

Love & Forgiveness

Love cannot truly occur without forgiveness; and forgiveness cannot occur without love – these two are symbiotic...inextricably joined and united.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said: “A deep man believes that the evil eye can wither, that the heart’s blessing can heal, and that love that overcome all odds.”

Again, love heals all wounds and is the final victor; it has always been so, and will always be...for love is always...

Jesus said: Love your neighbor as yourself; but he went on to instruct his disciples (and all believers) to pray for and to love your enemies – those who purposely or intentionally aim to hurt or destroy you. But how can we love such as these?

It is not in our nature to do so; moreover, we are inclined to respond or react; ironically out of fear...and not courage. No, to love instead is to follow the course of courage and hope.

But how do we follow the course of courage and hope?

We look for this track, this path, in God’s word and by the life of Jesus; there, we will find for those *who seek, find*. Christ was afraid, but the father gave him the courage to go on; God gave him hope – as he does all of us. Without hope, what do we live for; why do we live at all?

Dr. Larry Crabb tells us that “hope is the antidote for disappointment...” Disappointments are a part of life...and are unavoidable. It is not the mitigation of disappointments or as impossible, the elimination – but life is about how we react to or confront these matters...and what matters!

If we react with demand – thinking the world owes us something – we are sorely disappointed, angry, even bitter; on the other hand, if we embrace the disappointments knowing that hope lies solely in God, then we are free – to forgive...love.

We are instructed in Matthew 6 to forgive others that we may be forgiven; indeed, such conditions are in the *Lord’s Prayer*. Therefore, we must forgive; we must find a way to forgive; we must find love as it really is...

Faith brings us to *the course*, hope takes along it, and forgiveness & love enable us to finish it.

Well done, my courageous son

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