

Faith



Love



Living Water



The Feet of the Cross



Good Shepherd - Lost & Found

FOOTSTEPS
TO.....S
A CLOSER WALK



The Sower



Joyful

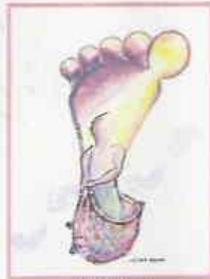


Wise & Foolish

WRITTEN BY CATHERINE PRICE
ILLUSTRATED BY CONNIE RHODES



Widow's Offering



Fishers of Men



Come Follow Me



Prayer & Care

FOOTPRINTS TO..

A CLOSER WALK

Chapter TWO

"LOVE"



LOVE

Deut. 4:9; Matt. 21:15-18; 11:15:

"But watch out! Be very careful never to forget what you have seen God doing for you! May His miracles make a deep and permanent effect upon your lives! Tell your children and your grandchildren about the glorious miracles He has done!" "But, when the chief priests and other Jewish leaders saw these wonderful miracles and heard even the little children in the Temple shouting, 'God bless the son of David!', they were disturbed and indignant, and asked Him, 'Do you hear what these children are saying?', 'Yes!', Jesus replied, 'Didn't you ever read the scriptures? For they say: "even little babies shall praise Him!" "And Jesus prayed, 'Oh Father, Lord of heaven and earth, thank You for hiding the truth from those who think themselves so wise and for revealing it to little children! Yes, Father, for it pleased You to do it this way!" The children in the footprint represent all of us, not just little children. We are all God's children. It's our responsibility to show unconditional love; to teach compassion; and to share the Good News as the Holy Spirit leads.

(A personal note from Connie) "When I was a single mother, I cried to my Lord: 'Father, how can I be the parent You want me to be; the mother and the father to my son?' That night I had a dream, God said, 'My daughter, teach your son to love Me and to know My Son, Jesus. This is the perfect gift that a parent can give their child. It is the gift that nobody can ever take away from him. He will be mine forever!' I woke up with such a peace in my heart...and thirty years later, He has been true to His words.

FOOTPRINTS TO..

A CLOSER WALK

Chapter TWO

"LOVE"

FEBRUARY Devotional

Week ONE

"TAKING A LOOK AT LOVE"

**DAY ONE-----CHAPTER TWO
Second Month----- First Week
(Devotional)----- (Bible Study)**



The Value of Love

Scripture Reading 1 Cor. 12:28-31;13:1-3 Living)

(Concerning the gifts of God) "No one has all the gifts, but try your best to have the more important of these gifts. First, however, let me tell you about something else that is better than any of them! If I had the gift of being able to speak in other languages without learning them, and could speak in every language there is in all of heaven and earth, but didn't love others, I would only be making noise. If I had the gift of prophecy and knew all about what is going to happen in the future, knew everything about everything, but didn't love others, what good would it do? Even if I had the gift of Faith so that I could speak to a mountain and make it move, I would still be worth nothing at all; WITHOUT LOVE! If I gave everything I have to poor people, and if I were burned alive for preaching the Gospel but didn't love others, it would be of no value whatever!"

The great value of love is recorded in these scriptures written by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to Paul the Apostle. We will be examining them this month, along with others as well. The first thing to learn about Love is that it is a gift from God. All of God's gifts are perfect, but this one is spoken of as being the Very Best! We must learn many things about Love, simply because the more we study on Love, the more we will realize how very important it is to Jesus. Just as we evaluated ourselves on Faith, on the first day of this devotion/study, I am again asking that you evaluate yourself on Love.

How much love do you think that you have? Have you been given the gift of Love? What is the difference between human love and divine love?

Prayer

Lord, help me to examine my heart, because You know me better than I know myself. Please evaluate my love for You, and my love for others as well; and show me what I need to work on most. I know that I have a problem loving others and sometimes I have a problem loving You. Forgive me where I fail You this day, In Jesus Name, Amen

DAY THREE-----CHAPTER TWO
Second Month..... First Week
(Devotional)----- (Bible Study)



GOD'S LOVE

**Scripture Reading Psalm 138:8 thru
139:13-18 Living)**

*"The Lord will work out His plans for my life--
for Your loving kindness, Lord, continues forever!*

*Don't abandon me--for You have made me! Oh Lord, You have
examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit
or stand. When far away You know my every thought! You chart the
path ahead of me, and tell me where to stop and rest. Every moment,
You know where I am! You know what I am going to say before I even
say it! You both proceed and follow me and place Your hand of blessing
upon my head. This is too glorious, too wonderful to believe! I can never
be lost to Your Spirit!! I can never get away from my God! (skip) You
made all the delicate, inner parts of my body, and knit them together in
my mother's womb.. Thank You for making me so wonderfully complex!
It is amazing to think about! Your workmanship is marvelous--and how
well I know it! You were there while I was being formed in utter
seclusion. You saw me before I was born and scheduled each day of my
life before I began to breathe! Every day was recorded in Your book!
How precious it is, Lord, to realize that You are thinking about me
constantly! "*

How beautifully David has written about God's love for all of us in our creation. It is clear that "He first loved us". His love for us began before our birth and lasts forever. Notice the nature of Love with which the Father carefully watches His child growing inside it's mother and how He already plans out his life. One special feature is that He never takes His eyes off of him. Although we realize that our love will never be as great as His, it is our response to His Love that He is concerned with. When we begin to realize how much He loves us, doesn't that help in our quest to find the love within us that we need to have for Him and others?

Why is it so important that we learn about the love of God first and then let it spread through us to everyone around us?

Prayer

Lord, thank you for loving me so much. it overwhelms me. Help me to begin to fathom that great love, even tho it is too deep and wide for me to ever see the end of it. I am glad of that! Let Your Love just consume me and flood my soul with light and warmth and all the things that mean "Love". In Jesus Name, Amen

FOOTPRINTS TO..

A CLOSER WALK

Chapter TWO

"LOVE"

FEBRUARY Devotional

Week TWO

"OUR RESPONSE TO HIS LOVE"

DAY NINE-----CHAPTER TWO
Second Month.....Second Week
(Devotional)------(Bible Study)



A NEW COMMANDMENT OF LOVE

**Scripture Reading 1 John 2:9-11; Matt. 22:37-40;
John 13:34-35 (Living)**

"Anyone who says he is walking in the light of Christ but dislikes his fellow man, is still in darkness. But whoever loves his fellow man is "walking in the light" and can see his way without stumbling around in darkness and sin. For he who dislikes his brother is wandering in spiritual darkness and doesn't know where he is going, for the darkness has made him blind so that he cannot see the way." "Jesus replied, "Love the Lord Your God with all your heart, soul and mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. The second most important is similar; Love your neighbor as much as you love yourself. All the other commandments and all the demands of the prophets stem from these two laws and are fulfilled if you obey them. Keep only these and you will find that you are obeying all the others." "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."

If we love God, we will love our neighbors. This is how we test ourselves on whether or not we have "Love". God is Love, so if we have love we have God and if we have God, then we have love for others. If God had simply started out with Adam and gave him the Ten Commandments, it would not have meant anything to him. First of all, as yet, he had not sinned. So he would not have known what all of those sin words meant. He hadn't experienced God's love as yet, so he wouldn't have been able to keep the commandment of love either. God didn't set down His commandments to men, until they had gotten acquainted with God's love, and acquainted with His Miracles, and learned the Fear of the Lord in their lives. They were well acquainted with sin by then too, which was also, unfortunately, necessary for them to understand His judgment on those sins. We know all about right and wrong, but we are still learning about love. So, how do we love God? By knowledge of the Word, and personal relationship with Him. How do we love our neighbor? In this same way. As a matter of fact, there is no other way to love our neighbors, except if we love God with our whole hearts, souls and minds.

Prayer

Father, how I adore You. I praise You for Your Word to me today. What would I do without Your guidance and instruction to me daily? There is so much to learn, and I must continue to be diligent on my quest to learn more about loving You and others. Thank You for helping me to have a heart of love. Forgive me for any root of bitterness that is still in my heart. Change my heart oh God, may I be like You. Amen

DAY ELEVEN-----CHAPTER TWO
Second Month.....Second Week
(Devotional)----- (Bible Study)
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NEW COVENANT OF LOVE

Scripture Reading 1 Cor. 13:4-7; (Living)

Before we read the scripture for today, I want to shed some light on how we might want to look at these words about the nature of Love. We have learned in 1 John 4:7-8 that God IS Love! And in Eph. 5:1 we learned that we are to be Imitators of God and so as we read the scripture for today, let us read it in light of these two other truths that we have gleaned: God is Love, therefor everything that is said about love is about God. We are to be imitators of God, so, we are also imitators of love. Let us read into the scriptures today, those two truths and exchange the word "love" for "God":

"God..is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud; never haughty or selfish or rude. God does not demand His own way. He is not irritable or touchy. He does not hold grudges and will hardly even notice when others do Him wrong. He is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out. If God loves someone, He will be loyal to him no matter what the cost; He will always believe in him, always expect the best of him, and always stand His ground in defending him. "

Now, read it - inserting Your Name. Now we have a New Covenant between us and God. These are the terms. Jesus came to establish a New Covenant between God and God's People. These verses describing love are the most comprehensive description of what the New Covenant is all about than I have found thus far in scripture, besides of course the basic one which is: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son; that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." But this scripture in Corinthians tells us how to--believe in Him-- Love our Saviour with all of our hearts, minds and souls just as we love the Father, so we are to love the Son and obey His Commandments to prove our loyalty and always believe in Him , and conduct ourselves just as He conducted Himself, and we must defend Him by standing our ground no matter what the cost.

Prayer

Lord, help me to be strong and courageous, and help me be patient and kind, imitating You in Your Love for all of us. I know now that You want me to show the world how very much You love them, by my demonstration to them of that love. Fill my heart with Your Love.
In Jesus Name, Amen

DAY THIRTEEN-----CHAPTER TWO
Second Month.....Second Week
(Devotional)-----(Bible Study)



LOVE IN PRACTICE - THE CHURCH

Scripture Reading Eph. 2:13-22(Living)

"But now you belong to Christ Jesus, and though you once were far away from God, now you have been brought very near to Him because of what Jesus Christ has done for you with His Blood! For Christ Himself is our way of Peace! He has made peace between Jews and Gentiles by making us all one family; breaking down the wall of contempt that used to separate us. By His death, He ended the angry resentment between us, caused by the Jewish Laws which favored the Jews and excluded the Gentiles; for He died to annul that whole system of Jewish Laws! Then He took the two groups that had been opposed to each other and made them parts of Himself; thus He fused us together to become ONE NEW PERSON, and at last there is PEACE! As parts of the same body, our anger against each other has disappeared, for both of us have been reconciled to God. And so, the feud ended, at last, AT THE CROSS! And He has brought this Good News of Peace to you gentiles who were very far away from God and to us Jews who were near. Now, ALL OF US, whether Jew or Gentile, may come to God the Father with the Holy Spirit's help because of what Christ has done for us. Now you are no longer strangers to God and foreigners to heaven, but you are MEMBERS of God's very own family, citizens of God's Country, and you belong in God's household with every other Christian. What a foundation you stand on now! The apostles and the prophets and the cornerstone of the building is Jesus Christ Himself! We who believe are carefully joined together with Christ as parts of a beautiful, constantly growing temple for God. And you also are joined with Him and with each other by the Spirit, and are part of this dwelling place of God."

This is the foundation of faith that we are now standing upon! We are His New Testament Church! There are many denominations in this vast diversity of believers. But we are all one in our belief of the Truth of God's Holy Word - in that we have UNITY! We have the Victory that overcomes the world, the flesh and the devil! Remember what we learned last month, the victory is Faith! But, now, we have learned more, that there remain these three gifts, Faith, Hope, and Love; and the greatest one of these three is Love!

Prayer

Precious Lord, our Vision is clear, our Mission is obvious! Help us to keep going strong for You, we are Your Body..Your hands and feet, but You are the Head and it is Your Love through us that leads us on to victory. Praise You forever my God and King! Amen

DAY FOURTEEN.....CHAPTER TWO
Second Month..... Second Week
(Devotional)------(Bible Study)

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY



By Catherine Price

FOOTPRINTS TO..
A CLOSER WALK
Chapter TWO
"LOVE"

FEBRUARY Devotional

Week THREE

"HEROES OF LOVE"

DAY SEVENTEEN-----CHAPTER TWO

Second Month.....Third Week

(Devotional)----- (Bible Study)



LOVE DOES NOT HOLD A GRUDGE

Scripture Reading Genesis 37-49

(this is a long story but a very good one)

Summary: Joseph's problems likely started the day he was born. He was the first son of Jacob and Rachel, who had been infertile for so long that Jacob was an old man by the time Joseph arrived. Jacob had a total of a dozen sons, from his two wives, and their two maids who acted as surrogate mothers. But from Joseph's birthday on, he was "Daddy's Boy!" He may have taken advantage of this just a little, because all of his brothers were very jealous. His mother made him a beautiful coat of many colors, and there were many times that he was clearly their favorite. Then one day he had a dream, which was actually a prophecy, and in explaining it to his brothers, this only made them more jealous. They started to plot against him and one day they had their chance to get back at him. The brothers had taken the herd of sheep some sixty miles north to Dothan, searching for good pasture. Jacob sent Joseph to check on them. They threw him in a pit planning to kill him, when a caravan came by. They were headed to Egypt and bought Joseph as a slave for eight ounces of silver. Much later, after Joseph was a ruler in Egypt and was very rich and successful, his brothers came to Egypt in search of grain to take back to their father, for there was a famine in the land. They didn't know that the man in charge of the grain distribution was Joseph! Joseph had a plan and as this plan unfolded, it became clear that his purpose was to reunite himself with his family and forgive all of them, and life was good!"

Yes, life was good when everything in Joseph's life was made right, after forgiveness and reconciliation was complete, love was perfect! Love will find a way--a way for forgiveness, a way for reconciliation, a way of peace for you in your life today. If Joseph could forgive what his own brothers did to him, and not just forgive but love and bless them, then there is a way that love can find its' way into your situation and your problem.

Prayer--Oh Father, I am learning that love is giving up to You all of the frustration that I feel about relationships gone sour or stale, and walls that have still not been knocked down dividing me from the ones I am supposed to love most. I am reminded of Your unconditional love - the love that keeps on going, even when it doesn't feel like it, even when it doesn't seem to be worthy, or appreciated. Your unconditional love for me motivates me to not give up on others! I must have this love in my heart, You have put it there, through the blood of Jesus! If this were my last breath I want to be able to say: I must Love No Matter What! Help me love, in Jesus Name, Amen

DAY NINETEEN-----CHAPTER TWO
Second Month.....Third Week
(Devotional)----- (Bible Study)



LOVE IS LOYAL

Scripture Reading:the book of Ruth
(I will paraphrase to save space)

"Naomi was Ruth's mother-in-law. Forget all the bad stories of mother-in-laws. This is a good story. They had both lost their husbands, and Naomi urged Ruth to go back to her parents' home but Ruth refused, saying "I will go where you go and live wherever you live, and your people will be my people and your God will be my God." Naomi took it upon herself to see to it that Ruth had a future. She arranged for Ruth to gain the favor of a wealthy relative of hers, Boaz. Naomi told Ruth to lie at Boaz' feet while he was sleeping on the threshing floor. So Ruth bathed and put on perfume and proceeded to lie at his feet, covering the blanket over them both. At midnight, Boaz awoke and discovered her there. And that's when she proposed. "Spread the corner of your covering over me, for you are my family redeemer (Ruth 3:9) The original word for covering is the same for wing. She pointed Boaz to his own blessing of her earlier:"May the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge, reward you fully.(Ruth 2:12) Ruth was asking Boaz to become God's wing of refuge. Boaz and Ruth were married and had a son named Obed, and Naomi was faithful and wise and took care of the child like he was her own. And so, out of this match, there came Israel's most revered family of Kings - including David, Solomon and Jesus."

What a wonderful story of faithfulness, loyalty and love. Naomi and Ruth's love for one another was so strong, it went beyond what was practical or safe. They both risked something in order to gain everything. Love must be loyal, we must believe the very best of that person we love, we must defend their honor, and we must risk persecution standing our ground to defend them.

Prayer

Father, help me to be honest with myself, show me where I fail in my love for You and others. I know that I am not as loyal as I should be. I know I have not risked persecution to defend Your honor like I should. Fill me with boldness to speak of Your glory to others. In Jesus name, I pray, Amen

FOOTPRINTS TO..
A CLOSER WALK

Chapter TWO

"LOVE"
FEBRUARY Devotional

Week FOUR

"LOVE'S SWEET VARIETY"

MY ROOMMATE

*- I went to church each Sunday morning, but nothing stirred within.
I believed that Jesus was God's Son, but I didn't relate to Him,
as being in the world today, and with each soul, through faith, He'd stay.
I didn't realize at first that Christ dwells within the heart;
Although they tried to tell me so, I thought they weren't too smart.
But then one day at church I saw some humble men upon their knees,
as I stood outside the door, I heard my name repeated in their pleas!*

*By the time I got home, I was shook - I opened my Bible, but didn't know where to look.
I felt a need for something new I couldn't explain - but knew,
that prayer they prayed was working on me, or maybe it was God getting to me.
That night I went to church again, would you believe,
feeling quite wretched and yet needing relief.
When the invitation came, I felt a force so strong,
and my mind was thinking crazy things, like wanting to belong.*

*My eyes wouldn't cooperate either you know,
tears kept spilling over, then I took a step so slow,
and then the "force" gave strength to my shaking knees.
I walked the aisle to Jesus and all my being felt release!*

*That day I found a roommate, for I took Christ home with me,
and threw out lots of useless stuff, to make room for Him, you see.
Now, each day as I kneel to pray, I feel a thrill within,
for I believe with all my heart, some day
He'll take me home with Him!*

