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Escalating Tension

One would need to have lived in a cave the past several years not to be aware of escalating tension in America and around the world. That particularly came to mind this past week on the ninth anniversary of the death and destruction in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania at the hands of terrorists on September 11, 2001. It was further heightened by widespread news reports that the pastor of Dove World Outreach Center in Gainesville, Florida, was planning to burn thousands of copies of the Koran (Quran), the Muslim holy book. Together with ongoing conflict in the Middle East, continued recession, troublesome rates of unemployment and stock market fluctuation, it's easy to understand the escalating tension in our country and world today.

Different people respond to tension in different ways. Some choose alcohol, drugs, (prescription and non-prescription), pornography, and other abusive or addictive behavior in an effort to seek relief, even if only temporary, from stress, pressure, and pain. Others deal with tension through involvement in politics, hobbies, or various avocations. Still others rely trustingly on the words of Jesus in Matt. 6: "Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ... your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

The hymnist writes "O for a faith that will not shrink though pressed by many a foe; that will not tremble on the brink of poverty or woe. A faith that shines more bright and clear, when tempests rage without; that when in danger knows no fear, in darkness feels no doubt. Lord, give me such a faith as this and then, whate'er may come, I'll taste e'en now, the hallowed bliss of an eternal home.

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always!

Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick

Lives Transformed through Christ, in Time ... for Eternity!
John 3:16-17