



A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT- FEBRUARY 2008
“DEMONSTRATION”
(It’s all about love!)

This month many people celebrate Valentines Day with cards, candy, flowers and special gifts. It is a “loving and remembering” day- and that is good. We celebrate One who gave (until there was nothing left) Himself. He is- in fact- the gift that keeps on giving. That is cause for celebration, meditation, confession (to ourselves and certainly to others), thankfulness and praise. No-one in our lives has ever gone that far, given that much, or loved as generously as Jesus. It is love beyond measure. It is love demonstrated- beyond word or theories- in action and deed, in practice, in truth and in sincerity. (1 John 3:18 AMP)

The Father made a way for us- He sent Jesus. There had to be someone to pay the price for us. Jesus did just that. 1 Corinthians 6:20 (LB) says “For God has bought you with a great price. So use every part of your body to give glory back to God, because He owns it.” Jesus took our place, bore our sins (1 Pet. 2:24 AMP), became sin for us (2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV) so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. How can we doubt His love?

The Father sees us IN CHRIST. He has declared that NOTHING can separate us from the love of God- His love for us- not our love for Him.

Please read Romans 8:29-39. In the Living Bible it says “For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to him- and all along he knew who would- should become like his Son, so that his Son would become the First, with many brothers. And having chosen us, he called us to come to him; and when we came, he declared us “not guilty”, filled us with Christ’s goodness, gave us right standing with himself, and promised us his glory.”

“What can we ever say to such wonderful things as these? If God is on our side, who can ever be against us? Since he did not spare even his own Son for us but gave him up for us all, won’t he also surely give us everything else?”

“Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? Will God? No! He is the one who has forgiven us and given us right standing with himself.”

“Who then will condemn us? Will Christ? No! For he is the one who died for us and came back to life again for us and is sitting at the place of highest honor next to God, pleading for us there in heaven.”

“Who then can ever keep Christ’s love from us? When we have trouble or calamity, when we are hunted down or destroyed, is it because he doesn’t love us anymore? And if we are hungry, or penniless, or in danger, or threatened with death, has God deserted us?”

“No, for Scripture tells us that for his sake we must be ready to face death at every moment of the day- we are like sheep awaiting slaughter; but despite all this- overwhelming victory is ours through Christ who loved us enough to die for us. For I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from his love. Death can’t, and life can’t. The angels won’t, and all the powers of hell itself cannot keep God’s love away. Our fears for today, our worries about tomorrow, or where we are- high above the sky, or in the deepest ocean- nothing will ever be able to separate us from the love of God demonstrated by our Lord Jesus Christ when he died for us.”

The source of love is God Himself (1 John 4:7-10, 16). Our model of love is Jesus (John 3:16). Think about Jesus and the result of His love- we are it! The demonstration of this love will be by us as we love others (1 John 4:21). Scripture tells us “No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us. We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect... (1 John 4:12, 16 NLT)

“But all things are from God, who through Jesus Christ reconciled us to Himself (received us into favor, brought us into harmony with Himself) and gave to us the ministry of reconciliation (that by word and deed we might aim to bring others into harmony with Him.) It was God (personally present) in Christ, reconciling and restoring the world to favor with Himself, not counting up and holding against (men) their trespasses (but canceling them), and committing to us the message of reconciliation (of the restoration to favor). So we are Christ’s ambassadors, God making His appeal as it were through us” (2 Corinthians 5:18-20AMP). Responsibility yes- and privilege- absolutely!

We- as women of God- are made to be “reconcilers”! We have the capacity, the strength, and the desire to love. Mercy and compassion come easily to us. Sacrifice is a part of our everyday lives. I believe our love has a greater impact than we realize. Every day we have opportunities to demonstrate through our action, behavior and responses the love of God. God’s word clearly tells us what love is and what it is not! 1 Corinthians 13:3-8 The Message says “Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn’t want what it doesn’t have. Love doesn’t strut, doesn’t have a swelled head, doesn’t force itself on others, isn’t always “me first”, doesn’t fly off the handle, doesn’t keep score of the sins of others, doesn’t revel when others grovel, takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to the end.”

This is not natural love based on feelings or emotions (fleeting at best). That is part of the old nature. We are new creatures in Christ with new natures. Ephesians 4:24 LB says “Yes, you must be a new and different person, holy and good. Clothe yourself with this new nature.” Romans 5:5 NIV declares that “God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.” We can yield to that love, we can activate that love, we can practice that love.

Love is also the first of the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit. We are not just gifted women, but women of character. Each one of these fruits will be brought to maturity by His presence working within us and our cooperation with that work. The seed of these fruits planted by God in us will grow and develop (a process) and bring glory to the Lord. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control are in ever increasing measure in us. (Galatians 5:22)

We have much to give; we have much to “be”- a sure, clear reflection of Jesus and His love. There are many who need to “see” Him, receive His love through us, partake of His goodness and experience His life- eternal and abundant- a life that shall never end! The Word of God states in 1 Corinthians 13:8 NIV “Love never fails.” In the Living Bible, the same scripture says “...but love goes on forever.” How privileged we are to be a life-giving, powerful part of God’s answer to the needs of mankind. How great His love is for us! How precious His care, approval and acceptance of us. How amazing that He would love us first and then use us to bring to others the awesome love of God!

May He touch your heart in a special way.



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