

# A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT

October 2007



“There is a reason...”

*In these days, when many are discouraged and wondering about “the hardness of the way” (as the children of Israel did before us) there is a reason to go on with the Lord. In speaking of the signs of the end times Jesus said that the love of the great body of people will grow cold. (Matthew 24:12,13 AMP). We will go on! The reason is a “WHO” rather than a “WHY.”*

God is love (1 John 4:16), and He wants us to love Him in return. Love Him first and best. *“Our love for him comes as a result of his loving us first” (1 John 4:19 LB)* Everything He asks of us began with Him and not us. God was and is the INITIATOR, and revealed Himself in Jesus. “God brought us back to himself through what Jesus did, and has given us the privilege of urging everyone to come into his favor and be reconciled to him. For God was in Christ, restoring the world to himself, no longer counting men’s sins against them but blotting them out. This is a wonderful message he has given us to tell other.” (2 Corinthians 5:18,19 LB)

*Jesus said, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.” (Matthew 22:37,38 NIV)* In John 14:15 RSV Jesus said, *“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”* So we see that our love for the Lord goes well beyond feelings and emotions – to a response and doing what He has commanded – The Word of God!

**Loving Him** we will continue to walk with the Lord. Jesus said in Luke 9:23 LB, *“Anyone who wants to follow me must put aside his own desires and conveniences and carry his cross with him every day and keep close to me!”* In John 12:26 RSV Jesus said, *“IF anyone serves me, he must follow me, and where I am, there shall my servant be also...”* God is “on the move” and it is a privilege to follow Him. There is motion and a going forward always with Him – never a “sit-down” or a place of arrival.

**Loving Him** we will continue to seek Him we want to know Him more and more and experience His presence. There is revelation and transformation as we draw near to Him – and partake of Him everyday – in His Word, in Prayer, in Praise and Worship, in Fellowship with the brethren, and in His Church that He dearly loves! He does make Himself known! How privileged are we!

**Loving Him** we will keep on praying. There is a teaching parable in Luke 18:1 RSV where Jesus said men should always pray and not lose heart. Prayer is two-way communication (Yes-God wants to talk to you!) and we serve a God that answers prayer. Philippians 4:6 AMP says *“Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything, but in every circumstance and in everything by prayer and petition (definite requests), with thanksgiving, continue to make your wants known to God.”* A praying person is strong, confident in God, and at peace.

**Loving Him** – we have Someone to believe in! Believe He is a Gentleman of the Highest Honor who says what He means and means what He says. Hebrews 11:6 NIV says, “Anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.” Use your faith for great things! Reject the lies of the enemy who speaks whenever we are weak with fear, doubt, inadequacy and more. He is defeated! Stand tall in the One who believes in you and has given you precious promises.

Remember that He knew you before the foundation of the world; HE formed and fashioned and knit you in your mother’s womb (you came FROM GOD – and through your parents).

In Psalm 139:13-17 AMP, we read that He knew us, formed us, and all the days of our lives were written in His book while we were yet unformed substance. He knew you then and He knows (and loves you) now! Glory!!

**Loving Him** we will always have hope. Faith is NOW, (Hebrew 11:1) hope goes on and on, beyond our present life and circumstances. Christ is in you, the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27). 1 Peter 1:3-5 LB declares, *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and to an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God’s power are guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time!*”

**Loving Him** we will love – “Go after a life of love as if your life depended on it – because it does.” (1 Cor. 14:1 MSG) “Love extravagantly” (1 Cor. 13:13 MSG) – love God, yourself, your brothers and sisters in Christ and all others that are God’s creation. We have looked at Matthew 22:39 and the greatest commandment – “And the second is like it: “Love your neighbor as yourself” (the words of Jesus) Keep loving – it is God’s way. We ought to have a special love for each other in Christ. In John 13:34,35 LB, Jesus said, “And so I am giving a new commandment to you now- love each other just as much as I love you. Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

**Loving Him** we will forgive and continue to forgive – every offense, hurt and unkindness in word and deed. In Luke 6:37 AMP Jesus said, “... acquit and forgive and release (give up resentment, let it drop), and you will be acquitted and forgiven and released.” Ephesians 4:32 AMP Says, “And become useful and helpful and kind to one another, tenderhearted (compassionate, understanding, loving-hearted) forgiving one another (readily and freely), as God in Christ forgave you.” Matthew 6:14,15 LB states “Your heavenly Father will forgive you if you forgive those who sin against you, but if you refuse to forgive them, he will not forgive you.”

**Loving Him** we will desire, pray for, and work toward being rightly related and properly joined to the members of the Body of Christ. It is His Body! We are members one of another (Romans 12:5). Romans 12:4,5 LB says, “Just as there are many parts to our bodies, so it is with Christ’s Body. We are all parts of it, and it takes everyone of us to make it complete, for we each have different work to do. So we belong to each other and each needs all the others. Ephesians 4:16 LB declares, “Under his (Christ) direction the whole body is fitted together perfectly, and

each part in its own special way helps the other parts, so that the whole body is healthy and growing full of love.” We are accepted in the Beloved (Ephesians 1:6) and we should accept each other. We are as strong as our relationships within the Body of Christ. Desire and pray for right relationships and fellowship. Within our Church, God, can meet our needs, fill us continually, prepare us for service, and use us for His purposes. His purposes will always involve people. We have gifts, talents and abilities – they need to be identified and used in the House of God and also for others. 1 Corinthians 14:2 MSG says, “*Give yourselves to the gifts God gives to you.*” You have what it takes to reach and reach out to others, to impact others within and without the Church walls and to know that your life is being used to bring honor and glory to the Lord.

**Loving Him** you will be a Thankful, Grateful, Christian Woman! In a world that is complaining, grumbling and negative, let us be the ones who continually Thank God. He has been so good to us! “*And always be Thankful.*” (Colossians 3:15 LB)

**Loving Him** you can and will rejoice more and more. *He is working in the affairs of men! He is working in you (Philippians 1:6 and 2:13)! He is on His Throne with Jesus at His Right Hand interceding for us! He is in Control!*

**Loving Him** we will rejoice more and more Phil. 3:1 AMP says, “... *delight yourselves in the Lord and continue to rejoice that you are in Him.*” Rejoice in His Salvation (Ps. 13:5), rejoice in His mercy (Ps. 31:7), rejoice in the day (everyday!) He has made – man did not make it! (Ps. 118:24), rejoice in answered prayer (1 Samuel 2:1), rejoice at His Word (Ps. 119:162). The Apostles rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His Name (Acts 5:41), and so shall we. Jesus endured the Cross for the Joy that was set before Him. (Hebrew 12:2) How Great is our GOD!

**Loving Him** we will love His Word – enough to believe it, speak it, and do it. God spoke - and it was. We will speak the Word and it will be!

**Loving Him** we will bless, praise and worship the Lord, not only in word, but with every part of us to His Glory.

Revelation 4:11 KJV says, “... for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.” You were created for His pleasure. He is still hungry for intimacy, fellowship, and communion with us. May we respond to His loving Heart!



In the Name of the One Who is LOVE ~



Toni Quinn  
“For His Glory” Women’s Ministry