

September 11, 2011

The logo for 'Light & Salt' features the words in a large, elegant, black cursive font. The ampersand is particularly decorative, with long, sweeping flourishes that extend upwards and to the right, crossing over the top of the word 'Salt'. The background is a dark, gradient rectangle.

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## ***Resolved***

*“In faith without any doubting” (James 1:6\*)*

“I am resolved no longer to linger, charmed by the world’s delight; Things that are higher, things that are nobler, these have allured my sight. I will hasten to Him, Hasten so glad and free, Jesus, greatest, highest; I will come to Thee”.

Webster’s dictionary defines ‘resolved’--to decide firmly, to clear away (any doubt). The hymn writer was sure about at least one thing...he was going to follow Jesus! He had made up his mind; he was resolved. He had made a decision to step out in faith and hasten to meet Jesus, without further doubts.

The man walked slowly to the church. He had seen the car in the parking lot and knew that someone would be there for the talk he so desperately needed. The man reached and grasped the door knob and turned it. It opened to his touch. He stopped for a moment and took a deep breath.

As the man stood there quietly and all alone, he felt the tremendous load that weighed heavily upon him at this point.



For days, seemingly without end, he had wrestled with the thoughts that flooded his mind and robbed him of sleep. For a long time, he had experienced little rest or peace. He had to decide! Many people depended on him to make the right decision. Who could he turn to for help? The man decided to seek the advice of his trusted friend in the church.

Many of us have been in a similar position with others depending on us to get a matter resolved. We are blessed if we have a person whom we trust with our deepest feelings.

How great it is when that same person is spiritually minded, grounded in the Word of God. We are doubly blessed knowing that person will keep our conversation to just the two of us.

The man in our little story had the talk with his church friend. As he talked with his friend, he felt the weight lifted that had for so long taken his peace and took his rest. With the helpful advice of the Lord and the Christian friend, the matter was resolved!

*“In faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.” (James 1:6-7 \*)*

As the Apostle instructed, they found the solution by exercising faith and putting down all doubt. After prayer, they parted and the man walked out of the church with a lighter step than when he entered.

We are all subject to times of doubting, when we are not able to get the thing resolved!

It is during the times of doubt that we need to face the thing that is causing us to question the Lord's ability to provide what we need. With God's help, we can stop running and feeling sorry for ourselves! He will help us get it resolved.

*“Therefore also God highly exalted Him (Jesus), and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, (all 3 three realms) and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:9-11 \*)*

Whatever we face; doubt, fear, sickness, financial needs, a spouse's ability or refusal to see it our way, a wayward child, is subject to His name. There is nothing that we face that is beyond the power of Jesus to overcome. If God's Word is true, and It is, there is nothing, absolutely no-thing, more powerful than Jesus!

Again, whatever the thing is that we face today, or will face tomorrow, is subject to the *“name which is above every name”*. God, help us get rid of the doubt, the fear. Help us believe, really be resolved in the deepest part of our being, that Your Word is true!

*“I sought the LORD, and He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears”. “This poor man cried and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.” (Psalms 34:4, 6 \*)*



Perhaps today we need to get with someone. Maybe we should have that talk with a pastor, a trusted friend, a fellow believer, whom we trust in the Lord. We need to have Jesus help us **be** resolved.

The good news is that we no longer have to go with the flow of the world. We do not have to be in bondage to the doubts and the fears that make life a living hell. Our hearts go out to those trapped in the bonds of self pity. Those held captive by the spirits that make their lives so miserable.

God help us break free from the doubts and fears and get the thing resolved so that we might go on to bigger and better things.

What is it today that stands between us and God's help? Our mind goes to the story of the Ethiopian, who after being instructed in the Word, told Philip, *"Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?"* (Acts 8:35 \*)

The Ethiopian saw the water. He saw a way out of his doubts. Note that it took two, the Ethiopian and Philip, to come to this point in time. It is a tough thing to try to overcome our doubts and fears all by ourselves. There is someone who is ready to listen to us, if we but ask.

After hearing and believing the Word, the Ethiopian had hope for the future.

He was ready for the next step in his life. He acted on what he saw. He asked what prevented him from going further in his relationship with Jesus. We might ask ourselves what prevents us from acting on the things we have learned about our doubts and our fears.

Lord, help us all to be resolved to linger no longer where we are, but, instead, hasten to Jesus. Amen

Comments by Harry Bain

\* (New American Standard Bible; i.e., NASB)