



Faith



LOVE



Flying Water



The Feet of the Cross



Good Shepherd - Lost & Found



The Sower



Joyful



Wise & Foolish

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TO.....S
A CLOSER WALK

WRITTEN BY CATHERINE PRICE
ILLUSTRATED BY CONNIE RHODES



Widow's Offering



Fishers of Men



Come Follow Me



Prayer & Care

INTRODUCTIONS



Hi! I am Catherine Price and I live in the small town of Aliceville, Kansas. I am a member of the Mont Ida Church of the Brethren. I have been married to my husband, James, for 28 years. I have just recently retired from Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation in Burlington, Kansas where I worked in the Accounting Dept. for 17 years. For the last 10 years, I have taught the Young Adult Sunday School Class and I also help to lead the singing. I began writing a newsletter for our church in September of 2007, shortly after my "inspiration" came at the Western Plains District Conference. Connie Rhodes' Footprint Art was displayed in the sanctuary of the McPherson Church of the Brethren and our theme was "Come...Follow Jesus."

Connie has graciously allowed me to use her art in the Newsletter and I have done so through 2007 and 2008. In 2009, I published several newsletters that were consolidations of several months. My last newsletter was in August 2009. After this I felt God's calling to begin a Daily Devotional Book based on these Footprints. I talked to Connie about my idea and she was very excited about it and has been a constant inspiration in her willingness to share all of her art so freely. Since that time I have been working on each month's devotionals which, looking at the cover of the book, you can see on your top left, the theme of "Faith" and going across the top, you see the themes of "Love", and "The Foot of the Cross" "The Living Water -The Holy Spirit". Next, is "The Sower" and on down the right side; "The Wise and Foolish Virgins". This is the first Volume.

Second Volume: May 1, 2013 Update: I am now finished with the Second Volume. These are the Footprint Titles: Prayer & Care; Come, Follow Me & I Will Make You Fishers of Men; The Widow's Mite (Giving); Joy; The Good Shepherd. I am very grateful to God for allowing me to learn these truths as I write down what He has given me to say. I pray that many of you will open up your hearts and allow ALL of His Love to Come In! In Loving Service, Cathy

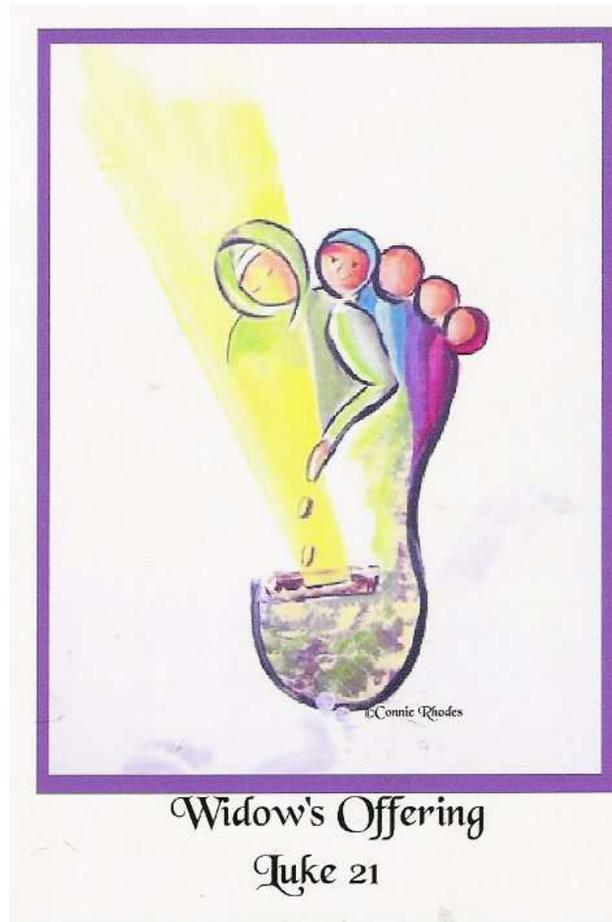
If you have comments or questions, please feel free to call or text me at: 1-785-204-2938.



Connie Rhodes would like to extend her greetings to you all. In the above photo, she is doing her art presentation before an audience at Salina, Kansas in April of 2008, at the Western Plains District Ladies Retreat. Her talents became apparent to many of the “Brethren” when we came to the District Conference in July, 2007. She had been given the task of creating art work that depicted the Conference theme: “Come, Follow Jesus” Each of her original designs were in the form of a footprint and artistically portrayed a Bible story or theme. The original paintings were displayed around the sanctuary of the McPherson Church of the Brethren where the Conference was held. As we saw at the Ladies’ Retreat the next year, she is so much more talented. Her presentation includes; painting a beautiful scene while talking to the audience. This usually takes about 30 to 45 minutes. She is a very funny lady. You can see all of her art work on her website: www.artbyrhodes.com. Connie has been a member of the Newton Church of the Brethren for 22 years (as of this writing) and is also the Church Clerk, as well as serving on the Church Board and teaching Sunday School where needed.

FOOTPRINTS TO A CLOSER WALK

CHAPTER TEN—OCTOBER DEVOTIONAL



"She gave from the heart...not from earthly treasures stored. Spiritual things are different than fleshly ones, or are they one and the same?" Connie Rhodes

Luke 21:1-4: "And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. So He said, "Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had."

FOOTPRINTS TO A CLOSER WALK

CHAPTER TEN

"THE WIDOW'S MITE"

FIRST WEEK

"AN OFFERING IS A GIFT"

DAY ONE.....CHAPTER TEN
TENTH MONTH.....FIRST WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

A CHEERFUL GIVER

Scripture Reading: 11 Cor. 9:7:

“ So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”

Talking about “tithing” or giving money, is always everyone’s least favorite subject. It is also one of the “spiritual disciplines” that we studied about last month. We didn’t get into tithing that much the last two months, because there were so many other things to study about our discipleship. Now, we can study this subject in depth and I hope, that all of us will gain a great deal of knowledge from this as well as some insights. One or two may even be given a “revelation!” Awesome! Ok, let us look at the verses above and decipher them. Let each one give as he purposes in his heart—this is a New Testament teaching about how we should give, not how much, but how.

Not grudgingly. We must not feel that we have to give, although we know that we should, we must come to the place where we are willing to relinquish our hold over our money. It must be God’s money. If we purpose in our hearts, or come to the place where we are fully surrendered to God, to have complete Lordship in our lives, He will show us His purpose in our giving a certain amount or a certain ministry that He wants us involved in. Going onward in the verse, it says not of necessity—in other words that you have promised to give as in a pledge of some sort. Don’t feel under obligation or pressure to give more than you can feel cheerful about. For God loves a cheerful giver. The verse just before this one (6) says “But remember this—if you give little, you will get little. A farmer who plants just a few seeds will get only a small crop, but if he plants much, he will reap much.” This is just one of the many illustrations in the Bible about people who planted seeds and reaped a harvest and the lesson is always that the more that they planted the more that they would receive.

Even though these are the lessons we are given as an incentive to give more, we should still not have a heart of greed and just be thinking of what we are going to get back from this. We must genuinely WANT to give out of a heart of love and compassion. Mostly, we should be giving because the Holy Spirit has moved on us to do so. Let us Pray.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to gain the understanding that we need about giving of our offerings. Help us to find the answers to our questions about whether we are still required to give a tenth of our income to our local church or not, and if we are free to just follow the Holy Spirit’s direction on this matter. In Your Holy name I pray,
Amen

DAY TWO.....CHAPTER TEN
TENTH MONTH.....FIRST WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

DON'T GIVE WHAT YOU DON'T HAVE

Scripture Reading: 11Cor. 8:12 "If you are really eager to give, then it isn't important how much you have to give, God wants you to give what you have, not what you haven't."

So motive and attitude is so important in giving, just as it is in every aspect of our Christian life. In the Old Testament, the way of worship was by obeying the Law; now in the New Testament everything has changed to a better method. God looks upon our hearts that He has changed through trust in Jesus as our Savior and now we worship Him because we love Him not because we are commanded to. Of course, our worship includes giving our tithes and offerings. In the Old Testament, the instruction was to give a tenth of the income, and not just that, but that was really only to be a starting point. In the New Testament, as the Church was being formulated after the Holy Spirit came into men's hearts, believers came together and pooled all of their resources. This was a time when their lives were in danger and they all had to help one another or they would die. We still do this! Really? In a broader sense, when we give of our tithes we are helping the whole Church continue the work of Jesus in thousands of ways. We know the Church cannot survive (I am speaking of the building primarily) without the money coming in to pay the monthly bills. But if that is all that we are to do, then there wouldn't be enough left to send out missionaries, or pay a preacher, or give to those who are in need. We know that if everyone in even a small church gave at least 10% of his or her income, that church would thrive! But many people today do not have the commitment that it takes to keep the church going like it ought to. It takes a lot more than commitment! It takes Love and Sacrifice and Passion! Of course, giving is only the BEGINNING of SERVING! Let us Pray.

Lord, help me to be committed to my church. You never intended that anyone should have such a huge financial burden that they couldn't even give an offering to help the church survive. Let me do an inventory on my budget and see where I need to do some downsizing so that I will be able to give more. In Jesus name, Amen

DAY THREE.....CHAPTER TEN
TENTH MONTH.....FIRST WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

"PURITY IS SHOWN BY GENEROSITY"

Scripture Reading: Luke 11:41-42 "Woe to you, Pharisees! For though you are careful to tithe even the smallest part of your income, you completely forget about justice and the love of God. You should tithe, yes, but you should not leave these other things undone."

These words were spoken by Jesus Himself. But are they for us too, or just the Jewish rulers of that day since they were still under the Law? Well, if we were to study all about the New Covenant, we would gain enough insight to be able to understand that ALL THINGS HAVE BECOME NEW! We are not under law but are now under grace. This does not mean that we are left off the hook! We don't want to be! That would mean that God has also left us off the hook! This expression leads us to the thought of a telephone left off the hook—no connection, no communication, no reception. Ugh! The Church of Jesus Christ has been given a New Testament (or agreement) "The Covenant of Grace!" I know that we are all familiar with the scripture that confirms the fact that we who are in Christ are all joint-heirs with Him. What are we inheriting? All the Glorious Treasures in Heaven! Beyond our wildest imagination!

2 Cor. 9:8-11 "God is able to make it up to you by giving you everything you need and more, so that there will not only be enough for your own needs, but plenty left over to give joyfully to others. It is as the scriptures say: "The godly man gives generously to the poor. His good deeds will be an honor to him forever." "For God who gives seed to the farmer to plant, and later on, good crops to harvest and eat, will give you more and more seed to plant and will make it grow so that you can give away more and more fruit from your harvest. Yes, God will give you much so that you can give away much, and when we take your gifts to those who need them they will break out into thanksgiving and praise to God for your help."

Prayer

Precious Lord, help me, and all of us, to see into Heaven. Just one glimpse! Just enough to realize how RICH we are, so that we can give generously in gratitude and thankfulness. In Jesus' Name, Amen

DAY FOUR.....CHAPTER TEN
TENTH MONTH.....FIRST WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS, COUNT THE COST

Scripture Reading: Luke 14:33 "So, no one can become My disciple unless he first sits down and counts his blessings—and then renounces them all for Me."

Luke 16:13 "For neither you nor anyone else can serve two masters. You will hate one and show loyalty to the other, or else the other way around—you will be enthusiastic about one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

Here we have the dilemma in every human heart! We have already settled the issue of whether or not to accept Jesus as our Savior. (I hope this is a true statement for you too, if not, please realize that without Jesus as your Savior everything else is a lost cause). Now, we must come to the place of sacrifice—what will it be? First we must count all of our blessings that Jesus has given to us: Faith, Love, Joy, Everlasting Life, Assurance, Hope, etc., etc. We could go on for quite awhile—and should! Then when we are lifted up to a place of glory and rapture, we are ready to go the Way of the Master, and be His disciple and follow Him on the straight and narrow Path that leads to complete surrender. Because of His great gifts to us, we should be moved into the inner sanctuary where we are standing upon Holy Ground. We cannot be truly surrendered spiritually and still not be totally sold out materially. This is a time for deep meditation and soul searching. We must earnestly seek God's will in this. There is an answer, just for you and just for me. Pray that we will come to the answer as we continue our study in earnest. All of the spiritual disciplines are difficult, but this one is the ultimate test of our allegiance to Christ. We must lay it down; our identity in Christ or our identity in the world. Which will it be?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, search my heart and see if there be any wicked way in me. Have I withheld my treasures from You, Oh my Lord? If I have not made You my Lord and Master, please show me what I need to do. In Jesus Name, Amen

DAY FIVE.....CHAPTER TEN
TENTH MONTH.....FIRST WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

THE LOVE OF MONEY

Scripture Reading: 1Tim. 6:6-10 "Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men into destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from their faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

In the NIV Bible, there is an "a" in front of "root" which gives us a different understanding of this familiar scripture verse. I always thought that it said, "The love of money is the root of all evil" but this interpretation helps me to understand that there are other roots that cause us to commit sin besides our lust for money.

We have all heard the expression, "The bottom line is money." Or "Follow the money." Of course, that is really not accurate either, because it is the love of that money, not the money itself. This world is totally consumed with thoughts of how to get rich, how to keep our riches, and how to get more riches. As a Christian, we are to be content with what we have. The Bible talks a lot about the rich and how difficult it is for a rich man to enter the Kingdom. It is not that we cannot get into heaven just because we are rich. It is just that if we are rich, there is a temptation to make our riches too important in our lives, unless we are doing what we should with them and giving them to the poor. (If we are doing what Jesus tells us to, our riches would be used to help others who are less fortunate, and helping our church and missionaries who go out into the hostile world and share the Good News with the rest of the world.) There is absolutely nothing wrong with our riches, it is our attitude about them that is on trial. It would be so wonderful if all Christians were very rich and all had a wonderful attitude about their riches and gave and gave to others.

What a wonderful world this would be. Then God tells us a wonderful thing, His GUARANTEE that when we do this, He will just pour out more and more blessings upon us, so we would never have to experience poverty again if we would adhere to His principles of sowing and reaping. Prayers of Praise need to be given at this time.

DAY SIX.....CHAPTER TEN
TENTH MONTH.....FIRST WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

ARE WE ROBBING GOD?

Scripture Reading: Malachi 3:8-12 (Living) "Will a man rob God? Surely not! And yet you have robbed ME. "What do you mean? When did we ever rob You?" "You have robbed Me of the tithes and offerings due to Me. And so the awesome curse of God is cursing you, for your whole nation has been robbing Me. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, so that there will be food enough in My Temple; if you do, I will open up the windows of heaven for you and pour out a blessing so great you won't have room enough to take it in! Try it—let Me prove it to you! Your crops will be large, for I will guard them from insects and plagues. Your grapes won't shrivel away before they ripen, says the Lord of Hosts. And all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land sparkling with happiness. These are the promises of the Lord of Hosts."

Yes, the Lord is a promise keeper! He even tells us to prove Him! This is because it is a principle that He has established for each individual person to adopt in their own lives. If we do not try it for ourselves, we will never see how His principle of reciprocity works. But we must do it with the right attitude, remember, He can read our hearts. Looking back to the "Footprint of the Widow's Mite" we see in the scripture that Jesus knew her heart. He knew it was her only money, and she gave it all. Next week I want to look into some stories about widows. I think this will be very enlightening for us. But getting back to God's statement about proving Him; this was really awesome. He makes a promise to us who will try it—that we will not be disappointed. Give and it will be given to you—the principle begins with our giving, that is the first step. Try it out, believing God's promise.

Prayer

Father, I don't want to be a thief or a robber, especially if I were to rob You. That is the ultimately horrid thing that I could ever do to You other than blaspheme You.

Please forgive me for my lack of vision, my own selfishness and greed, give me a heart of generosity and thanksgiving to You. Help me to please You in all that I do. Give me the strength and faith that I need to launch out into areas of my life that I have never dared to tread. In Jesus Name, Amen

DAY SEVEN.....CHAPTER TEN
TENTH MONTH.....FIRST WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

The heavens declare the glory of God;
and the firmament sheweth His handiwork.

—Psalm 19:1

PROVE IT

You ask me to prove that God exists
The raging, troubled world insists,
That He is dead...or never was.
And yet man's every act brings cause
To wonder why there is such conflicts,
Inside man, as his soul he restricts,
Because God creates us in His image,
Our soul's search is God, our true lineage.
But man's mind fights trust in soul's instinct,
So all of life's mysteries, to fact are linked—
Side-stepping life's reason and all of it's meaning,
We use all our effort working and scheming,
To meet all material goals we aim high,
Until our soul's yearning is faintly a sigh,
As if we were the creator of our future,
We rush in a panic, a race against nature,
You ask me to prove that God's for real,
As all of His elements we see and feel!
I cannot in words explain my surety,
Each man must prove it himself for security.
Could I breathe the air for you, or experience your thrill, so new?
Your own soul must search Him out, and reaching for Him—ignoring doubt,
Through your need and repentance obtain, He'll prove to you that you've proven Him

Proving God is not “disbelieving” Him, but it is using our faith muscles to explore all of the wonderful treasures of heaven that we possess, if we would but Ask, Seek and Knock.

FOOTPRINTS TO A CLOSER WALK

OCTOBER DEVOTIONAL

SECOND WEEK

"WIDOWS WITH FAITH"

DAY EIGHT.....CHAPTER TEN
TENTH MONTH.....SECOND WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

THE OIL CAME FORTH

Scripture Reading: 11 Kings 4:1-7 "One day the wife of one of the seminary students came to Elisha to tell him of her husband's death. He was a man who had loved God, she said. But he had owed some money when he died, and now the creditor was demanding it back. If she didn't pay, he said he would take her two sons as his slaves. "What shall I do?" Elisha asked. "How much food do you have in the house?" "Nothing at all, except a jar of olive oil," she replied. "Then borrow many pots and pans from your friends and neighbors!" he instructed. "Go into your house with your sons and shut the door behind you. Then pour olive oil from your jar into the pots and pans, setting them aside as they are filled." So she did. Her sons brought the pots and pans to her, and she filled one after another! Soon every container was full to the brim! "Bring me another jar," she said to her sons. "There aren't any more!" they told her. And then the oil stopped flowing! When she told the prophet what had happened, he said to her, "Go and sell the oil and pay your debt, and there will be enough money left for you and your sons to live on."

This is another story of a widow who was in a dilemma, and God worked it out mercifully for her and her sons. She had nothing but the oil to work with here. Elisha was already planning on God's miraculous provision, when he ordered them to get all the pots and pans they could find. It is interesting to notice that when the widow asked for another jar, and was told there was no more; that is when the oil stopped flowing. Was she referring to the jar of oil that the original oil came in, which would mean that she knew the source of the unending supply was coming from the jar; or was she referring to another container to fill with oil; and they had used up all of the pots and pans? The first scenario would have said that when the oil was used up from the one jar that she had that was the end of the source. The second scenario would have said that all the pots and pans they borrowed were full and there were no more vessels in which to pour the oil. Either way, there was enough oil to go and sell and get money to pay the debt. That was an awesome miracle! Here is our principle at work; she gave what she had and it was multiplied ten or twenty times! Praise the Lord!

Prayer

Lord, these stories in the Bible inspire us so much more when we come back and refresh ourselves in their wisdom and power. I pray that You will work in our lives in this same way, refreshing us and showing us Your awesome power every day, to continually refill us with Your Spirit. Amen

DAY NINE.....CHAPTER TEN
TENTH MONTH.....FIRST WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

HER LAST MEAL

Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 17:8-16 "Then the Lord said to Elijah. "Go and live in the village of Zarephath, near the city of Sidon. There is a widow there who will feed you. I have given her My instructions." So he went to Zarephath. As he arrived at the gates of the city he saw a widow gathering sticks and he asked her for a cup of water. As she was going to get it, he called to her "bring me a bite of bread too!" But she said, "I swear by the Lord your God I haven't a single piece of bread in the house. And I have only a handful of flour left and a little cooking oil in the bottom of the jar. I was just gathering a few sticks to cook this last meal, and then my son and I must die of starvation." But Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid! Go ahead and cook that "last meal", but bake me a little loaf of bread first; and afterwards there will still be enough food for you and your son. For the Lord God of Israel says that there will always be plenty of flour and oil left in your containers until the time when the Lord sends rain and the crops grow again." So she did as Elijah said, and she and Elijah and her son continued to eat from her supply of flour and oil as long as it was needed. For no matter how much they used, there was always plenty left in the containers, just as the Lord had promised through Elijah."

Another awesome story of provision coming from lack. I think that God has a special place in His heart for widows, since there are so many stories about them and there were many ordinances in the law stating that one should always take care of widows and orphans. Notice here that she was planning on dying. There was not much faith here, seemingly, but when Elijah showed up her faith increased dramatically. He used power from God to increase the provision of the flour and oil for perhaps the rest of her life. There is more to this story, as we will see tomorrow. Has God ever done something that awesome in your own life? I think that He has, but we do not realize it. I know that He increased the capacity of our use of our propane gas to keep us warm for a longer time than I would have ever imagined; many times He increased our gasoline's capacity to get us to where we needed to go, or to another gas station so that we would not break down somewhere and be stranded. There are many things of this nature that He does for us. I just want to Praise You right now Lord for all the times You have increased my supply of something supernaturally because of my lack to do so. I Thank You for all of Your loving kindness to me and all of my family and my friends in the Lord for all of Your tender watch-care over us. In Jesus Name Amen

DAY TEN.....CHAPTER TEN
TENTH MONTH.....SECOND WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

OUR DEAD WILL BE RAISED

Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 17-24: "But one day the woman's son became sick and died. "O man of God," she cried, "what have you done to me? Have you come here to punish my sins by killing my son?" "Give him to me," Elijah replied. And he took the boy's body from her and carried it upstairs to the guest room where he lived, and laid the body on his bed, and then cried out to the Lord, "O Lord my God, why have you killed the son of this widow with whom I am staying?" And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried out to the Lord, "O Lord my God, please let this child's spirit return to him." And the Lord heard Elijah's prayer; and the spirit of the child returned, and he became alive again! Then Elijah took him downstairs and gave him to his mother. "See! He's alive!" He beamed. "Now I know for sure that you are a prophet," she told him afterward, "and that whatever you say is from the Lord!"

You may not see the principle of giving here. But the widow gave her only son; see up there where it said "Give him to me?" So Elijah had a dead boy. God needed to prove to the widow that Elijah was His man. As if she shouldn't have already been convinced when he made her food replenish itself! Thank goodness for the Lord's Grace at work here, for she had no faith in her own self. Isn't that like us sometimes? Something goes wrong in our lives and we immediately lose our faith and start thinking that God is punishing us. That is why it is so important to get stories from the Bible out of the mothballs and keep them handy for times such as these.

Prayer

Lord, thank You that You are a promise keeper, even when we lose it, in a moment of crisis, You are still faithful. Praise You, Amen

DAY ELEVEN.....CHAPTER TEN
TENTH MONTH.....SECOND WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

THREE WIDOWS

Scripture Reading: Ruth 1:15-22: "And (Naomi) said, "Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." But Ruth said, "Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go. And wherever you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. The Lord do so to me, and more also, if anything but death parts you and me."

Naomi and her two daughter-in-laws were all widowed. Naomi was going to return to the land of Judah, where she had heard that there was more abundance of bread, but entreated her daughter-in-laws to return to their husbands' families to live with them. Orpah did return, but Ruth told Naomi how she felt about the whole thing. So Naomi was a little put out with Ruth and wouldn't speak to her, but Ruth accompanied her on her journey till they came to Bethlehem. There they stayed. Now Boaz was a relative of Naomi's husband, and he took notice of Ruth. She had found work in his fields where she was gleaning the grain. Upon Naomi's wise advise, Ruth gained Boaz' favor and came to be his wife and they bore a son and his name was Obed and he was the great-grandfather of David. So we see here that because of Ruth's loyalty to her mother-in-law, and because of her mother-in-law's love for her, they both gained a prominent future and a new family began.

What can we take away from this story? I think that the loyalty is the thing that I get from it. Sometimes we need to have a loyal friend, lets face it, how many friends do we have that are really loyal? Loyalty is a great quality of friendship. The love is there first and loyalty follows. Ruth was willing to trust her mother-in-law's advice about how to "get" Boaz, and she had to humble herself and put herself in harm's way to do it, but she laid herself at his feet, just as a living sacrifice before him and he honored her actions, and this won his heart.

Prayer

Lord, help each one of us to be able to trust You in times of need and not be hesitant when action is needed. Help us to ask, seek and knock as You have instructed us. In Jesus Name, Amen

DAY TWELVE.....CHAPTER TEN
TENTH MONTH.....SECOND WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

SO WHAT?

What does all of this have to do with tithing? Well, we are exploring together some of the wonderful stories in the Bible that pertain to widows, and finding in them similarities about giving of oneself and the outcomes of such sacrifices. Tithing is sacrifice, but is well worth it. There is always a reward involved; if done in faith and in trusting someone who is loyal, especially when that someone is the Lord of the Harvest. Anyone who has faced adversity such as widowhood has come through a great deal of trials and learned that unless they strengthen themselves and "stretch" their faith they will never make it through and out of the difficulties. It is a time of action on their part, of trust in wise council, and making a bold move to change their circumstances and to reach up and out and not be ashamed to ask for help in their need. Ask and it shall be given to thee. Seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you."

I seem to be repeating myself here, but I think that there is much that we miss in this statement. After we ask God in prayer for our needs to be met, then there needs to be action and that is to seek the answer that God has given us and this includes going after it and meeting God half way, and then knocking on the door of opportunity where, behind that door we find the provision for our need. Now we are talking about our provision from God. Yes! We must first have a provision from God, in order to make an offering back to God. We will find that God will more than meet us half way when we offer unto Him whatever He asks of us. So many times this has nothing to do with money. It is our time, our efforts, our gifts and talents, our willingness and our compassion that are needed to give. I want to bring up some of the stories in the Bible next week that speak of "other offerings" that are just as important, if not more so, than giving our tithe. Money is really only representative of our livelihood, our lives are to be sacrificed for Him in service to others. The money only helps those monetary needs of the poor and the needs of maintaining the Church building, and of course, to send the missionaries and pay the ministers. The widow's mite was given out of a heart of love. It was especially hard for a widow to give an offering, since she would have been very poor and if she didn't have sons to support her or extended family, then she was just barely surviving. This is why the Lord had great compassion on her because He knew what a sacrifice this was for her.

Prayer

Oh Father in Heaven, I praise You for providing the blessings that I enjoy. I think of all of those who are very poor among us and feel ashamed that I have not shared like I should. Help me to give more, I know that when I do this it will be multiplied back to me in some way. Thank You, In Jesus Name, Amen

DAY THIRTEEN.....CHAPTER TEN
TENTH MONTH.....SECOND WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

MARY WAS A WIDOW

Scripture Reading: John 19:25-27: "Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home." When we think of Mary, we must first realize that her first "sacrifice" was her own body, that God used to bring about the birth of His Son. It is such an awesome story; one that none of us fully knows. The facts surrounding the story of Jesus' miraculous conception and birth are very sketchy. But isn't it a miracle that we have any information at all? Her willingness to serve the Lord in this way was very awesome. She risked everything to be obedient. Her betrothal to Joseph was threatened by distrust and scandal, even perhaps his misunderstanding that she had betrayed him was a possibility. Then there was the scandal of the neighbors knowing her condition and the risk that she could be stoned to death for committing adultery. No one understood, no one knew the Truth. But she believed the Angel's message was from the Lord. So she fled to the home of her relative Elizabeth, who was also with child. In due time Joseph came and took her with him to Bethlehem so that they could be registered to be taxed. Their betrothal was to last a year, and then they were to be wed. The scriptures make it clear that Joseph did not have relations with her until after Jesus was born, so, that would have been the proper time for them to be married. There were many proclamations at the time of Jesus' birth that confirmed the message of the Angel Gabriel, that this was the Christ, the Messiah. Mary believed. Joseph also believed. They also became aware of the prophecies more precisely prophesying His death. Don't we wish we could know so much more about His childhood and upbringing. But that is not the main thing, because until He began His ministry He was evidently living a pretty ordinary life. But scripture always affirms that He never sinned. So this was the extraordinary life He lived among His brothers and sisters. Let us continue to pursue the Story tomorrow.

Prayer

Lord, we can only imagine, what Your life was like growing up in Nazareth. But, we are given many wonderful examples of Who You are, in the four Gospel accounts; Your Ministry was revealed to us! What a Miracle. Thank You, Amen

DAY FOURTEEN.....CHAPTER TEN
TENTH MONTH.....SECOND WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

GOD'S SACRIFICE

Scripture Reading: Acts 1:12-14: "Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying; Peter, James, John and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James. These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers."

Now we come to the most awesome part of what it means to give. Jesus had told us that the greatest love is to lay down your life for a friend. Jesus laid it down, He gave His life for all of us. Jesus prayed in the garden that His Father would take this cup from Him, but not His will but Thine. It was the Father's will that His only begotten Son die on the Cross. "For God so loved this world that He gave His only Begotten Son that whosoever believes in His should not perish but have everlasting life." He put His principle of reciprocity to work in the biggest way ever! He gave so that He could receive many, many souls of men who put their faith and trust in Jesus to save them from their own rottenness and bring them into a brand new life, one that leads them to an eternal home with the Father Forever! These are the Sands upon the Seashore that are all of Abraham's true children.

Now, when Jesus had ascended to His throne in Heaven, the disciples met together to pray until the Holy Spirit came down in His Glory and Power upon all of the believers on the Day of the Feast of Pentecost. This was not only signaling the enduement of the Holy Spirit upon men but also the Birth of the Church! When Jesus said that "It is Finished!" He meant that He had been victorious in conquering Death and Sin; in changing the Lord's Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday; in ushering in the Holy Spirit's ministry and in establishing the work of the Kingdom in the beginning of the Church Hallelujah and Praise Forever to our Heavenly Father for giving us His offering, so that we could have the privilege of giving our offering back to Him in sheer JOY and Adoration! Thank You and Praise You My Lord and King! Amen

FOOTPRINTS TO...

A CLOSER WALK

OCTOBER DEVOTIONALS

TENTH MONTH

THIRD WEEK

"FOOTPRINTS TO GIVING"

DAY FIFTEEN.....CHAPTER TEN
TENTH MONTH.....THIRD WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)
GIVING IT ALL YOU'VE GOT

What a brave man. To risk so much without thought
for himself. His heart is ruled by passion and
unconditional love. He is not ruled by man made
doctrines and segregated affusions.
...Connie Rhodes

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The Samaritan

Luke 10

Scripture Reading: Luke 19:25-29: "And behold a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?" So he answered and said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live." But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" The story of the good Samaritan verses 30-37 are too long to print but go back and read for yourself. Jesus told this story to illustrate who our neighbor is. Anyone who needs help. According to the story, even someone who we don't necessarily like or know, someone we may not even trust. We know that this is not truly what gives us eternal life, but the lawyer was trying to trick Jesus; and the end message to him was to have mercy on others. The good Samaritan gave up everything to help this man who was in very dire need. He didn't just call 911 for him. He took the man with him, nursed him, cared for him, paid for his room and board. He went out on a limb with him.

DAY SIXTEEN.....CHAPTER TEN

TENTH MONTH.....THIRD WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)
GIVING FORGIVENESS

FOOTPRINTS - Mont Ida Church of the Brethren Newsletter

Editor - Catherine Price - 9th Edition - JUNE/JULY 2008

ANGER AND FORGIVENESS

1 John 2:9-11

Anyone who says that 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.~~

Are you following Christ on His lighted path? It is the only Way! To be able to be His Disciple and bring Glory to the Father, you must stay rooted and grounded in Love! This is probably the hardest part of the journey! We all get angry...Forgiveness is the neutralizer for that "heart-burn".

Matt.6:14-15:

"For 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."

~~~~~  
**NEVER GIVE THE DEVIL A RIDE - HE WILL ALWAYS WANT TO DRIVE!**



Anger & Forgiveness

1 John 2:10-11

It only takes one (grudge) to break up a friendship, trust, love and oneness...And it also takes one to make things right. .. even if the bitter outcome is finding inner peace in ones soul and the other person still continues to turn their back on you. But, no matter what the outcome is, especially in a situation that is out of your control..with prayer.. they are totally helpless and can do absolutely nothing about it..only to receive in God's timing. Never give up praying...it is your most powerful gift and spiritual weapon. It is a personal gift freely given and nobody can take it away.

Use it wisely. ...Connie Rhodes.

DAY SEVENTEEN.....CHAPTER TEN  
TENTH MONTH.....THIRD WEEK  
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)  
GIVING UP YOUR BURDEN

We all have heavy loads of burdens to leave at the foot of the cross, It breaks my heart knowing there are people out there who carry so many burdens on their heart, feeling alone and have no cross to lay them down at.... And then there are those who do lay them at the foot of the cross only to pick them back up after a short rest.  
...Connie Rhodes



Matthew 11:28, Romans 6:6

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**Scripture Reading: Matt.11:28-30: "Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Rom. 6:6: "Knowing this; that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin." Connie put these two scriptures together. How very spiritually astute of her! It is the ultimate giving—our body of sin has been a burden for so long—now we must give it to Jesus. He says that His burden is light! Carry the Light! We are to learn many things as we travel on this journey. Giving is taking on a whole world of New Meaning! Do you notice something about it? It is all related—everything that we learn about the Christian life is all related; connected to the next thing we learn. I didn't want to leave any of Connie's beautiful art out, so this week I was able to share all of the other footprints in the messages on giving. Perfect!**

**Prayer**

**Lord, thank you so much for working in each one of us for Your good pleasure, giving gifts that just keep giving. In Jesus Name, Amen**

DAY EIGHTEEN.....CHAPTER TEN  
TENTH MONTH.....THIRD WEEK  
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

### GIVING UP LEGALISM

*"Jesus taught in parables and wrote in the sand leaving permanent messages across our hearts that will not be whisked away by scouring winds.*

*Open your heart and eyes to see. Find the word "Jesus" in this Footprint." ~Connie Rhodes*



TEACHER—John 8:4-11: "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say? They were using this question as a trap—in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

DAY NINETEEN.....CHAPTER TEN  
TENTH MONTH.....THIRD WEEK  
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)  
GIVING UP OUR PRIDE

She is pouring her naked soul at the feet of her  
Jesus. And He sees only her heart...  
May we all be as pure of heart  
when we find ourselves at his feet.  
...Connie Rhodes



Luke 7:36-50

**Scripture Reading: Luke 7:36-50:** "One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to come to his home for lunch and Jesus accepted the invitation. As they sat down to eat, a woman of the streets—a prostitute—heard he was there and brought an exquisite flask filled with expensive perfume. Going in, she knelt behind him at his feet, weeping, with her tears falling down upon his feet; and she wiped them off with her hair and kissed them and poured the perfume on them. When Jesus' host, a Pharisee, saw what was happening and who the woman was, he said to himself, "This proves that Jesus is no prophet, for if God had really sent him, he would know what kind of woman this one is!" Then Jesus spoke up and answered his thoughts, "Simon," he said to the Pharisee, "I have something to say to you." "All right, Teacher," Simon replied, "go ahead." Then Jesus told him this story: "A man loaned money to two people--\$5,000 to one and \$500 to the other. But neither of them could pay him back, so he kindly forgave them both, letting them keep the money! Which do you suppose loved him most after that?" "I suppose the one who had owed him the most," Simon answered. "Correct!" Jesus agreed. Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Look! See this woman kneeling here! When I entered your home, you didn't bother to offer me water to wash the dust off my feet, but she has washed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You refused me the customary kiss of greeting, but she has kissed my feet again and again from the time I first came in. You neglected the usual courtesy of olive oil to anoint my head, but she has covered my feet with rare perfume. Therefore, her sins—and they are many—are forgiven, for she loved me much; but one who is forgiven little, shows little love." And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

DAY TWENTY.....CHAPTER TEN  
TENTH MONTH.....THIRD WEEK  
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)  
**GIVING LOVE**

No man can do it all by himself. You have to humbly  
accept support and you have to freely give it.  
...Connie Rhodes



Help One Another  
Galatians 6

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**Scripture Reading: Gal. 5:13-15;6:1-5:** "For, dear brothers, you have been given freedom; not freedom to do wrong, but freedom to love and serve each other. For the whole Law can be summed up to this one command; "Love others as you love yourself." But if instead of showing love among your selves you are always critical and catty, watch out! Beware of ruining each other." "Dear brothers, if a Christian is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help him back onto the right path, remembering that next time it might be one of you who is in the wrong. Share each other's troubles and problems, and so obey our Lord's command. If anyone thinks he is too great to stoop to this, he is fooling himself. He is really a nobody. Let everyone be sure that he is doing his very best, for then he will have the personal satisfaction of work well done, and won't need to compare himself with someone else. Each of us must bear some faults and burdens of his own. For none of us is perfect!"

DAY TWENTY-ONE.....CHAPTER TEN  
TENTH MONTH.....THIRD WEEK  
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

**A VERY PERSONALIZED VIEW OF THE WIDOW**

Taken from "The Desire of Ages" by E.G. White

"Christ unsparingly condemned abuses, but He was careful not to lessen obligation. He rebuked the selfishness that extorted and misapplied the widow's gifts. At the same time He commended the widow who brought her offering for God's Treasury. Man's abuse of the gift could not turn God's blessing from the giver. Jesus was in the court where were the treasure chests, and He watched those who came to deposit their gifts. Many of the rich brought large sums, which they presented with great ostentation. Jesus looked upon them sadly, but made no comment on their liberal offerings. Presently His countenance lighted as He saw a poor widow approach hesitatingly, as though fearful of being observed. As the rich and haughty swept by, to deposit their offerings she shrank back as if hardly daring to venture farther. And yet, she longed to do something, little though it might be, for the cause she loved. She looked at the gift in her hand. It was very small in comparison with the gifts of those around her, yet it was her all. Watching her opportunity, she hurriedly threw in her two mites, and turned to hasten away. But in doing this, she caught the eye of Jesus, which was fastened earnestly upon her. The Savior called His disciples to Him, and bade them mark the widow's poverty. Then His words of commendation fell upon her ear: "Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all." Tears of joy filled her eyes as she felt that her act was understood and appreciated. Many would have advised her to keep her pittance for her own use; given into the hands of the well-fed priests, it would be lost sight of among the many costly gifts brought to the treasury. But Jesus understood her motive. She believed the service of the Temple to be of God's appointment, and she was anxious to do her utmost to sustain it. She did what she could, and her act was to be a monument to her memory through all time, and her joy in eternity. Her heart went with her gift; its value was estimated, not by the worth of the coin, but by the love to God and the interest in His work that had prompted the deed. -The influence of that little gift has been like a stream, small in its beginning, but widening and deepening as it flowed down through the ages. -Her example of self-sacrifice has acted and reacted upon thousands of hearts in every land and in every age. -So with every gift bestowed and every act performed with a sincere desire for God's Glory; it is linked with God's Omnipotence; its results for good no man can measure!"

**FOOTPRINTS TO A CLOSER WALK**

**OCTOBER DEVOTIONALS**

**TENTH MONTH**

**FOURTH WEEK**

**"JESUS' PARABLES TEACH GIVING"**

DAY TWENTY-TWO.....CHAPTER TEN  
TENTH MONTH.....FOURTH WEEK  
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

**BE HONEST IN BUSINESS-THE PARABLE OF THE RICH BUSINESSMAN**

Scripture Reading: Luke 16:1-13: "Jesus now told a story to his disciples: "A rich man hired an accountant to handle his affairs, but soon a rumor went around that his accountant was thoroughly dishonest. So his employer called him in and said, ""What's this I hear about you stealing from me? Get your report in order, for you are to be dismissed." The accountant thought to himself, "Now what? I'm through here, and I haven't the strength to go out and dig ditches, and I'm too proud to beg. I know just the thing! And then I'll have plenty of friends to take care of me when I leave." So

he invited each one who owed money to his employer to come and discuss the situation. He asked the first one, "How much do you owe him?" 'My debt is 850 gal. of olive oil,' the man replied. 'Yes, here is the contract you signed,' the accountant told him. 'Tear it up and write another one for half that much!' 'And how much do you owe him?' he asked the next man. 'A thousand bushels of wheat,' was the reply.

'Here,' the accountant said, 'take your note and replace it with one for only 800 bushels!' The rich man had to admire the rascal for being so shrewd. And it is true that the citizens of this world are more clever (in dishonesty) than the godly are. But shall I tell you to act that way, to buy friendship through cheating? Will this ensure your entry into an everlasting home in heaven? No! For unless you are honest in small matters, you won't be in large ones. If you cheat even a little, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities. And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven? And if you are not faithful with other people's money, why should you be entrusted with money of your own? For neither you nor anyone else can serve two masters. You will hate one and show loyalty to the other, or else the other way around—you will be enthusiastic about one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

If we expect to be blessed with finances, we must first be found to be honest with other people's money. That includes things like taking only the required lunch break and no longer. Never working on an outside project during your work time. Well, you can think of some others I am sure. Things we have all been guilty of, right?

Lord, forgive me for the times I have cheated my employer by getting involved in outside activities during my work time. Help me to be much more aware of some of the things that are dishonest that I have not realized. Amen

DAY TWENTY-THREE.....CHAPTER TEN  
TENTH MONTH.....FOURTH WEEK  
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

**GIVING UP ENVY**

Scripture Reading: Mat. 20:1-16: "Here is another illustration of the Kingdom of Heaven. The owner of an estate went out early one morning to hire workers for his harvest field. He agreed to pay them \$20 a day and sent them out to work. A couple of hours later he was passing a hiring hall and saw some men standing around waiting for jobs, so he sent them also into his fields, telling them he would pay them whatever was right at the end of the day. At noon and again around three o'clock in the afternoon he did the same thing. At five o'clock that evening he was in town again and saw some more men standing around and asked them, "Why haven't you been working today?" "Because no one hired us," they replied. 'Then go on out and join the others in my fields,' he told them. That evening he told the paymaster to call the men in and pay them, beginning with the last men first. When the men hired at five o'clock were paid, each received \$20. So when the men hired earlier came to get theirs, they assumed they would receive much more. But they, too, were paid \$20. They protested, "Those fellows worked only one hour, and yet you've paid them just as much as those of us who worked all day in the scorching heat.' "Friend," he answered one of them, 'I did you no wrong! Didn't you agree to work all day for \$20? Take it and go. It is my desire to pay all the same; is it against the law to give away my money if I want to? Should you be angry because I am kind? And so it is that the last shall be first, and the first, last."

We must not look at someone else's blessings and be envious and say that it isn't fair that they have more and we have less. It is a very good time to stop and evaluate your assets. Do you truly not have as much? Think about it.

**Scripture Prayer from 1 Corinthians**

Father, help us as we search the scriptures and learn more about Your gifts which are inspired and brought to pass by the one Holy Spirit who apportions to each of us individually exactly as He chooses. For we are baptized into one body, and are all made to drink of the one Spirit. For You, Father God, have placed each member of the body where You wish them to fit in and be able to adapt, so that there should be no division or discord but the members all alike should have a mutual interest in and care for one another. If one member suffers, all share in the suffering, and one member is honored all share in the glory! Praise Your Holy name! You have given the wise council to appoint the spiritual gifts as You see fit. In Your infinite wisdom You have given us all different gifts, according to Your will. In Jesus Name, Amen

DAY TWENTY-FOUR.....CHAPTER TEN  
TENTH MONTH.....FOURTH WEEK  
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

**GIVING UP EVERYTHING**

Scripture Reading:(Chronological Bible) Mt. 19:16-22;Mk.10:17-22; Lk.18:18.23;  
Mt.13:44-46:"As Jesus started on His way, a man ran up to Him and fell on his knees before Him. "Good Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.'" "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy." Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth." "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure a man discovered in a field. In his excitement, he sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field—and get the treasure too! Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a pearl merchant on the lookout for choice pearls. He discovered a real bargain—a pearl of great value—and sold everything he owned to purchase it!"

Are we getting the message that Jesus wants us to get? You might get something different from me, but I think that the message that is speaking to me is: IT'S WORTH IT!! The Kingdom of Heaven is worth doing anything that is necessary to purchase that "pearl of great price" and that "treasure." There was a bumper sticker that was popular some years ago: I FOUND IT!! It is JESUS! He is the Pearl! He is the Treasure! We don't even have to dig for it and most of us have not had to forsake everything to obtain it! We just had to surrender our self! We just had to give up our sinfulness! We just had to be willing to receive what He was holding out to us! His Grace and His Love and His Forgiveness! It was FREE! And yet the answers that Jesus is giving these who are seeking Him give us pause—why did He answer in such a way? With the first one who asked it was about loving his neighbor, this one was about giving up his love of money. Everyone has their own hang-ups. Jesus knows them all. The one thing that is keeping us from having that intimate walk with Jesus that He so wants to have with us is something He wants us to give to Him. Will you give it to Him today?

**Prayer**

Lord, You know what it is that is keeping me from really knowing You better. That is the thing that You want me to give up. Show me what that is. Help me Surrender it. "I surrender all--All to thee I freely give." Amen

DAY TWENTY-FIVE.....CHAPTER TEN  
TENTH MONTH.....FOURTH WEEK  
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

**FORSAKING ALL**

Scripture Reading: Mt. 19:23-30: "Then Jesus said to His disciples, "It is almost impossible for a rich man to get into the Kingdom of Heaven. I say it again—it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God!" This remark confounded the disciples. "Then who in the world can be saved?" they asked. Jesus looked at them intently and said, "Humanly speaking, no one. But with God, everything is possible." Then Peter said to him, "We left everything to follow you. What will we get out of it?" And Jesus replied, "When I, the Messiah, shall sit upon My glorious throne in the Kingdom, you my disciples shall certainly sit on twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And anyone who gives up his home, brothers, sisters, father, mother, wife, children, or property, to follow me, shall receive a hundred times as much in return, and shall have eternal life. But many who are first now will be last then; and some who are last now will be first then."

Although we usually focus on the "giving everything to the poor" in yesterdays scripture verses, after Jesus told him to do this, then He said "AND FOLLOW ME!" Peter is mentioning this as well, although we probably actually noticed the "giving up of everything" first. But it is giving up everything to follow Jesus that is really the KEY. But it is a two-fold action: first we give everything else second place, and put Jesus first. What we do with Jesus is critical. He wants first place in our hearts, in our lives, in our thoughts. Let us meditate upon this Truth.

**Scripture Prayer from Philippians**

Precious Lord, how I pray that You will help us to live clean, innocent lives, as Children of God in a dark world full of people who are evil and stubborn. Help us to shine out among them like beacons, holding forth the Word of Life! Whatever happens to us, help us to rejoice, for everything else is worthless to us when compared with the priceless gain of knowing You! Thank You for helping us to become one with You. Teach us to count on You alone, and give up on everything else; this is the only way we can truly KNOW You, as our Savior, and to experience that mighty POWER that brought You back to life again and to find out what it really means to suffer and die with You. In Your precious name, Amen

DAY TWENTY-SIX.....CHAPTER TEN  
TENTH MONTH.....FOURTH WEEK  
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

**IN GOD WE TRUST**

**Scripture Reading: Proverbs 11:24-28: "It is possible to give away and become richer! It is also possible to hold on too tightly and lose everything. Yes, the liberal man shall be rich! By watering others, he waters himself. People curse the man who holds his grain for higher prices, but they bless the man who sells it to them in their time of need. If you search for good, you will find God's favor; if you search for evil you will find His curse. Trust in your money and down you go! Trust in God and flourish as a tree. (Verse 30) Godly men are growing a tree that bears life-giving fruit, and all who win souls are wise."**

**I have found this portion of scripture very helpful in the area of giving. Now I want to share a portion of scripture that defines for all of us what the word "Christian" really means. 11Cor.6:3-10: "We try to live in such a way that no one will ever be offended or kept back from finding the Lord by the way we act, so that no one can find fault with us and blame it on the Lord. In fact, in everything we do we try to show that we are true ministers of God. We patiently endure suffering and hardship and trouble of every kind. (We have been beaten, put in jail, faced angry mobs, worked to exhaustion, stayed awake through sleepless nights of watching, and gone without food)—( Paul's own testimony) We have proved ourselves to be what we claim by our wholesome lives and by our understanding of the Gospel and by our patience.**

**We have been kind and truly loving and filled with the Holy Spirit. We have been truthful, with God's power helping us in all we do. All of the godly man's arsenal— weapons of defense, and weapons of attack—have been ours. We stand true to the Lord whether others honor us or despise us, whether they criticize us or commend us.**

**We are honest, but they call us liars. The world ignores us, but we are known to God; we live close to death, but here we are still very much alive. We have been injured but kept from death. Our hearts ache, but at the same time we have the joy of the Lord. We are poor, but we give rich spiritual gifts to others. We own nothing, and yet we enjoy everything!" Praise the Lord for His richest blessings! As 11 Cor.5:21 says: "For God took the sinless Christ and poured into Him our sins. Then, in exchange, He poured God's goodness into us!" We cannot out-give God!**

DAY TWENTY-SEVEN.....CHAPTER TEN  
TENTH MONTH.....FOURTH WEEK  
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

**GIVING AN EXAMPLE FROM MY OWN JOURNAL  
ON "ADVERSITY"**

Taking a giant leap of faith, I will take a look at adversity—taking a look at what I know about God and coming forth with a new paradigm! If God allows us to be tested with adversity, which I believe He does "allow" these crises in our lives to test us, then knowing He loves us and knowing that He does not give us more than we can handle then He knows when we are ready to deal with this crisis—when we show Him faith and trust. So, when these calamities come it should be realized as His promotion of us and His faith in us to be able to let go and let God do what He is wanting to do in this situation. In every situation, He wants to use this as a lesson to us, and to others, and His plan is that after all of it, He will reveal His glory to all around this situation. We will have graduated to a new level (realm) if we will allow His glory to be seen through this. He already has His plan in place for how He wants us to react and cope with all that comes our way. So, whenever something terrible comes our way, put this principle into place:

Because He trusts us with this challenge, He has given us the privilege to suffer for Him, and we will "rejoice in suffering!" First, envision the very highest ideal of how this situation could be handled to give glory to the Father. Work toward this goal—not looking at how it will negatively affect us or others—but how it can ultimately be seen by all to have been God's Love working in our lives, even through, or especially, through bad times.

**Scripture Prayer from Romans**

Father, we praise You even in the midst of this tribulation we are going through in our lives, because we know that suffering gives us patience, and through patience we gain experience, and through experiencing Your faithfulness we have greater hope. It is Hope that makes us not ashamed of sharing with others the Good News of the Gospel. Father, help us to be patient in this tribulation by continuing to pray to You about it. Help us to remember those who are in need and minister to them. Help us to show love to those who would be our enemies, by treating them as we would want them to treat us, so that some may be saved. Help us Lord to overcome evil with good! For the time is drawing closer and now it is high time to awake out of our sleep!

The night is far spent and the Day is at hand. Let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light, which is the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

DAY TWENTY-EIGHT.....CHAPTER TEN  
TENTH MONTH.....FOURTH WEEK  
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)  
SHARING WHAT I HAVE BEEN GIVEN  
(a little more from my Journal)

MY QUIET TIME

I go into my quiet time,  
With all the weight of the world  
And all the terrible frustration and worries,  
Making me useless to God.  
I come into the place of rest  
and empty myself and put all my weight  
of care on the Lord.

I come out from my quiet time-  
Renewed and refreshed with a new  
Knowing.

I cannot change the ways  
Of the world,

I cannot even change the people's  
Hearts, I can only lead them to the  
One who can.

So I take this yoke upon me,

For His yoke is easy  
And His burden is Light!

We are to be the light in this dark world.

Our work is so easy!

We only have to keep Christ first

In our lives and we will

Be a beacon of light;

That we can shine forth and help others to find their way  
To Him.

**FOOTPRINTS TO A CLOSER WALK**

**OCTOBER DEVOTIONALS**

**TENTH MONTH**

**FIFTH WEEK**

**"SHARING IS GIVING"**

DAY TWENTY-NINE.....CHAPTER TEN  
TENTH MONTH.....FIFTH WEEK  
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

SHARING A SPECIAL BOOK  
(still from my Journal)

I love the little book, "Hind's Feet on High Places" by Hannah Hurnard. (Still referring to "Adversity") Quoting from Hannah, "There are no obstacles which our Savior's love cannot overcome, and that to Him, mountains of difficulty are as easy as an asphalt road. How deeply, we who love the Lord of Love and desire to follow Him, long for the power to surmount all of the difficulties and tests and conflicts in life in the same exultant and triumphant way. To learn the secret of victorious living; has been the heart's desire of those who love the Lord in every generation. As Christians, we know, in theory at least, that in the life of a Child of God, there are no second causes, that even the most unjust and cruel things as well as all seemingly pointless and undeserved sufferings, have been permitted by God as a glorious opportunity for us to react to them in such a way that our Lord and Savior is able to produce in us, little by little, His own lovely character. The only way is by learning to accept, day by day, the actual conditions and tests permitted by God, by a continually repeated "laying down of our own will" and acceptance of His as it is presented to us in the form of the people with whom we have to work and live; and in the things that happen to us. Difficulties may help us to understand a new meaning in what is happening, for the experiences through which we are passing are all part of the wonderful process by which the Lord is making real in our lives the same experience which made David and Habakkuk cry out exultantly, "The Lord God maketh my feet like hind's feet and setteth me upon mine high places" (Ps. 18:33; Hab. 3:19)

Scripture Prayer from 11 Cor.

Lord, help us not to give up! We get knocked down but help us get up again and keep going! We know that it is only because Christ is living inside us that we can be truly safe and we have been given constant opportunity to show forth the power of Christ in this body that is dying. Thank You Forever, Amen

DAY THIRTY.....CHAPTER TEN  
TENTH MONTH.....FIFTH WEEK  
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

### IN SUMMARY ON GIVING

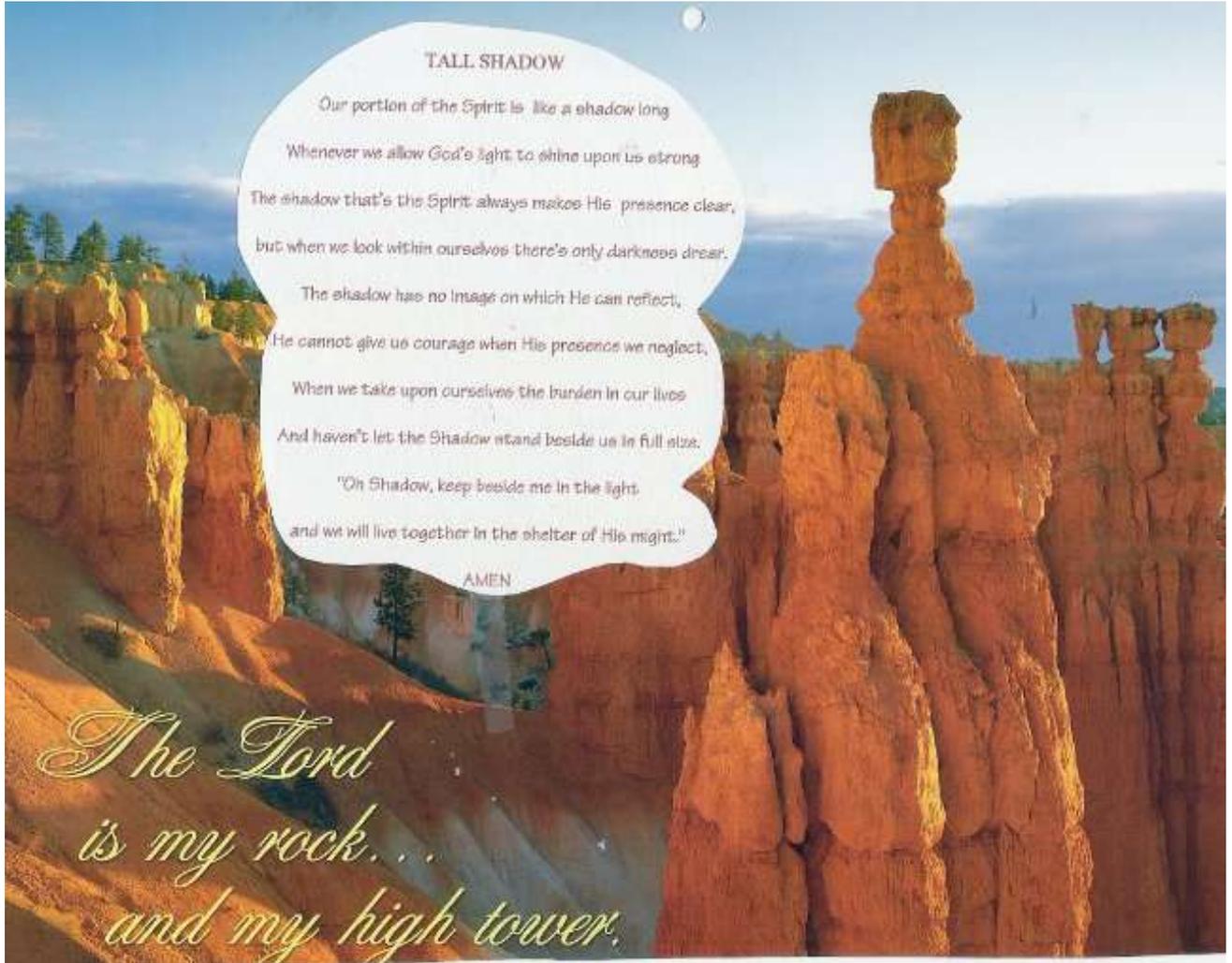
Giving is our response to God for all of His magnificent blessings, all of His awesome creative acts, and protection and provision springing out of His Love for us. Giving is so much a part of Worship, because our definition of worship is "our whole life response to His greatness and glory." So our worship is defined by our giving; of our whole lives. Giving of our strength, our passions, our love and devotion, our help to others in all ways, is giving to God our deep gratitude for all that He is and has done for all of us. Giving is our Worshipful Response to His Great Love for us. So, Giving is Responding. We cannot respond in worship to something or someone who we do not know anything about or are not in connection with. It must be for someone or something that we would have feelings of love and gratitude for; these feelings that needed their expression to be released. Releasing these expressions of love and gratitude = giving.

I have written about the Holy Spirit in much of the Devotionals. Some very new revelations, to me at least, have come while writing the Devotionals for the month of April—"The Living Water." I learned that the Holy Spirit is the part of the Whole of the Trinity that specifically worked in the area of Worship. All men were guided to worship God from the beginning by the Holy Spirit's guidance. It was a lovely thing to see developing before my eyes as I typed out each lesson, moving deeper into Who the Holy Spirit really was. Now I can only continue worshipping as He leads and guides, my Giving is for thanks, love, honor, obedience, exaltation, and joy. The next devotional will close out the month and is my Poem about that "Tall Shadow" that expresses how I feel.

Prayer

Thank You Lord, for the wonderful Holy Spirit who leads all of us into worship of You so that we can express to You our deepest Love and Devotion. Amen

DAY THIRTY-ONE.....CHAPTER TEN  
TENTH MONTH.....FIFTH WEEK  
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)



TALL SHADOW

Our portion of the Spirit is like a shadow long  
Whenever we allow God's light to shine upon us strong  
The shadow that's the Spirit always makes His presence clear,  
but when we look within ourselves there's only darkness dear.  
The shadow has no image on which He can reflect,  
He cannot give us courage when His presence we neglect,  
When we take upon ourselves the burden in our lives  
And haven't let the Shadow stand beside us in full size.  
"Oh Shadow, keep beside me in the light,  
and we will live together in the shelter of His might."

AMEN

*The Lord  
is my rock...  
and my high tower.*