



Above Rubies

A New Thing

I've been in a place where I didn't feel strong enough in spirit to write or do much else by faith, but I've been in the word solid since the death of my first husband and have been married to my lovely second husband almost two years and feel stronger. Finding my footing has been my goal for the past four years, and knowing my foundation is the Word of God I settled into keeping my face in the word and in prayer. Without the spiritual force of faith working I have nothing to give, but I'm feeling compelled to share what I've been learning. I haven't arrived, but I don't really expect to until I enter the eternal pearly gates of heaven. I trust that you will be touched by the lessons I've learned and can glean something good for your life. God has placed within each one of us gifts and callings for the other members of the Body of the Anointed One. The storms I have faced, the trials I have found victory over are for your benefit. I praise God for the challenges I've faced and have overcome. His faith works and has worked for me. I'm here for you as long as He sees fit.

What's Love Got to do with it?

"Love them, they don't know what love is." These words were spoken to me audibly by the Lord some 27 years ago. I was facing the greatest challenge of my life and I had asked God for answers. I knew it was a matter of life and death and that's what I told Him.

My first husband had been having an affair with my then "best friend". It was my 30th birthday and my husband was planning to leave me for her. I was devastated. He was so wrapped up in deception he was lost. Ignorant to the trap the adversary had set, he fell for the bait; hook, line and proverbial sinker.

Here I am so many years past this and those words still echo in my heart and mind. They have proved to be the answer to more situations than I can count. They are more than likely

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The answer to many of your problems as well. Love is one of the ONLY things we have guaranteed NEVER to fail.

1 Corinthians 13:8 Charity NEVER faileth.

The word here “charity” is AGAPE in Greek. It is the divine love of God. The apostle Paul writing to the Romans also tells us that **“the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit”, Romans 5:5**. This man learned a great deal about the love of God. Initially he was responsible for spying on, capturing, imprisoning and killing Christian believers in such numbers the Lord literally left his throne in heaven to stop his progress. Paul was zealous for God, but not according to faith. He loved God with a natural kind of love. After his encounter with the Lord on the road to Damascus, he became a man with a love mission. And so I too was given a love mission for the people around me; lost, angry, hurting and hating folks.

God is no respecter of persons. The day He spoke these words, “Love them, they don’t know what love is” He was speaking to whosoever. I’m nobody special and I know that oh so well. My initial response to these words wasn’t lovely. I no more wanted to love my former “best friend” than I wanted to have a dozen root canals. It took me a while to realize God was serious and I had no idea what He was talking about. I’m still learning how to walk in love. God is love and He loves individuals individually. A prime example is my new marriage. I honestly thought it would be a piece of cake to be married a second time. I had 34 years of experience under my belt. Hah! My new husband, Roy is so different than my late husband. Everyday I discover another new thing I have no idea how to deal with. I have to walk by faith each step of the way just as I did with my first marriage. Whew, I had no clue. I have to talk to God about loving my new husband just as I had to with my first husband. Roy is a man, but he needs and wants things in his own way and in his own time. If my new marriage is a piece of cake, it has to be the most complicated recipe on the planet.

God loves you in a distinct and unique way. He knows the ins and outs of your heart. He knows things about you that you don’t even know. He knew you before He formed you in your mother’s womb! That is real love. He wants the very best for you. He sees you through pure love and has a great plan for your life!

It requires a great deal of faith to walk by love and walking in faith must be done with the love of God. They are both intertwined.

Galatians 5:6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

As you can see, faith and love are forever entwined. You can’t have one without the other. Our commandment is the commandment of love. We are to love God with all our be-

What's Love Got to do with it?.....continued

ing and love one another as we love ourselves.

So many of us have no clue how to love ourselves, so we are even more clueless in loving our neighbor. A study of love in 1 Corinthians 13 and 1st, 2nd and 3rd John will help us walk in the God kind of love.

If you want your faith to be productive I exhort you to do what I did. Take time to really consume the truths contained in the above scriptures and then ask God to love through you. Ask Him for grace to love Him like He wants loved as well. You can't do a thing without His grace and you must ask Him for grace for every step you take. I pray you find these words encouraging and will do more than just be a hearer, but a doer of the word as well.



Fall Food Ideas

If you're anything like me you run out of ideas for meals. Here is a list of menu ideas with alternates for the upcoming fall season. You may have favorite recipes or with a little time on Pinterest or Google you can find your own new favorite recipe.

- Chili (use smoked brisket instead of ground beef for a different flavor, you'll be surprise how yummy it is.)
- Potato Soup (add leeks for a different flavor)
- Grilled cheese & tomato soup (try using tomato basil or instead of cheddar or American use pepper jack)
- Stuffed bell peppers (how about using quinoa in place of rice and up your protein intake)
- Instead of potatoes as a side dish how about baking acorn squash with butter and brown sugar.
- Shred zucchini and yellow squash, then sauté them with onions and garlic. Use them in place of meat in your lasagna for a meatless meal.
- Look up porcupine meatballs. These are a comfort food. Serve with warm French bread and a green vegetable.
- Beef stew is yummy with open faced peanut butter sandwiches.
- Macaroni and cheese with green chiles is a nice change up. Serve with grilled beef kilbasa!
- Beef wieners with sauerkraut is a fall favorite. Serve them on crusty baguettes with Swiss cheese for Reuben styled meal. A warm fruit compote makes a different side dish.
- For dessert make rice pudding or tapioca.
- The world's easiest mousse: 1 pack instant pudding, a cup of Cool Whip, a cup of milk. Mix with a whisk. Serves four. Add graham cracker crumbs in the bottom and toppings like chocolate chips for a fancy dessert.
- Bon appetit

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Praying for our children...

Psalms 86:16 O turn unto me, and have mercy upon me; give thy strength unto thy servant, and save the son (child) of thine handmaid. 17 Shew me a token for good; that they which hate me may see it, and be ashamed: because thou, LORD, hast holpen me, and comforted me.

This is a prayer I pray over my daughter. I have also shared it with her to pray over her children. When they are in any sort of trouble we pray this. I have personally seen countless “tokens” of God working salvation in the life of my daughter. I share this with you now!

Last But Not Least

We all go through seasons in our lives. I personally am in the late summer or early Autumn of my life. I am fast approaching my sixties and though life is slower, I am nonetheless busy. Autumn is harvest time, time to reap those things I have sown. Thankfully I’ve spent the majority of my life sowing good seed from God’s word in my life. I’m ready to reap the wisdom from the seeds I’ve sown.

The bible itself is cyclic or seasonal. The Jewish folks read the bible in Torah portions over and over. Yeshua/Jesus being the Torah made flesh lived out these portions. If you understand this cyclic way of thinking, you can see the seasonal patterns as you read through the word.

I exhort you to begin looking at your own life. Look for seasons of sowing, watering, and reaping. Look for seasons of dormancy where it appears winter like and where nothing appears to be happening. It should make it easier to be patient when you feel “dry” or even “dead” spiritually. The Lord taught in the parable of the sower that everything in the kingdom of heaven was like a sower sowing seed. Every farmer knows there are times to plow, sow, water, fertilize, wait and then finally harvest. Then comes winter and it looks like everything is dead, but it’s resting. Rest is vital. Israel didn’t take Sabbaths so they went into bondage for 400 years. Let the seasons of your life happen. You won’t regret it.

