

Main Identity

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Mary Craig Ministries

September, 2007

Mother Teresa intrigues people of all faiths and even people with no faith. Maybe it's because she won a Nobel Peace Prize or because the Roman Catholic Church is considering her for sainthood. She is widely known for her great works among the poor of Calcutta and for the Order of the Missionaries of Charity which she founded.

Time magazine recently featured her in their September 3, 2007 issue in an article entitled "Her Agony" by David Van Biema. Apparently, Mother Teresa battled dryness, darkness, loneliness, torture, and doubt of the very existence of heaven and even of God for some 50 years after receiving a call from the Lord in a vision. She describes a dark night of the soul that never lifted but for a brief moment. She may have been right when she wrote in 1951 "that the Passion was the only aspect of Jesus' life that she was interested in sharing: 'I want to...drink ONLY (her emphasis) from His chalice of pain.'" (*Time*, page 41)

Bonding with Christ's redemptive agony, she called Jesus "the Absent One" and wrote c. 1961 "I have come to love the darkness—for I believe now that it is part of a very, very small part of Jesus' darkness & pain on earth." (*Time*, page 42) She even projected this darkness into her afterlife, contending, "If I ever become a Saint—I will surely be one of 'darkness.' I will continually be absent from Heaven—to [light] the light of those in darkness on earth." And, "I am willing to suffer...for all eternity, if this [is] possible." (*Time*, page 42) To Jesus she wrote, "If this brings You glory—if souls are brought to you—with joy I accept all to the end of my life." (*Time*, page 43) Certainly, her statements were tested and, like Peter, she was sifted like wheat. God granted her desire, and to my knowledge, she never desired to know the power of His resurrection along with knowing Christ and the fellowship of His sufferings. (Phil. 3.10)

After reading the article in *Time* magazine, I thought about doubt and darkness and when God seems absent. In those times, we do not feel the Presence of God. We walk through the valley of the shadow of death, and thick darkness surrounds so as to make our souls cry out for the Living God. We wrestle with the power of darkness seeking to overtake us. We identify with Christ's cry, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

We wait for the light and darkness comes (Job 30.26). We doubt and despair within, hiding the hidden hell that holds us in its grip. In those times of overwhelming silence, I have found that **instead of our works for God, we must hold to the Word of God. Our faith does not rest in what we do for God, but in what Christ has done for us.**

Jesus learned obedience in the things which He suffered. By the time He suffered the Cross, He had been abandoned by His Father, the One whose Presence He had always known. He felt only pain and the agony of rejected love, the agony of our sin and the wrath of God's punishment for it. No angel received orders to help Him after He was strengthened in the Garden. He faced the power of darkness, the power of death, the power of the Devil, and the power

of the grave alone. **I've asked myself, "What did He have?"**

He had those precious promises and the prophecies concerning Him. He had only the Word. That Word is the Word that proceeds from the mouth of God, and Jesus trusted His Father and the Holy Spirit implicitly. As God, He knew the nature of God. That Word sent Him to save His people from their sins. That Word gave Him an inheritance. That Word spoke of His resurrection and glory. As a man, Jesus needed faith in the Word of God. As God, He prophesied His own future that we might believe.

Whether God chooses to manifest His Presence or not, whether we walk in the brightness of His glory or in the valley of the shadow of death, we have His Word. His Words are spirit and they are life. His Word forges our reality. His Word prevails over our feelings, over the circumstances of our lives, and even over death itself. His Word is light because it communicates the love of the Father for us. His Word is life because it comes from the Living Spirit who, as the Spirit of Grace, brings to us living waters and living bread and the fire of His holiness. In faith, we hold to truth that "the darkness is past, and the true light now shines." (1 John 2.8) By the faith of Jesus, we live. (Eph. 3.11, 12; Galatians 2.20; Hebrews 12.2; Revelation 14.12)

Though we identify with Christ in His death, we must also identify with Christ in His resurrection and ascension into glory. And we must also remember that it is not by works of righteousness that we have done, but according to His mercy, that He saved us. (Titus 3) Salvation is by grace alone, by Christ alone. We cannot save others. Mother Church does not save, nor can we save ourselves. (Ephesians 2.8, 9) We must watch our words and trust His. Sainthood is not something we achieve, for God has declared every believer a saint. We are holy because He has declared us "holy, blameless, and without reproach." The Father has delivered us from the power of darkness, and has translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son. (Read Colossians, chapter one.)

Do you have a longing for the Living God? Join us as we kick off some new groups this month at Craighouse.



Sundays, 4:30 p.m., join us for worship in a celebration of grace. Rev. Jim Craig continues looking deeper into Hebrews that we might appreciate what is better about this so great salvation.



Tuesdays, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Pastor Jim takes you into an in depth study of the Greek text of Hebrews. Serious Bible students, take note!



Wednesdays, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., Dr. Mary Craig facilitates the Craighouse Support Group for those needing a listening ear, prayer, emotional and spiritual support to avoid burn-out or the just plain craziness of everyday life.



Wednesdays, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., discover “A Father’s Love” with Dr. Mary. This five-week group is for those seeking to know the Father so as to embrace His love and delight in His children. The mystery of homecoming awaits you.



Fridays, 7:30 – 10:30 p.m., we continue in the Message to the Hebrews with worship and ministry of the Holy Spirit. We have been so encouraged by the testimonies of healing, provision, breakthroughs, increased anointing, prophetic gifting, and spiritual growth. God’s Presence has never been stronger. Be there.

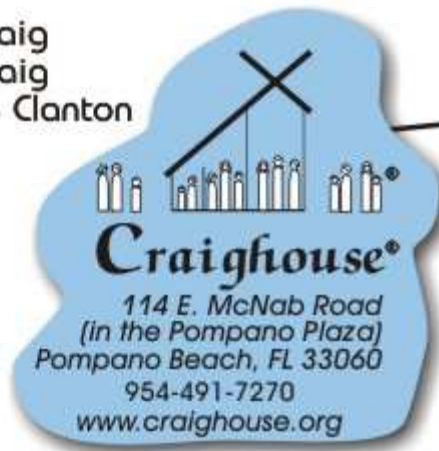


Wednesday, September 26th, Rev. Jackie Clanton continues our Power Lunch, Noon to 1:30 p.m. Bring a lunch or have lunch on us. This group is growing and so is the anointing and presence of God in our midst. We are excited to see what God will do next! Last month we heard powerful testimonies on “God is Real!” This time of sharing, praying, and basking in the Presence of God is for everyone, men and women.

See you at Craighouse!

Mary Craig

Pastors:
 Rev. Jim Craig
 Dr. Mary Craig
 Rev. Jackie Clanton



Craighouse®: Where People are Touched by the Father’s Love

