

FRIDAY

“IS WHAT YOU FEEL REALLY LOVE?”

“Love is patient and kind . . .

Love is not jealous or boastful . . . it is not arrogant or rude;

Love does not insist on its own way. It does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right.

Love bears all things . . . believes all things . . . hopes all things . . . endures all things.”

I Corinthians 13:4-7

How many people are there, then, whom you *really* love in this way?

Most of us love a number of people but we think of love as varying from a “deep” love to a sort of “minimum” standard love.

The problem is that most of us love out of our own hearts — not out of a unique spiritual wellspring which is not selective but gives out freely without asking in return.

This kind of love heals, binds, uplifts and transforms. It is Love — the divine gift which is so different from the emotional love which is the result of pity or passion, possession or worth.

Try to think of love as a balm for wounded spirits, a cure for resentment, a window to God . . . Christ in your own life for others to see.

Prayer: Lord, Love as You gave it is so different from what I know. Teach me its power and beauty, I pray.

AMEN

SATURDAY

“HOW CAN I LOVE GOD?”

SCRIPTURE:

James 4:7, 8a

“How can I love God . . . ? Love is not something you can force —”

No, but if you think back a moment you will find that you would love God naturally, involuntarily, if it were not for certain fears, resentments or rebellious attitudes you have assimilated through the years.

Has some disappointment — perhaps years ago — caused you to turn away from God like a petulant child? Has fear of having to give up a habit or relationship or a way of life kept you from loving Him as freely as you might? Has the desire to take credit for your own life caused you to be aloof and apart from Him?

There are many things which damage or destroy our love for God, because man is born to love God and it is only as man learns *not* to love that the separation occurs. A child would eventually turn as naturally toward God as a sunflower turn toward the sun, if it were not for unseen forces in our lives that come between us and God.

As time goes on and we become more and more a part of society, Satanic pressures build up to resist this love and as years pass, sediment begins to cover up a once beautiful and free response to God. Satan’s main goal here is to keep us from loving God, to keep us apart from Him. Examine your love toward God. What in your life has diminished it, what holds you back . . . ?

Prayer: Lord, whatever there is in my life which makes my love for You less, please show me what it is so that I may know Thee and love Thee fully.

AMEN

Daily Family Devotions®

The thought begins in the Bible verse;
please take the time to read it first . . .

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2020

“BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US—”

SCRIPTURE:

I John 4:7-11

An infant does not give love. He responds to it and it soon becomes a real and essential force in molding his development, but he is not capable himself of loving. This must be a learning process: through experiencing love from another, watching it expressed, feeling its action in his life he begins to copy or respond — long before he understands the dynamics of love.

First comes the response to the touch and face of love; next the recognition of the source of it, and at last the tentative attempt to express it as he himself becomes vaguely conscious of the need to demonstrate an emotion within him — the impulsive giving of a favorite toy, a shy kiss, running to do an errand . . . finally, the giving of himself as he grows in understanding.

Spiritual love is like this . . . “We love God because He first loved us —” Men can go through years of life without ever growing out of spiritual infancy. Others are still in the childish state of giving things; others — in doing “errands” . . . Only a few really understand the dynamics of spiritual love and have learned to give themselves to Him — which is the supreme act of love.

Prayer: All of life is learning to love, but without love for Thee, no love is complete. Teach me, Lord, to love Thee.

AMEN

For information regarding these devotions, contact:
Daily Family Devotions
Tel: (818) 457-1798 • info@dailyfamilydevotional.org

TUESDAY

“SELF-PERPETUATING POWER OF LOVE”

SCRIPTURE:

I Corinthians 13:1-3; John 14:15

More than half of the Hebraic law was based on the negative: “Thou shalt not ____.” Christ’s “new commandment” is based upon the affirmative of love . . . “Thou *shalt love* the Lord thy God.” Why?

Because love is the only law which needs no enforcement. Civil laws succeed only if fear of breaking them is greater than the desire to break them. Because human nature continually seeks to escape any kind of domination or rule, civil law must be enforced by police protection, and our laws are only as good as the enforcement of them.

But a man who acts out of love is not looking for a way out; he continually looks for a way to do more . . . This is why Christ said, “Thou shalt love the Lord with all your heart—with all your soul and mind.” Just as a child obeys someone he loves eagerly, without force, so a man obeys a God he loves, without ecclesiastical pressure or rules.

Love for God is the motivation for everything a Christian does — his social ethics, his business reputation, his family life, his relationship to other people. Without love for God our actions are unpredictable, uncontrollable . . . but when a person does love God, he is never a source of trouble or friction. Whatever he does is done out of this love.

Prayer: God, help me to be aware of my love for You so that whatever I do is done for You, so that every decision is made out of love for You.

AMEN

WEDNESDAY

“OUR ‘ANCHOR-MAN’ . . .”

SCRIPTURE:

II Timothy 1:12b; Hebrews 11:1, 2

A famous mountain-climber who had been credited with saving many people who had fallen into glacial crevasses was asked why he was not afraid to go into such dangerous work. He said, “Because I never go alone and I have complete faith in my anchor-man.” He never attempted a rescue without first tying himself to his companion with a stout line.

Doubt can be as frightening as a hidden crevasse to the Christian, and as dangerous. What do you do when you navigate? God should be the ‘anchor-man’ for the Christian, and ‘faith’ his line or rope. We will always come upon “faults” or crevasses in life, areas we can’t cross alone, that are deep and threatening.

At times like these, hold tight to your faith, rest your whole weight upon it for your God is able to support you in anything you may need. No chasm is too deep, no crevasse too wide for His power and strength.

Only as you have to let yourself go completely, will you ever realize the power and faithfulness of our Lord . . . Love is not love unless it can trust, and your love for God has not been really put to the test until that time when everything you are, everything you have ever believed, rests wholly on His promise and His love for you.

When your time of testing comes, let go. Your God is able.

Prayer: Perfect love casts out fear—not the perfection of my love, Lord, but the perfection of Your love for me.

AMEN

THURSDAY

“HAPPINESS IS A REWARD . . .”

SCRIPTURE:

Job 5:17; Psalm 128:1, 2

People today seem to think that a person finds happiness the way people dig for gold: if you look long enough you’re bound to find it. What other way is there?

It is interesting to note that in the Bible happiness is mentioned only as a *condition* or reward of a man doing something pleasing to God. “Happy is the man whom God corrects

Happy is the man who walks in God’s ways
Happy the people whose God is the Lord
. . . that show mercy . . . that endure . . . Happy the man who, knowing God’s will, does it —”

Apparently to God happiness is not the “right” of any of us, but rather a reward from Him for obedience, and service, and selflessness.

When are you happiest? When everything is going well, of course, but this doesn’t happen every day, does it? What then? Are you in the doldrums, petulant, out of sorts, bored and irritable? Christian happiness is not something that should depend upon conditions around us, but on the conditions inside us. No matter what is going on around us, if we know we’re doing God’s will, if we are wholly committed to Him, this is true happiness. The world measures happiness by material and physical conditions, but a Christian should be able to experience happiness whether these are present or not. What is the basis for your happiness? Is it enough? Does it last?

Prayer: Lord, I do want to be happy and sometimes having you does not seem enough. For- give me and show me how to know real Christian joy.

AMEN