

A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT

MAY 2009

“The Loving Touch”

Think of it- His loving touch is already on our lives. The record of the Word in its entirety is His hand is on His people. Today He started our day with new mercies and the watches and looks at us and over us with much love. His compassion moves Him to help us, heal us, and meet our needs. His hand leads and guides us; He protects and keeps us safe, and causes us to know we are His as we walk in His will. When we forget Him He is still remembering us. In love He created us, and we are created for His pleasure. (Revelation 4:01 KJV) He sustains us, carries us, and picks us up when we fall. When we doubt or find it hard to believe Him – He still believes in us. He takes great delight in our seeking Him and in our fellowship with Him. We need Him - and He needs us. The “loving touch” on our lives must be passed on to others.

We as Women of God need to know there is a powerful influence by our touch. Patsy Clairmont said “We all long to make meaningful contributions to a world in need of a woman’s touch, words, visions, thought, heart and spirit.” God made you a woman “built” and “wired” by God for His purpose – His specific purpose. He has made us to add value to lives, not take away. He has made us to give hope and help. The world is cold and hard. We are to bring warmth [with the fire of God burning within us], the softness and gentleness and kindness we have as women to sooth, comfort, and heal – to present Christ as He really is – One who totally gave Himself for us and the world.

“Hands are a wonderful part of our anatomy. We can applaud others; hold someone else’s hand; embrace our mom, sweetheart, or baby; extend our hand in friendship; wave; beckon; make music; and even whistle louder with them. The possibilities are endless”. [Patsy Clairmont}.

We use our hands to work; to lift to the Lord in prayer, praise and worship; to reach out and into the lives of others – meeting needs and necessities as we are able and these are all good. Our hands are only a part of the loving touch. We know from previous study that “the heart regulates the hands” [2 Corinthians 8:12 The Message]. All that we do should come from a love for the Lord, an ongoing relationship with Him and a desire to please Him in all things. As Christ is formed in us [a process] we will use our hands [in active service] as well as all else we have been given to bring Glory and Praise to His Name!

Looking at the “Virtuous woman” in Proverbs 31 and remembering that she was an ideal woman – one that we can and should learn from - we see that all she did was out of a heart of love for the Lord. Everything she did was done for Him - not because she had to, not to gain praise, be noticed or appreciated – but simply for Him. Her relationship to the Lord was deep and sincere – and was worked out in her relationships with others. Her husband, children, the people who worked for her, the poor and needy – all were touched and influenced not just by her hands, or by her work – but by her spirit. What she did was not as important as HOW she did it. We know from Scripture she is portrayed as industrious, organized [oh dear!], loving, efficient, and had priorities – and yet managed her resources and her many gifts in a balanced way. There was time for the most important things [her relationship with the Lord AND her family] and the important things – her work and her reaching out to those in need. She shows us a warm, caring and compassionate woman – one who excelled and moved in tender, loving ways – who knew well how to touch, be courteous, sensitive, and understanding in her communication – using words that would bless, comfort, encourage, soothe, and

give hope. “Caring about people means that you express that ever so gently with your availability and tender touch. Let your powerful words be set off with mercy and tenderness” [Patsy Clairmont].

If we examine Jesus [our perfect example] we find that His hands were used as He went about His Father’s business in healing people. It was His delight to touch and bless Children. His hands were used to wash the disciples’ feet. His “touch” upon lives went way beyond the use of His hands. He touched lives by His WORDS – and life, healing, hope, and the Love of God was freely given. His words were truth - but were spoken in a way that could be heard. He preached, taught, and healed when the crowds came [they ran to Him, not away from Him]. He was APPROACHABLE. Many times He reached out to individuals. Each person was important to Him and it showed in how He treated people. Thelma Wells [Women of Faith Speaker] said “I really believe that the way people treat us is usually a direct result of how we treat them”. This is called “reciprocal response” and we see it in Jesus- demonstrated by Him for our benefit. He was always OPEN [not closed in His mind or heart to the need] but always AVAILABLE. His ATTITUDE was always right and good – people were not a problem, a bother or an interruption to Him. He ADAPTED and ADJUSTED Himself to people. There was a WARMTH about Him and a WELCOME that made people feel safe with Him – it was a part of His very being. Joyce Meyers said “The greatest display of love is finding out what other people need and give or do it”. That was His live on the earth. His dear heart and spirit, His actions and words revealed who He was, what He was, and His mission. Even those who didn’t understand received from Him. He had much to GIVE - and so do we. We must PRAY and BELIEVE that God will use us – just as Jesus did. His desire was to do the will of His Father, and even called His Father’s will His meat and drink. So intense was His desire that other things did not get in the way or cause Him to lose focus – He simply did what His Father showed Him and spoke to Him. His mission was to use every opportunity that was given to reveal the love and desire of His Father’s heart – to save that which was lost – to bring all back to God – to restore relationship with the One who made us, loves us, and desires us!

Thomas Edison said “Opportunities are missed in life because they are dressed in overalls and look like work”. Yes - it is work to love and care for people – but what a privilege! We are not saved by good works but unto good works. [Ephesians 2:10]. Our best work is to “touch” lives in every way we can while there is yet time. Regardless of how inadequate we feel, there is Christ within us who needs to be shared, revealed, and shown forth in and by us. May our priorities and agendas be so adjusted, may our lives be so yielded and given to Him that we can say “I am living to do the will of my Father”. May we use every opportunity given to us. We can create and develop an atmosphere for the Gospel to be heard {and people saved} by doing what Jesus did – walking out all the facets of LOVE – as revealed in Scripture – to and for the Glory of God, and the extension of His Kingdom!

In the One who is still lovingly touching our lives –
Toni Quinn
For His Glory Women’s Ministry

“His love has the first and last word in everything we do”
2 Corinthians 5:14 The Message

“Through Him we received both the generous gift of His life and the urgent task of passing it on to others
who received it by entering into obedient trust in Jesus’.
Romans 1:5 The Message

All Patsy Clairmont quotes taken from ‘I Love Being a Woman’
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