden, but be plainly recognized. It is his last effort to break the faith of God's children to give him more time before he is bound by God. It will require great courage to acknowledge and practice one's faith knowing that not only one's own life may be at risk, but also the lives of those loved so dearly. It requires a very strong faith to trust God with the outcome of such horrific occurrences. Thus it is the responsibility of every Christian to pray for those who are affected by these atrocities, asking our Heavenly Father to provide the strength and peace each soul needs as they try to live their life of faith.

The power of Satan's influence over those who bring these persecutions demonstrate a ruthlessness which is foreign to the Christian heart, difficult to comprehend and slow to register in our hearts and minds. The "heart of love" God created by His example in the heart of most Christians can cause us to deny that such abominations can and do take place. Thus it may take a while for us to believe that what is occurring is real; that it is here; that it is now; and that this will ultimately affect every one of us and.....that it is one of the final signs before Christ returns. Even if we recognize these persecutions as evidence that the End Time prophecies written in scripture are being fulfilled, many of us are unprepared for the raw and unfettered hatred seen in the persecutors. It is difficult for the Christian to accept that anyone can be so ruthless and so blind to the evil they do. But it is through this hatred that we are being made aware of the venom of evil, of Satan himself, and the very reason God seeks to ban sin for all eternity in the new heaven and earth through His Plan of Salvation.

The Bible is God's word for us, meant to teach, to provide hope, and to give us the strength we need to wait for God's Plan to be fulfilled. It our source of our wisdom and strength; the reason we can endure. As we read the Bible, we learn that many of its chapters and verses describe the sequence of events to God's Plan of Salvation and that when events are repeated over the course of just a few

chapters or verses, not much time elapses between these events.

Some of the evidence of this phenomenon is described in Revelation, chapters 18 through 20. For example, Scripture tells us in Revelation 18:23-24: "And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee.....and in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth." This explains that the voices of Christians are similar to a candle shining through the darkness of sin and corruption. It tells us that this candle will no longer shine (to enlighten) after Christ returns and takes God's faithful from this earth. But it also warns that this candle will diminish as many who carry the candle are slain.

Further, Revelation 18: 2 tells us: ".....Babylon ...is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, a cage for every unclean and hateful bird". And in verse 4: "Come out of her, my people, that ye not be partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." Babylon in the days of old was known as a city of sinners, thus its name describes all places where sin abounds and tells us that we are to flee this sin and the hatred which sin encourages.

These verses describe the shedding of the blood of the saints as occurring just before the coming of Christ, and clearly tells us that the devils and foul spirits who joined Satan's rebellion against God, will commit terrible iniquities upon the children of God. This clearly points to what is happening today with the current persecution and murder of Christians. However, God, in His loving kindness does not want us to fear these things, but to recognize what our reward will be in the end if we can remain faithful.

To remind us of this, shortly following these verses, Revelation 19:7 tells us: "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him, for the marriage of the Lamb is come; and his wife hath made herself ready." This tells us that Christ will soon come to take with Him back to heaven those who will be His "bride", and that the dignity, honour, and faithfulness of God's children will be rewarded, and what they go through will not be in vain.

All this hate however will have an end. Revelation 20:2-3 explains how God will accomplish this, saying: "And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years. And cast him into the bottomless pit. Then in Revelation, Chapter 21 and 22 we are brought to the end of the Bible where God describes the wonders of the new kingdom He has prepared where there will be no sorrow or tears, no hate. Evil will be bound forever and never be allowed to enter those Holy places.

Revelation 22:12 comforts us with the words: "And behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according to his work shall be." And verse 17 we are shown that the invitation to become a child of God is open to all: "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come". Thus whether we pray for our fellow Christians or we are those who are persecuted, we must testify to and believe that God's plan is being fulfilled, that God is by our side no matter what we go through, and that as Daniel entered the lion's den and David faced Goliath, and Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out a fiery furnace unscathed, so will we if we can remain faithful to the end.

God sees our heart; knows what we thin, what we feel and what we strive to do. Despite the temptation to hate and the fears which may arise in us, God knows that we love Him and desire with all our heart to heed His words, follow His direction and be found worthy when Christ returns. Through God's grace, all of us can learn, can overcome, can love one another, can be strengthened, and can help one another. These activities always touches God's heart. Our Heavenly Father also teaches us about love which in the end will prove more powerful than hate. Galatians 6:2 tells us "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ". Galatians 6:9 tells us: "And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." And, in verse 10 we are told "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

What we learn from these verses is that God knows that we will all be burdened from time to time and that when we see someone carrying a burden we must step in and ease their burden by helping them to carry or bear it. God