



the man in the red tattered shirt

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INTRODUCTION

— Lee articulates in this book what God has uncovered about Himself, that He wants you to know in such a time as this.

The next phase of life that God has planned needs our attention. He has a plan to start over again —there will be a new heaven and a new earth where He will dwell with us.

— You are cordially invited!

GOD SAID THIS TO ME

—Many of My children think they want to move in with Me someday, but right here and now they don't have time for Me, they don't know Me, they don't agree with Me—but still they think they want to move in with Me.

Would one even consider moving in with someone they don't know or have time for? Of course not. Thus, why would one think to move in with God whom they don't know—or may not even care for?

It's not practical to think one would move in with God if one doesn't know Him, or agree with Him—or even have time for Him. Why would one want to move in with God without having known Him first?

That said, we can see why God wants to untangle our thinking and show us that we need to know Him and agree with Him, if we think we want to move in with Him.

It's not about hoping to live with Him someday because He's God, but it's about loving Him. It's about having time for Him so He can through our experiences with Him, show us who He is.

—In this book Lee will show you how only God can prove to you who He is, as compared to who you might think He is. The difference in who we think God is and who He really is, is how He loves.

1 THAT MAN IS ME

—ONE EVENING while I was out Jesus impressed upon me to get gas. I pulled into the gas station where I noticed a homeless man tearing through a garbage can. When he noticed me, he violently started to kick the can as if to get my attention. In his rage he proceeded to rip the cover off the can and throw it as far as he could!

I didn't help him because I let his anger and grunginess get to me. I let his attitude impair how I would have otherwise reacted to a person in need. Rehearsing my many excuses all the way home that night, I knew I should have put myself aside and cared for that man, but I didn't. What's worse, I didn't even think about turning around to do the right thing.

I IGNORED JESUS

Sitting with Jesus the next morning I realized I ignored Him. I knew what I should have done and that my excuses were invalid, but yet I ignored what I knew to do and in doing so, I ignored Jesus.

Jesus set up that encounter I had with that homeless man and of course His intention was to show me myself. He knew I needed to see who I was, and that I was putting on a facade. I acted like Jesus all day but then at night, I was too tired to be like Him. I needed to know I was out of His will and being a disciple was not a part time job.

— Jesus needed me to care for that man and instead of helping him, I went home to my comfort and left that man that He loves in despair. —

Jesus knows and loves this man and He can't bear to watch him suffer, that's why He sent me. Jesus needed me to give this man compassion. The same compassion Jesus so freely gives me everyday, I neglected to give that man. Instead I looked away.

In my counsel with Jesus that morning, Jesus revealed to me that when I looked away from that man —I looked away from Him.

— Now it was as though I was engaging in Jesus' innermost feelings for that man. And, His love was at that moment, more than I could fathom. —

Longing for Jesus' correction has become my desire because when He corrects me, I can see who He is. When He corrects me our relationship becomes emotional, and our love for each other is then tangible.

— To know His thoughts and feelings and to be a part of His art of love, has tattered my hardness of heart. —

THE SHEEP AND THE GOATS

The sheep and the goat scenario came alive on the inside of me that morning while I sat with Jesus. Of course those words Jesus spoke in this parable have convicted me before, but this time —those words were judging me. Now I could see myself in the parable, in the wrong line, and in danger of going to hell!

—Matthew 25:32 All nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them [the people] from one another as a shepherd separates his sheep from the goats; 33 And He will cause the sheep to stand at His right hand, but the goats at His left. 34 Then the King will say to those at His right hand, Come, you blessed of My Father [you] favored of God and appointed to eternal salvation], inherit (receive as your own) the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you brought Me together with yourselves *and* welcomed *and* entertained *and* lodged Me, 36 I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited Me with help *and* ministering care, I was in prison and you came to see Me. 37 Then the just *and* upright will answer Him, Lord, when did we see You hungry and gave You food, or thirsty and gave You something to drink? 38 And when did we see You a stranger and welcomed *and* entertained You, or naked and clothed You? 39 And when did we see You sick or in prison and came to visit You? 40 And the King will reply to them, Truly I tell you, in so far as you did it for one of the least [in the estimation of men] of these My brethren, you did it for Me. 41 Then He will say to those at His left hand, Begone from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels! 42 For I was hungry and you gave Me no food, I was thirsty and you gave Me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome Me *and* entertain Me,

I was naked and you did not clothe Me, I was sick and in prison and you did not visit Me with help *and* ministering care. 44 Then they also [in their turn] will answer, Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You? 45 And He will reply to them, Solemnly I declare to you, in so far as you failed to do it for the least [in the estimation of men] of these, you failed to do it for Me. 46 Then they will go away into eternal punishment, but those who are just *and* upright *and* in right standing with God into eternal life. AMPC

The scenario of the sheep and the goats that came to life in me that day was for certain a correction. By correcting me, Jesus protected me from what would have been a disastrous crisis. Jesus, with His correction, not only showed me how unlike Him I was, and that I had to change, but His counsel saved me from hell!

Each correction Jesus gives us is vital and will keep us in His will. That correction showed me who I was in that moment and that I didn't qualify to move in with Him. I had to change the way I loved, to love like He loves if I wanted to live with Him.

— I most appreciate His correction — He gave me a chance to change who I am, which gave me a chance to change lines before He gets here. —

When we are willing to take heed to Jesus' voice, Jesus will remind us of those things He said (John 14:26) in His Word, as He did me that day. He will tell us things to come (John 16:13) and warn us of those things we need to know to avoid what could be a disastrous crisis — like being in the wrong line on that day we stand before Him.

Jesus will not only correct us if we allow Him to, but He will also empower us to do those corrections. Jesus will help us do what we need to do to be right with Him — we can't do anything without Him.

— John 15 I am the True Vine, and My Father is the Vine-dresser. 2 Any branch in Me that does not bear fruit [that stops bearing] He cuts away (trims off, takes away); and He cleanses *and* repeatedly prunes every branch that continues to bear fruit, to make it bear more *and* richer *and* more excellent fruit. 3 You are cleansed *and* pruned already, because of the word which I have given you [the teachings I have discussed with you]. 4 Dwell in Me, and I will dwell in you. [Live in Me, and I will live in you.] Just as no branch can bear fruit of itself without abiding in (being vitally united to) the vine, neither can you bear fruit unless you abide in Me. 5 I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in Me and I in him bears much (abundant) fruit. However, apart from Me [cut off from vital union with Me] you can do nothing. 6 If a person does not dwell in Me, he is thrown out like a [broken-off] branch, and withers; such branches are gathered up and thrown into the fire, and they are burned. AMPC

NOT EVERYONE GOES TO HEAVEN

I couldn't help but imagine what it would be like; the lines of people from all the nations coming before Jesus waiting to be judged. I imagined Jesus' Words coming to life —*Not all of you who call Me Lord will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven with Me today.*

I imagined the people pleading with Jesus, hysterically shouting in a panic in their defense. They are frantic and know they are not right with Jesus, but still they try to argue with Him.

—But Lord, what about what I did for You? Lord please!

While they are desperately trying to convince Jesus, I can hear Jesus declare to them that which He said He would.

—Away from Me I never knew you, you who disregard My Father's commands!

YOU WHO IGNORED MY COMMAND TO LOVE

—Matthew 7:21 Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father Who is in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me on that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name and driven out demons in Your name and done many mighty works in Your name? 23 And then I will say to them openly (publicly), I never knew you; depart from Me, you who act wickedly [disregarding My commands]. AMPC

Jesus of course doesn't want to have to say those words to us, that's why He yearns to correct us now. That is why He corrected me that day to keep me in His will. Sometimes we

can't see what we are doing therefore we need to know from Jesus what we don't see.

As much as He loves us, if we refuse His correction He will have to say those scary words to us that day —*Away from Me I never knew you!*

He will have to say those words because if we don't heed His voice we are saying *no* to Him. Either we agree with Him or we don't; either we choose Him or we don't. If we agree with Him, then we will be willing to stay committed to Him and we will ask Him to correct us.

Jesus is clearly warning us ahead of time so we can be ready for His return. Our part is to heed His voice, welcome His correction and then change our lives to agree with Him —if we want to live with Him.

Don't be deceived into thinking you have time you don't —His return is near. It takes time to know Jesus, you can't know Him overnight. You can't choose Him without knowing anything about Him.

—Being willing to be corrected by Jesus will cause us to know Him and will keep us in His perfect will. Thus then of course, from missing eternal life with Him—

Don't dread His correction, but long for it! Know that it is a matter of life or death that you know the truth, the truth that only Jesus can reveal to you.

—To long for correction is to long for Jesus. If you want to know Jesus, if you want Him in your life, the key is to crave His correction. —

No excuse will be accepted that day when we stand before Jesus. Nothing will pardon our disobedience to His commands. It won't be okay that we didn't love and care for each other, and it won't be okay that we ignored Jesus' correction.

THE MOST IMPORTANT COMMAND

—Matthew 22:36 Teacher, which kind of commandment is great and important (the principal kind) in the Law? [Some commandments are light—which are heavy?] 37 And He replied to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind (intellect). AMPC

The most important command is to love the Lord with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. What that means to God is to care about what He cares about. Of course what He cares about, what He is most concerned about is His children. Therefore when we care about each other, we are loving Him.

When we love Him and care about what He cares about, the second most important command will be important to us as it is Him. Loving others will be our objective if we love God. To get up everyday to make someone else's life better, will be a frequent thought of ours, because it is His.

—Matthew 22:38 This is the great (most important, principal) and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as [you do] yourself. AMPC

When we love God we will know His children are the most important to Him and that His quest is not that one should perish, none forgotten —2 Peter 3:9.

That said, if you find yourself as I did —not caring about someone in need, you can be sure you do not love God with all your heart, soul and mind. If you walk by a homeless man and do nothing, if you think you are set for heaven but you don't care that your neighbor isn't —you have not kept the most important command. At that, you will not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven when you leave here. When we stand before Jesus to hear His judgement, it will be that either we lived according to His commands, or we did not.

GET EXCITED TO BE CORRECTED

—Revelation 3:19 Those whom I [dearly and tenderly] love, I tell their faults and convict *and* convince *and* reprove and chasten [I discipline and instruct them]. So be enthusiastic *and* in earnest *and* burning with zeal and repent [changing your mind and attitude]. AMPC

To be corrected is to be dearly and tenderly loved by Jesus. What an amazing privilege! It is a privilege, that's why Jesus said to be enthusiastic about it! When we hear Him correct us, it is indeed Him teaching us how to be ready to move in with Him.

—It is an amazing thing to know what Jesus is thinking, and to be in agreement with Him. To be changed by His corrections into His likeness is most beautiful! To be changed to be like Jesus is a privilege and one we should go after. To be like Jesus is my desire.—

DON'T REFUSE

If we refuse counsel we won't have His revelation knowledge. If we don't know, if we haven't His knowledge we will perish.

—*Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you [the priestly nation] have rejected knowledge.*
—AMPC

You don't want to find out on that day that you lived in ignorance the entire time you lived on the earth. You don't want to find out that day, that you should have been getting ready and for Jesus —that you haven't prepared for Heaven and now it's too late. Ask Jesus to teach you, to correct you and counsel you now —please.

—*If we don't learn how to live in the Kingdom of God now, how will we be ready to move in with Him? How will we know what is acceptable in His Kingdom if we haven't been taught?—*

Let me encourage you to take the time it will take to know Jesus, learn from Him and come in agreement with Him now while time permits.

—*Obey Him and you will learn who He is and how one should act who desires to live in His Kingdom.—*

When you decide you want to live in His Kingdom and you are going to be excited about correction —Jesus will instruct you and you will see Him as you obey Him.

JESUS WILL REVEAL HIMSELF

Jesus said He will reveal Himself to the one who will obey Him.

— John 14:21 The person who has My commands and keeps them is the one who [really] loves Me; and whoever [really] loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I [too] will love him and will show (reveal, manifest) Myself to him. [I will let Myself be clearly seen by him and make Myself real to him.] AMPC

If you know Him, if He has manifested Himself to you, it is because you chose to heed His voice. Then, on that day you will not be the one to hear —away from Me I never knew you! Instead, you will be the one He winks and smiles at. You will be the one He smiles at because you know each other, you and He met a million times. He taught you and counseled you, He prepared you for this moment. You will be the one who did for Him (for the least of men). Your life wasn't about you, but Him. When you live to love (to give of yourself to others), you won't be rejected but you will be richly rewarded.

If you never asked Jesus to come and live on the inside of you and teach you His way, make that commitment today. Answer the knock at the door of your heart and commit to heed His voice. Heed His voice and receive His counsel so that you can be sure to live with Him for eternity.

—Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears *and* listens to *and* heeds My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will eat with him, and he [will eat] with Me. AMPC

2 WHY YOU CAN'T SEE ME

I WAS WRITING an article one day when God interrupted me and said, “That’s why you can’t see Me, because you would judge Me.” In that same moment He allowed me to see Him — in part. I could see His white beard and His red flannel shirt, it was wrinkled and tattered. The rest of what I could see was blurred as an abstract painting would be, His beard and shirt being the theme of that painting.

Of course I was not to see His face —but Him. He wanted me to see who He is. He is like us. He is even like the man that would stand on the street corner with a sign, the man who would dig through a garbage can, and even have a temper tantrum at a gas station. He is *the Man in the red tattered shirt*.

What God was expressing to me was that the man at the gas station that night, was Him. That man is God’s son and God is the same as that man. We might expect God to esteem Himself as better than us, as one that would rule harshly over us, one with no compassion, but that is not who He is. He is the complete opposite of that. He is love, He is a part of us and we a part of Him.

. . .

HE MADE IT PERSONAL

He made it personal when He said, *loving Me as you do, if that man were Me, would you look past what I looked like and love Me anyway? Would you want to know why I was angry and what you could do to help Me? Before you could see Me, you loved Me. Now you know what I look like and you still love Me. Because you knew Me before you saw Me —you still love Me. Now no matter how I look, it doesn't change things does it? You still love Me. Now, knowing the homeless man is more than just another man but that he is important to Me, you wouldn't just give him some money to quiet him. If I was lonely and just wanted your time and maybe even a shoulder to cry on, you would be there for Me, I know you would. I know you love Me. Now, I need you to be there for Me by caring for those I love. They're the same as Me, made in My likeness and I need you to love them for Me, as you love Me.*

I needed to know this man was not only loved by the Man I love, but a reflection of the Man that I love. I love God and if I love Him, then that man has to be someone I love.

Now knowing what I do, life has a brand new meaning. I will no longer judge a man by how he looks or acts because he is a reflection of God —the Man I love. Now when I see a man I see God. I know that God loves that man that He created, in His likeness—and he is a part of God, inseparable from God.

THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

There is a story in the Bible that reminded me of myself that night. It's the parable of the rich man who dressed in purple and fine linen. He had more than he needed, yet he left a homeless man named Lazarus at his gate to eat the crumbs that fell from his table.

—Luke 16:19 There was a certain rich man who [habitually] clothed himself in purple and fine linen and reveled *and* feasted *and* made merry in splendor every day. 20 And at his gate there was [carelessly] dropped down *and* left a certain utterly destitute man named Lazarus, [reduced to begging alms and] covered with [ulcerated] sores. 21 He [eagerly] desired to be satisfied with what fell from the rich man's table; moreover, the dogs even came and licked his sores. 22 And it occurred that the man [reduced to] begging died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 And in Hades (the realm of the dead), being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 And he cried out and said, Father Abraham, have pity *and* mercy on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame. 25 But Abraham said, Child, remember that you in your lifetime fully received [what is due you in] comforts *and* delights, and Lazarus in like manner the discomforts *and* distresses; but now he is comforted here and you are in anguish. 26 And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who want to pass from this [place] to you may not be able, and no one may pass from there to us. 27 And [the man] said, Then, father, I beseech you to send him to my father's house— 28 For I have five brothers—so that he may give [solemn] testimony *and* warn them, lest they too come

into this place of torment. 29 But Abraham said, They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear *and* listen to them. 30 But he answered, No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent (change their minds for the better and heartily amend their ways, with abhorrence of their past sins). 31 He said to him, If they do not hear *and* listen to Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be persuaded *and* convinced *and* believe [even] if someone should rise from the dead. AMPC

If anyone would have told me that I would do what this rich man did, I would be appalled at the accusation and deny that I would ever act in such a manner. But now, Jesus is showing me I did exactly that.

I acted just like the rich man acted. I acted as though I was better than that homeless man. That means I acted as though I was better than God and judged God when I judged the homeless man. I didn't see what I was doing until Jesus showed me. I thought I was going to live with Jesus when I left here but according to this parable, if I continued to act like the rich man, I'd be deceived and would not live with Jesus but in Hades.

This scenario not only convicted me, but as well depicts clearly who God —is not. He isn't a rich ruler, He doesn't esteem Himself, but He is a Man of compassion. If the rich man went to hell because he wouldn't love, then who does that portray God to be? Exactly, the exact opposite of a man that is rich, and that who only cares for himself. That sort of man will not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven with God because he doesn't reflect the Father at all. As Jesus said to the Pharisees, *your father is the devil*; this man was also following after the devil, as was I.

Do you see how easy it can be to follow the enemy and give him permission to be our father, then to end up in hades with him forever?

— *We need Jesus' correction so that we are not misjudging God. We must understand that as we misjudge God, we are as well misjudging our future.*—

If we don't spend time with God to know Him and get a clear understanding of who He is, we will misinterpret God, consequently making that incorrect judgment of Him. That judgment will not only impact our lives here, but it will clearly determine our future when we leave here.

Let's recap. Imagine it's you; can you see yourself in hell, as like the rich man? You acted as he did and that person on the earth you left in need—can you see him?

Can you see it? You're in Hades (the realm of the dead), being in torment and seeing from far away, that man in need that you ignored. Can you imagine crying out for pity, as did that man on the earth whom you ignored?

You're in thirst for just a drop of water—and you actually have the audacity to request from the very one you denied, that he dip his finger in the water and cool your tongue? Can you imagine it? Then, in your anguish you hear that of which Abraham said to the rich man—child, remember how you ignored this one in need? Now this anguish he was in on the earth, is the anguish you will live with forever in hades.

No thank you—I don't want to live like that, I want to live in love. I want to be like Jesus and so do you. Don't misjudge God and think that He isn't who He said He is, and He won't do what He said He will do.

Jesus clearly said to do unto others as you would have them do to you, as a warning. His words were a warning to us that the very way we treat others, will come back to us.

—Luke 6:31 And as you would like *and* desire that men would do to you, do exactly so to them. AMPC

Let's remind ourselves once more to take heed to our warnings of what life will be like if we ignore Jesus' command to love.

—Luke 16:22 And it occurred that the man [reduced to] begging died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 And in Hades (the realm of the dead), being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 And he cried out and said, Father Abraham, have pity *and* mercy on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame. 25 But Abraham said, Child, remember that you in your lifetime fully received [what is due you in] comforts *and* delights, and Lazarus in like manner the discomforts *and* distresses; but now he is comforted here and you are in anguish. 26 And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who want to pass from this [place] to you may not be able, and no one may pass from there to us. 27 And [the man] said, Then, father, I beseech you to send him to my father's house— 28 For I have five brothers—so that he may give [solemn] testimony *and* warn them, lest they too come into this place of torment. 29 But Abraham said, They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear *and* listen to them. 30 But he answered, No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent (change their minds for the better and heartily amend their ways, with abhorrence of their past sins). 31 He said to him, If they do not hear *and* listen to

Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be persuaded *and* convinced *and* believe [even] if someone should rise from the dead. AMPC

NOW THAT I KNOW

Now knowing the sorrow He carries for His children and the need He has for us to imitate Him, I count it a privilege to meet those needs for Him. I am excited that He has approved me to go for Him.

I was given another opportunity to love shortly after the appointment I had with the man at the gas station. I took it most seriously this time. I considered it another chance to prove myself to Jesus. Another chance to prove to Him I want to live with Him and be like Him.

My new assignment—a woman in her eighties. She has money but chooses to live on the street. As I took the time to get to know her, I learned that she is living this way to punish herself.

As well as not being able to forgive herself, she holds unforgiveness toward others in her life. God needed me to talk to her about the consequences of unforgiveness. That was my assignment; to teach her the precepts of God which would ensure her to be on her way to inherit eternal life.

God cares about her well-being and wants her to be set free from the torment she lives in. Love will eliminate that torment and free her from the hold the enemy has on her. Then she can grow in love and prepare to meet Jesus.

I realize now how many opportunities I have missed to minister to those in need of their Savior. The time that has gone by and the suffering of so many with no resolve, only

because I was not interested in the works of God —is sad to say the least.

Maybe you have been disinterested as well. What if you continue to just walk by those in need? Consider what will happen to them, and what Jesus will say to you on that day.

The women I had the privilege to minister to had no idea that her un-forgiveness had caused her life to be so complicated. Without the knowledge of God I shared with her, she was unaware that what she was going through had to do with her fight for her salvation. Now she has the information I have provided to her to make a clear choice for her future.

Can you see how we misjudge the homeless, those on the street corner asking for help —in need of love? Can you see now that God is aching for us to hear Him —to do His work for Him? Those whom we encounter are opportunities, appointments set up by God. He intends that we tell them the truth, preparing them and ourselves for eternal life.

— *What if we fought over who would have the next opportunity to minister to those in need, rather than ignore Jesus? —*

If we were paying attention we could see that the problem is not that the homeless are in fact homeless, but that they are without love. They suffer from a lack of compassion. They suffer because they are in need of their Savior. How can we know the goodness of God and keep God to ourselves?

If we loved God, then we would love others for Him. He sees those in the tattered shirt as His, as helpless and in need. He is so bothered by their needs that He is sad. Sad for them and that we don't care. Sad that we won't do His work, that we only care about ourselves.

—*If we would do for the least of men, we are relieving God's weariness, His pain and His sadness.*—

If we would take time to have compassion for the least of men, they could know God and that they are loved. They would then be able to live that good life He has for them.

His love is so intense that He feels their feelings. That is what He meant when He said what we do for the least of men we do for Him. When we do His greater work and love for Him, we will feel His joy and His contentment. When we ignore Him and disregard His command, we can as well feel His feelings, but of despair.

I HURT WHEN YOU HURT

He said this to me one day. He said, *it hurt Me that you hurt, so I wanted to hurt for you.* Can you fathom that? That's why He got on the cross for us. He took those stripes for us. That's why He gave His life for us, so we wouldn't have to hurt anymore.

—Isaiah 53:3 He was despised and rejected *and* forsaken by men, a Man of sorrows *and* pains, and acquainted with grief *and* sickness; and like One from Whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we did not appreciate His worth *or* have any esteem for Him. 4 Surely He has borne our griefs (sicknesses, weaknesses, and distresses) and carried our sorrows *and* pains [of punishment], yet we [ignorantly] considered Him stricken, smitten, and afflicted by God [as if with leprosy]. 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our guilt *and* iniquities; the chastisement [needful to obtain] peace *and* well-being for us was upon Him, and with the stripes [that wounded] Him we are healed *and* made whole. AMPC

He proved His love for us that day when gave His life. He took our pain and sorrows, so we could be free from all infirmities. He hurt so we wouldn't have to.

HIS LIFE IS ABOUT US

His life is about us! I know that from personal experience. Ever since I started doing His work for Him, all He talks to me about is you, His children. We are all He thinks about day and night. Just as you think of your children all of the time, He does you!

—Every one of us are important to Him, we are everything to Him. His life revolves around us. No matter what we have done, no matter who we are, He is in love with each of us.—

The fact that He thinks of us all day is amazing by itself. Then to bless us and work things out for our good —is way too much to fathom!

We are limited in what we can do for our children, but God, He is more and can do more than we can ask or think!

—Ephesians 3:20. Now to Him Who, by (in consequence of) the [action of His] power that is at work within us, is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly, far over *and* above all that we [dare] ask or think [infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams]—AMPC

— *His passion is to touch every life and make everything good.*—

It is not His will that those in need suffer, but without us who believe doing our part, many will. Without the truth ministered to them, they won't know the better way to live.

—*God's objective in life is to love, He is Love*—

1 John 4:8 He who does not love has not become acquainted with God [does not and never did know Him], for God is love.

Our being like Jesus is what will count in the lives of others. When we are willing to do the will of the Father and love for Him, we will make the difference needed for His love to be known.

—Acts 10:38 How God anointed *and* consecrated Jesus of Nazareth with the [Holy] Spirit and with strength *and* ability *and* power; how He went about doing good and, in particular, curing all who were harassed *and* oppressed by [the power of] the devil, for God was with Him. AMPC

Will you let Him anoint you with the Holy Spirit and go around and do good, to go around with His power and heal? Especially those who are under the oppression of the enemy?

DO WHAT I WAS DOING

—John 14 :12 I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, if anyone steadfastly believes in Me, he will himself be able to do the things that I do; and he will do even greater things than these, because I go to the Father. AMPC

If we believe in Him, then we will do what He was doing. We will go around doing good as Jesus did. Will you go for Him, will you do His art of love for Him? Will you be a part of His quest to love?

God needs us to love each other the way He loves us. As you expect your children to love each other, to prefer and look out for each other, so does He expect us to do the same.

That acknowledged, now we know how we treat each other is how we are treating God. If we won't do good for others, we are rejecting our Father. If we say we love Him but won't care for one in need, we don't love Him.

—Matthew 25:45 And He will reply to them, Solemnly I declare to you, in so far as you failed to do it for the least [in the estimation of men] of these, you failed to do it for Me. AMPC

3 YOU STILL LOVE ME

YOU STILL LOVE ME, I stopped to hear more. I waited to hear Jesus explain to me what He was saying. I could feel His emotions and hear Him thinking. He was thinking about me and how I laid it all down for Him. I could see a flash of the struggles I fought through to put Him first, play through His mind like a movie.

He asked me and I said yes. He asked me to lay down the final things in my life that hindered our relationship and I said, yes Lord. Of course, once He made the truth known to me, I wanted to. For me, *yes* was my only option. I love Jesus and to put everything aside for Him as He did for me, is the least I can do.

I could see His sadness as He made known to me that many say they love Him when actually they don't. They won't lay those things aside that hinder their relationship with Jesus. It's out of the question for most and because it is, they don't know that Jesus is a choice. A choice we have to make between Him and our things.

For example if one were going to get married yet dating someone else, it would be expected that you lay down that other relationship. The same is expected of us by Jesus. If we want to be married to Him, we will have to lay down our relationship with things, those things we love more than Jesus.

Many expect from Jesus but when it comes to giving back to Him, they turn Him away. Jesus is looked at by many, as One to only receive from. He's not acknowledged as a Person who they can have a relationship with. Nor a relationship of both give and take, but only one of taking.

REJECTION

You wouldn't reveal your innermost feelings to a person who would reject you, you would hold back. You would be careful as to how much of yourself you would share with a person who doesn't care for you.

What if that's who Jesus has had to be? What if because we have been so self-centered, that we can't see Jesus? What if Jesus actually needs to express to you who He is and how He feels, but He knows you are not interested? Can He tell you who He is, or is He quiet because He knows you don't want to hear what He has to say?

Many wonder why Jesus is quiet in their lives. They say they can't hear Him. Could it be exactly that, that He can't tell you? If He tells you what you don't want to hear, like who He really is, would you reject Him? If you knew the truth about Him and knew He needed you to love Him back, would that be okay with you? Can He pour His heart out to you and know that you wouldn't reject Him, but that you would still love

Him? Could you put your opinion aside and just be open to let Him show you who He is?

Jesus has been hurt. Especially by those who say they love Him, but they don't. His own who say they love Him, reject Him and it is because He isn't who they want Him to be.

Have you ever been rejected because you weren't who you were expected to be? I have and it is not a nice feeling. To be expected to conform to another's idea of who they think you should be, is an awful place to be.

When I am out to tell others about Jesus I hear —“*No thanks*” a lot! How can anyone say —*no thanks, I'm good*? Who can be okay without Jesus? What are they thinking? What have they heard about Jesus they don't like? Maybe the most qualifying question is —who do they want Him to be?

—We can't live without Jesus, not fully here, and definitely not for eternity when we leave here. Thus, they're not fine —even though they think they are.—

Living by one's opinion is trying to make Jesus who one wants Him to be. Jesus clearly said to live by His command or we won't enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. We can't change who Jesus is or His precepts, by our opinion.

Ultimately, we cannot make Jesus who we want Him to be by our opinion. It won't work to ignore the facts that have been written in the Word of God, He is His Word —John 1:1. Knowing the Word, which is knowing Jesus—we know we have to make a choice. Jesus' Words are truth. He is real and no opinion will change what God has ordained.

We can't say we love Jesus and not let Him be Himself. If we haven't any emotional bond with Jesus, we really can't say we love Him. Love does not transpire without feelings. When we love someone, in that relationship with that one, is time spent together where that relationship of love is developed.

Love is not dictating to someone who they should be. If you are going to love someone, it is because you love who they are. Therefore, we can't say we truly love Jesus without knowing Him and being sensitive to who He is.

We can't even say because we followed some rules, we love Jesus and we are going to live with Him forever. We have to be able to say we love Jesus by our agreement with Him, which comes from time spent with Him that developed into our love relationship with Him.

—Jesus' scars are much more than I thought they were as He reveals to me the rejection He had those two thousand years ago, are not only history—but that He is still being rejected today. He is still acquiring scars today because many today are still rejecting Him.—

ETERNAL LIFE

The rich man asked Jesus how to have eternal life. Jesus did not say what the man wanted to hear. In fact, I believe the man was looking for appeasement from Jesus. He knew he wasn't right with the Father, but he wanted Jesus to tell him that he was. When Jesus confirmed his suspicions, he walked away. Jesus didn't tell that man what he wanted to hear.

—Mark 10:17 And as He was setting out on His journey, a man ran up and knelt before Him and asked Him, Teacher, [You are essentially and perfectly morally] good, what must I

do to inherit eternal life [that is, to partake of eternal salvation in the Messiah's kingdom]? 18 And Jesus said to him, Why do you call Me [essentially and perfectly morally] good? There is no one [essentially and perfectly morally] good—except God alone. 19 You know the commandments: Do not kill, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not bear false witness, do not defraud, honor your father and mother. 20 And he replied to Him, Teacher, I have carefully guarded *and* observed all these *and* taken care not to violate them from my boyhood. 21 And Jesus, looking upon him, loved him, and He said to him, You lack one thing; go and sell all you have and give [the money] to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come [and] accompany Me [walking the same road that I walk]. 22 At that saying the man's countenance fell *and* was gloomy, and he went away grieved *and* sorrowing, for he was holding great possessions. 23 And Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, With what difficulty will those who possess wealth *and* [keep on holding it enter the kingdom of God! 24 And the disciples were amazed *and* bewildered *and* perplexed at His words. But Jesus said to them again, Children, how hard it is *for those who trust (place their confidence, their sense of safety) in riches* to enter the kingdom of God! 25 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. 26 And they were shocked *and* exceedingly astonished, and said to Him *and to one another*, Then who can be saved? 27 Jesus glanced around at them and said, With men [it is] impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God. 28 Peter started to say to Him, Behold, we have yielded up *and* abandoned everything [once and for all and joined You as Your disciples, siding with Your party] and accompanied You [walking the same road that You walk]. 29 Jesus said, Truly I tell you, there is no one who has given up *and* left house or brothers or sisters or mother or

father or children or lands for My sake and for the Gospel's 30 Who will not receive a hundred times as much now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions —and in the age to come, eternal life. AMPC

Jesus loved the man when He told the man the truth; what he needed to do to have eternal life. He didn't let him wonder for a second, but told the man the facts right away. He did not keep it as a mystery, but Jesus made it known to the man that his things were his god and that his lifestyle needed to change to be able to enter the Kingdom.

The man was grieved at Jesus' response and walked away. He rejected Jesus because he wanted this life here more than he wanted eternal life. He didn't like what Jesus said, Jesus wasn't who he wanted Him to be, therefore, his decision was to walk away and give up eternal life for his temporary one.

TEMPORARY LIFE

—2 Corinthians 4:18 Since we consider *and* look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are visible are temporal (brief and fleeting), but the things that are invisible are deathless *and* everlasting AMPC

This is to be clarified —this life here is temporary and is only a place to decide what we want —this life or eternal life. We have to make a choice, we can't have both.

What that man didn't want to hear was that he had to lay down this life for eternal life with Jesus. As much sense as that direction makes, it didn't make sense to him because he was in love

with his life. He went to Jesus because he knew deep down he was not right with the Father.

Jesus confirmed the rich man's suspicions but not wanting to hear the truth, the rich man didn't understand one choice was a better choice than the other—or that hanging on to his life cancels out the other choice. If he truly understood the ramifications of his choice, he would have made the better choice.

Many today turn away from making a better choice for the same reason. Because they don't understand the severity of their wrong choice or that there is a choice to be made, they don't understand that laying down this life is attaining a new life. Many are under the assumption that eternal life is just a magical prayer that gets them to Heaven. They have no idea of the truth, which is that we have to let go of one life for another.

If we want this life more than we want Jesus, we won't see a need to give it up. On the other hand if we are indeed in love with Jesus, this life and the temporary things of this life, will of course not mean more to us than Him. If we love Jesus, then everything else becomes obsolete. If we love Jesus this life here will become dull and old, making it that we will look forward to the new life! It will not be that we hang on to this life here as for dear life, as if this is all there is (as do the heathen), but we will look forward to the new life.

When we love Jesus we can see things to come. Then those things promised that He has revealed to us mean more to us than those things of this world.

—Revelation 21 Then I saw a new sky (heaven) and a new earth, for the former sky and the former earth had passed away (vanished), and there no longer existed any sea. 2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, descending out of heaven

from God, all arrayed like a bride beautified *and* adorned for her husband; 3 Then I heard a mighty voice from the throne *and* I perceived its distinct words, saying, See! The abode of God is with men, and He will live (encamp, tent) among them; and they shall be His people, and God shall personally be with them and be their God. 4 God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and death shall be no more, neither shall there be anguish (sorrow and mourning) nor grief nor pain any more, for the old conditions *and* the former order of things have passed away. AMPC

YOU CANNOT COME WITH ME UNLESS

—Luke 14:26 You cannot be my disciple, unless you love me more than you love your father and mother, your wife and children, and your brothers and sisters. You cannot come with me unless you love me more than you love your own life —CEV

Jesus said we cannot come with Him if we love our life more than Him. That is the same thing Jesus said to the rich man. Sell your things, give the money to the poor and walk the walk I walk. In other words, sell out of this life and enter into Mine. Sell out for loving God and caring about what He cares about. Love others as I have loved you, then you can come with Me—to My house and live with Me there.

—1 John 2:15 Do not love *or* cherish the world or the things that are in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh [craving for sensual gratification] and the lust of the eyes [greedy longings of the mind] and the pride of life [assurance in one's own resources or in the stability of earthly things]—these do not come from the Father but are from the world

[itself]. 17 And the world passes away *and* disappears, and with it the forbidden cravings (the passionate desires, the lust) of it; but he who does the will of God and carries out His purposes in his life abides (remains) forever. AMPC

It is clear that Jesus is saying that we cannot be in love with the world and Him at the same time, we have to choose one. We have to decide to accept Him for who He is and decide to agree with, love and cherish Him alone if we want to live with Him. It is Him or the world, we have to choose—there is no in-between.

WE ARE HIS FIRST LOVE

It makes perfect sense. We are His first love, therefore He should be ours. He loved us first and we are the most important to Him —1 John 4:19. He hasn't put anything or anyone between Himself and us, we are His first-fruits. Therefore He should be as well, our most important Person.

—James 1:18 And it was of His own [free] will that He gave us birth [as sons] by [His] Word of Truth, so that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures [a sample of what He created to be consecrated to Himself]. AMPC

How do you get to the place where you want Jesus more than anything else? Do what Jesus told the rich man to do and what the disciples did, love Him more. Put Him first. Separate from those things that come between you and Jesus, separate from the lust of the flesh. Once you do, you will taste that which is good and you will see there is no other like Him. Nothing can satisfy you more than Jesus can. His love is the most awesome thing ever!

Putting Jesus first puts everything else into perspective. Loving Him first makes it possible to love others with a real love, not a love of conditions. If we are not trained in God's love we will love with conditions as the world does.

We can't be faithful in loving others until we learn to faithfully love Jesus. As we excel in His love and start preparing to live with Him, we will model to others the reality of who Jesus is—inspiring others that this place is not our home but our place to prepare for home.

OUR LIFE IS NOT OUR OWN

—Matthew 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone desires to be My disciple, let him deny himself [disregard, lose sight of, and forget himself and his own interests] and take up his cross and follow Me [cleave steadfastly to Me, conform wholly to My example in living and, if need be, in dying, also]. AMPC

Jesus is not going to ask us to do anything He hasn't done Himself. He denied Himself; He loved in an unheard of manner, a manner not familiar to us.

A love that prefers the other—even unto death. What kind of love is that? That God would give us His Son? What kind of love is it that Jesus would be that concerned with His Father's love for us that He would choose to give up His life? What kind of love would say —*Yes Father I will go for You; I will lay down My life for Your children?*

It's the kind of love required of us to be His disciple. A love that cares so much that we would lay down our life for Him. It's a love that is concerned with what the Father is concerned

with. To love Him with all our heart, soul and mind, is to care about what He cares about. To care that He cares about us, His children, your neighbor—the least of men, is to love Him.

Jesus is committed to His Father. He cares about what the Father cares about, that's why He laid down His life. Now, that same kind of love is expected of us; to lay down our life by choice because we love Him and care about what He cares about. Then to hear Him say—*you still love Me. Even though I have asked you to prefer Me before yourself— you still love Me.*

That said, when we read —you must give up everything for Jesus or you can't be His disciple, it is not a negative request but one of honor and acceptance. He —King Jesus, is inviting you and I to be His disciples, to commit to Him and care about what He cares about. He is inviting us to love as He has loved. He is inviting us to live with Him forever!

To accept His invitation, we must be willing to give up our old life for the new life He is offering to us. We have to decide we want to give up our life here on the earth that is of selfishness and of fine linen —for love. God's law is love and to love is to prefer the other person. It is never about yourself, but Him and He is about you.

Just as one makes a vow when one is united in marriage, Jesus is asking that we make a vow to Him. He is asking that we become united with Him in a covenant of love. He is asking that we be faithful to Him unto death. Therefore when you say yes I know You and I still love You, it will be because you took the time to know Him. You said yes —I will marry You and put You first.

—Just like Peter said, *Lord I will die for You I will go to prison with You*, you will have those same love feelings toward Jesus.

—Luke 22:33 And [Simon Peter] said to Him, Lord, I am ready to go with You both to prison and to death.

Like Peter, we will get caught up in some worldly intimidation. Our part is to pick up our cross and fight to stay committed to Jesus because Jesus is our everything. When we are in love with Jesus —like Peter, we will be emotional about Jesus and nothing can change that love we hold for Him.

TIME TO RECEIVE YOUR REWARD

Will you still love Him? Now that you know you have to give it all up for Him? If you said yes and you give Him your life, you will have life to the full and more than you could have imagined it could be given back to you.

If the rich man would have stayed to hear Jesus explain the Kingdom principles to him, he would have found this very truth. Life when you give, is much more than you can imagine —Mark 10:29.

God is not trying to take from us but to give to us, more than we can ask or think. Not merely material blessings but that of joy, love, peace, kindness and of course eternal life! He wants to give to us a love that is not known. His desire is to love us in a way that we haven't known, and that happens as we experience living life His way.

—Ephesians 3:20 Now to Him Who, by (in consequence of) the [action of His] power that is at work within us, is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly, far over *and*

above all that we [dare] ask or think [infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams]— AMPC

God's Kingdom works by love. To love is to give. Therefore when you give, know that what you give will be given back to you and more besides.

—Luke 6:38 Give, and [gifts] will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will they pour into [the pouch formed by] the bosom [of your robe and used as a bag]. For with the measure you deal out [with the measure you use when you confer benefits on others], it will be measured back to you. AMPC

God's intention is that all will have eternal life. He is asking, will you give your life for another? Will you lay down this temporary life, only to receive more than you gave in this lifetime and in the age to come?

—Revelation 22:12 Behold, I am coming soon, and I shall bring My wages *and* rewards with Me, to repay *and* render to each one just what his own actions *and* his own work merit. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last (the Before all and the End of all). 14 Blessed (happy and to be envied) are those who cleanse their garments, that they may have the authority *and* right to [approach] the tree of life and to enter through the gates into the city. AMPC

4 IN CONCLUSION

IF WE LOOK CLOSELY at this scenario, we can see that God was saying He wanted the kind of love Abraham was giving to Isaac

— Genesis 22 After these events, God tested *and* proved Abraham and said to him, Abraham! And he said, Here I am. 2 [God] said, Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah; and offer him there as a burnt offering upon one of the mountains of which I will tell you. AMPC

It is clear by the choice of words God used when He said —*your son in whom you love*, that God was jealous for the love that Abraham had for his son.

Abraham knew God was testing his love for Him when he brought Isaac to the mountain. We know this because of the confidence Abraham had in God to provide the lamb for the sacrifice.

Through that experience Abraham had with God, it's apparent God wanted Abraham to know that He had a need to be loved.

As Abraham loved his son Isaac, God was expressing that He wanted that same kind love.

It is noticeable to me now, that we have failed to see that God has a need for our love. We have looked at Him as a God figure and not a Man with thoughts and feelings. He is a Man as well as our God and He has emotions. He has needs as do we, but we have failed to see that about Him. Because as He said, we have made our own judgement of Him.

God said if you could see Me, you would judge Me because if we could see Him in our likeness, in the form of a Man —we would judge Him. Why would we judge Him? For appearing to be too much like us. For being what we might see as *less than*. We would judge Him because we don't expect Him to be like we are.

—We are made in His likeness which means He is a Man as well as God. Therefore can He be just another, ordinary Person as well as God and we be okay with that?—

Have we thought of Him as having an emotional side to Him? Is it okay with us that He has emotions, hurts and pains, and a need for our love and compassion? Is it okay if He would prefer to wear His pajamas until noon and just hang out —as we would? Would it be okay with us if He preferred to hang out on the street corner to encourage —His love? And while He was there, what if He hadn't combed His hair, wore a shirt with holes in it and held a sign that said, *Will you love Me?* Would that be okay with us?

We know that we were made in His likeness but we fail to compare ourselves with Him. As a Man, we fail to see Him for

who He is and know that He needs us to know Him and to love Him.

God asked Abraham to give up his son—in whom he loved, but would he? Would he love God more than His son by saying, yes Lord? Would Abraham still love God if Abraham knew who God was? That God was that much like him, that He needed that same kind of human love he had for Isaac?

—Genesis 22:3 So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and his son Isaac; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and then began the trip to the place of which God had told him. 4 On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. 5 And Abraham said to his servants, Settle down *and* stay here with the donkey, and I and the young man will go yonder and worship and come again to you. 6 Then Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and laid it on [the shoulders of] Isaac his son, and he took the fire (the firepot) in his own hand, and a knife; and the two of them went on together. 7 And Isaac said to Abraham, My father! And he said, Here I am, my son. [Isaac] said, See, here are the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt sacrifice? 8 Abraham said, My son, God Himself will provide a lamb for the burnt offering. So the two went on together. 9 When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there; then he laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar on the wood. 10 And Abraham stretched forth his hand and took hold of the knife to slay his son. 11 But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, Abraham, Abraham! He answered, Here I am. 12 And He said, Do not lay your hand on the lad or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear *and* revere God, since you have not held back from Me *or* begrudged giving Me your son,

your only son. 13 Then Abraham looked up *and* glanced around, and behold, behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up for a burnt offering *and* an ascending sacrifice instead of his son! AMPC

—It is evident that God desires to be loved. He desires the kind of love we give each other —He needs us to appreciate and love Him for who He is.—

God expects that as in any relationship we experience things with Him, just like Abraham did. In our relationships with each other, there are testing times; times we prove our love to each other. That is what was happening with God and Abraham; it was a test of love.

How did Abraham get to that place that He would have that much confidence in God that he would take his son to a mountain to slay him? It came from the faithfulness God already proved to Abraham. God and Abraham already had an established relationship. Abraham obviously knew God well enough to know He would provide the lamb, that God wouldn't actually ask Abraham to slay his son, and that it was a test.

GOD DID PROVIDE THE LAMB

When Abraham proved his faithfulness and was about to slay his son, God stopped him. Then, what God was asking Abraham to do, God turned around and did Himself. He gave us His only Son. He provided the ultimate Lamb —Jesus.

When God gave us Jesus, what He was saying was *—I love you so much that I'm giving you My Son as a sacrifice of My love for*

you. I love you and I will prove Myself to you by giving you part of Me—My son.

—John 3:16 For God so greatly loved *and* dearly prized the world that He [even] gave up His only begotten (unique) Son, so that whoever believes in (trusts in, clings to, relies on) Him shall not perish (come to destruction, be lost) but have eternal (everlasting) life. AMPC

God put us first. He loved us that much that He didn't stop with it as a thought, but He actually gave us Jesus. Now as He has put us first, He desires we put Him first.

He loved us like He wanted to be loved. He set the ultimate example when He gave us Jesus. When He gave us Jesus, He gave us Himself. It wasn't easy for Him to go through what He did, it was a sacrifice—but it was because He loves us.

Now it is our turn to love God. It is our turn to be tested and approved as His. What is it that you love so much that God would ask you to lay it down for Him?

You will find out if you are willing to take the love test that awaits you. If there is something you have before Him, He is jealous for that love you have for that thing—in which you love. The person or thing you love more than God, has to be put under Him.

HIS HOUSE

I like to call His Kingdom His house, where life is lived a whole different way than we live. That said, when God asked me to love Him back as He did Abraham, to come over to His house and leave everything else behind—I came. Like Abraham, I knew it was a test and I was sure that as Abraham was,

that I would be blessed when it was all over. That's when I opened my heart all the way and was willing to do what I said I would do.

—Anything Lord! I used to say that, but like Peter when Peter said I will do anything for you Lord, Jesus knew I wasn't capable of what my heart wanted to do.—

We can't do it on our own strength, and we can't do it without experience with God; as Abraham had, like Peter had. We have to know Him to know that He is faithful even though we are not. Even though our heart is right we can't do what only God can do in us.

God brought me where I am by His faithfulness to me. Our relationship is not based on my abilities but His faithfulness. I made the choice. I chose Him based on my confidence in Him which came from my experience with Him, which took time. Time I devoted to Him to know Him.

Now I want to be like Him and I want to be with Him more than I want anything else. He knows that even if He didn't give me everything I was asking of Him, I would still stay. I would still submit to Him even if He didn't do anything else for me. But He will, because He loves me. Because He loves me, He can't help Himself, He longs to bless me. Because He loves you, He can't help Himself, He longs to bless you.

The invitation He is giving you today is to get to know Him and love Him back. He tested true and now it is our turn to be true to Him. He is asking you to take the test. Will you? Will you come to His house and want Him more than anything else, love Him as He has loved you? Can you come to Him without asking anything of Him and just be willing to love Him? Have

you had that time and experience with Him that you can come to that place where you can say, *anything Lord, whatever you want me to do for You, because You loved me first?*

—He needs you to care for Him. He is asking you to come to His house and get to know Him. Not that you would come to only ask things of Him, but know Him, and as well and love Him and even let Him ask things of you.—

God is asking us to love Him more, more to the place where we will give Him primacy in our lives as did Abraham. God will show us more of Himself when we give Him first place in our lives. When we acknowledge God, we will finally see His faithfulness in His wait for us, and the need He has of us.

When I proved faithful to God, I could see I had been distracted and unaware of His longing for me to love Him fully. When I could see, I could see I missed out on being there for Him. He needed me and I was so distracted by those other things that I loved more than Him, that I couldn't feel His emotions. He longed for me and I was longing for something else.

Can you imagine God's longing for your love —do we know what that must be like for Him? He longs for us and we are disinterested in Him? Instead of longing for Him as well, we are distracted by and in love with the things He gave us. That is so sad and so insensitive of us, that it makes me cry.

HE LONGS FOR US TO LOVE HIM

When I was a little girl I didn't like going to my grandparent's house. I was not only invited for the day but to sleep overnight, which made it way longer of a visit than I thought I felt I could bear.

When morning finally came and I was on my way out the door, my grandma paid me and said —*shhh, don't tell Grandpa*. Then as my grandpa opened the door for me to get in the car, he paid me as well and said the same thing —*shhh don't tell Grandma*.

I didn't know —God showed me they were desperate for me to love them. Of course, they shouldn't have to pay me to love them but that is how desperate they were. As I was thinking through this scenario and because God brought it to my attention, I knew God was hurting as He Himself is desperate to be loved. All the kids He has and loves so dearly — and yet, they don't want to come over to His house.

Then God showed me why. The same reason I didn't want to go to my Grandparents house, I was afraid of them. I didn't know them well enough to spend the day, let alone the night with them.

What if my mom and dad would have stayed with me and given me a chance to get to know them and know that they loved me? What a huge difference that would have made. That relationship then would have developed and I would have wanted to come over and I would have wanted to love them back.

God knows why you don't want to come to His house. You're afraid of Him because you don't know Him. He's paid you with plenty of favor to say *I love you, won't you come back to*

visit Me and get to know Me? Then you will see I love you so very much, so much that I gave My Son for you! I let go of Him, I let go of embracing Him in My arms momentarily so I could embrace you forever. So you could see how much I love you. I proved My love for you. Won't you come for a visit? You can bring your Mom and Dad if you like, or someone who already knows Me if it makes you feel better. I just want you to know Me and how much I love you. I only want to fully be able to love you and bless you!

—Think of all those promises He has already fulfilled in your life because He loves you. Is He thinking if He loves you and gives to you your desires, you will notice Him and love Him back? —

It is our turn to love God. He shouldn't have to pay us to come to His house. And now in such a time as this, He needs us more than ever! It's an emotional time for Him. He has to make all things new again and we are not ready.

Just like in the day of Noah when He had to start over and those who wouldn't listen perished, many are about to perish again and that (hurts Him) is frustrating Him —Genesis 7-8.

The Word tells us God forgot about Noah for five months.

—Genesis 7:24 And the waters prevailed [mightily] upon the earth *or* land 150 days (five months). AMPC

—Genesis 8:1 And God [earnestly] remembered Noah and every living thing and all the animals that were with him in the ark; and God made a wind blow over the land, and the waters sank down *and* abated. AMPC

What is being revealed to us is who God is. He is being transparent again as He shows us that He mourned for five months. In love with His children, for five months God mourned. He was grieving for those children who didn't get on the ark.

It was not easy for God to do what He had to do of course. Now God has to start over again, and again, even now before it begins He is grieving. Now because He already knows what is going to happen and He remembers how horrible it was —He is already in pain.

He loves us more than we have understood. He is long suffering as He waits for us to respond to His love. That's why He hasn't come yet, because He dreads what He has to do, what has to happen.

He gave us His Son, He suffered tremendously to save us and still —we have abandoned Him. Still we are ignoring Him and still, He suffers because He loves us.

—2 Peter 3:9 The Lord does not delay *and* is not tardy *or* slow about what He promises, according to some people's conception of slowness, but He is long-suffering (extraordinarily patient) toward you, not desiring that any should perish, but that all should turn to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will vanish (pass away) with a thunderous crash, and the [material] elements [of the universe] will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and the works that are upon it will be burned up. 11 Since all these things are thus in the process of being dissolved, what kind of person ought [each of] you to be [in the meanwhile] in consecrated *and* holy behavior and devout *and* godly qualities—AMPC.

Even though God has put off coming—sooner or later His Words will take place. The time will come, His Word will come to pass, all He has warned us of and then—the earth will dissolve.

Many haven't the knowledge of those things that are to come. As in the day of Noah they are not paying attention. Is that you? Do you know the earth will be dissolved in fire, that you have to prepare now for the storm that is about to hit?

Did you think you will always be able to live here? If so it is because you don't know Him or listen to Him calling out to you. You can't know things to come if you won't have an ear to hear what He is saying.

Know that Jesus is coming and there will be a new heaven and a new earth. This earth will dissolve and will no longer be a dwelling place. Therefore we need to plan for our future now before this event takes place.

—Revelation 21 Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’ 5 He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” 6 He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without

cost from the spring of the water of life. 7 Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children. 8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.” AMPC

Things will not be like they are now, there will be a new order of things. A whole different life to live; a completely different lifestyle is at hand.

Now is your time to prepare for that life by spending time with your Father, to get to know Him. Go to His house, He is not scary at all, He loves you and is trying to save you from what is about to come.

There, with Him you can find out the changes you need to make to prepare to move in with Him permanently. I can assure you once you visit Him, you will want to stay. He is irresistible! His love for you is undeniable when you stand there in His presence.

WHEN I GOT TO HIS HOUSE

Recently Jesus took me to heaven. I was in His house where I sat at the banquet table with Him. I never felt so wonderful. I wasn't judged or thought less of in any way, it was wonderful! The most wonderful experience I had ever had with anyone in any place, ever —was there with Him.

At His house there is only love —that is all I could find. Others there were not judging others, but were only interested in Jesus. It was as if we drew our energy from Him —from His love for us.

Thinking back, I noticed the pain He was in that I didn't notice while I was there. It was because I was so taken up by the moment, mesmerized—in awe of the atmosphere and what was happening!

Once home, He allowed me to feel that pain He was in. It was then I realized I was there on assignment. My assignment—to tell you the agony He is in. He is suffering; He is long suffering as He waits for us to prepare for His return.

—I knew before I got there the pain He was in—but now having felt His pain so intensely and having seen the sadness in His eyes, it is more than I can stand. —

NOW IS THE TIME

I need to tell you He is suffering and He is waiting. He is long-suffering while He waits for us to get ready for His return. He wants you to know that if you don't get ready you will miss Him, it will be too late and that very much hurts Him.

When He returns the time for grace will have ended. He will not be able to change the names already recorded and blotted out of the Book of Life.

—Revelation 3:5 Thus shall he who conquers (is victorious) be clad in white garments, and I will not erase or blot out his name from the Book of Life; I will acknowledge him [as Mine] and I will confess his name openly before My Father and before His angels. AMPC

The time of testing is at hand now. Now is the time for us to get to know Him and decide if we will love Him.

THE HOUR OF JESUS HAS COME!

His voice was strong and stern as His Words pulled me straight up into a sitting position on the edge of my bed. I felt as if I was a soldier at attention before King Jesus. As He stood there next to the door—I heard Him sternly declare—*The Hour Of Jesus has come*—then I heard, *What does that mean Lord?* He answered—*A TIME OF TESTING IS AT HAND!*

Two days later early in the morning I heard Him again, *A GREAT HOUR OF TESTING IS AT HAND!* This time His voice was above my head—it caused me to look up!—Two seconds later I heard Him again. He sternly said, *I AM FRUSTRATED—OBEY ME!*

Now is the time to get ready, there is no time to waste, we must get ready. The Bridegroom is at hand!

Jesus is knocking at the door of your heart and longs for you to answer Him. He is waiting for you to say it is okay for Him to rescue you from what is about to happen. Will you let Him? Will you take heed to this time of testing and get to know Him and decide if you love Him?

Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears *and* listens to *and* heeds My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will eat with him, and he [will eat] with Me. AMPC

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