

Pressed into Perfect Love

As sons and daughters of God, we come from a long line of Lovers. Listen to Jesus speaking to His Father in John 17:23-24: "You loved Me before the foundation of the world... and you love them even as You love Me." In God's family we are learning to be at home in Perfect Love, learning to think and choose in the presence of love. His uncreated love is an alien love... it takes some getting used to! God's love is not like anything found in the created or natural realm. To begin with it is a love without tenses. Natural love may say, "I used to love," or "Maybe someday I can love again." But not God's love - it is a holy constant. Also, it is a love without causes. Uncaused, underserved love is harder to get used to than we think. We all want to be loved "for" something, don't we? Finally, God's love is a love that brings clouds as well as sunshine, drought as well as rain, crucifixions... not just resurrections.

The love of God precedes all His creative activity. He created out of love and He perfectly loves what He created. This truth renders us incapable of finding our home in any other love but His perfect love. Since God is love, you might say we are "sentenced" to love! We were created by love, recreated in love... now we must learn to live for love's sake. Once we receive His love, we can never be at home again in living for ourselves.

The truth of God's love is received purely and only by revelation, as a free gift. However, the experiential reality of that love is rarely known in the Bible study, the prayer closet, on the retreat. Mostly it is known in the action of life. Daily life is the laboratory wherein the holy constant of God's love is proven. He is presently using the "all things" of life (Ro 8:28) to press us into an ever-enlarging awareness of His perfect love.

How does He do this? How does He move us from a "me-ological" to a "Thee-ological" philosophy of life? How does He re-center us from egocentric to Christocentric habit patterns? Any way He wants to! He is God! He may woo us or wow us, warn us or wound us. He may take us to the Mt. of Transfiguration for glorious and unspeakable revelation, or like Jacob, He may take us down by the brook Jabok and beat the hell out of us all night long. Mostly, He just "inflicts" life on us! He determines the conditions necessary for our transformation and then "the sweet violence of God's love goes to work." (Augustine)

He is a glorious intruder - He interrupts, intervenes, intrudes uninvitedly. Often, His transformative and gracious love comes in disguise - the difficult person, the unwanted illness, the derailed plans. He comes proclaiming truth, not to discuss, debate, or take a vote. He shatters our illusions of sovereignty and control, of strength and willpower. Yet He comes in love. He ALWAYS comes in love!



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Praise Reports & Prayer Requests

GREETINGS

The task of dailiness is to remain centered in the eternal, isn't it? The challenge of time is to abide in the timeless truth of our God. The tension found in the finite is due to our infinite destiny. Listen to Madame Guyon's (1648-1717) confession of faith along these lines:

I love my God, but with no love of mine,
For I have none to give;
I love Thee, Lord; but all the love is Thine,
For by Thy Life I live.
I am as nothing, and rejoice to be
Emptied, and lost, and swallowed up in Thee.

Thou, Lord, alone, art all Thy children need,
And there is none beside;
From Thee the stream of blessedness proceed,
In Thee the blest abide -
Fountain of life, and all abounding grace,
Our Source, our Center, and our Dwelling Place.

Read it slowly... every day this month as you invite the Holy Spirit to keep you focused on ultimate reality.



CALENDAR



JULY

3,10,17,24,31 CCF

12 Alachua Study

26 Ocala Study

SEPTEMBER

10-15 Glorietta, NM

23-26 Binghamton, NY

♥ PRAISE & PRAYER ✝

♥ A loving and glorious Intruder

♥ An eternal dwelling place

✝ Eyes to "see through" appearances

✝ Being a witness to ultimate reality

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