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February - 2014

Dear Friends,

Discipleship – Mentorship! Living! Loving! Life!

Let's start by reading from God's Word...

Col 3:12 You are the people of God; he loved you and chose you for his own. So then, you must clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

Col 3:13 Be **tolerant** with one another and **forgive** one another whenever any of you has a complaint against someone else. You must forgive one another just as the Lord has forgiven you.

Col 3:14 And to all these qualities add love, which binds all things together in perfect unity.

Col 3:15 The peace that Christ gives is to guide you in the decisions you make; for it is to this peace that God has called you together in the one body. **And be thankful.**

Col 3:16 Christ's message in all its richness must live in your hearts. **Teach and instruct one another with all wisdom.** Sing psalms, hymns, and sacred songs; sing to God with **thanksgiving in your hearts.**

Col 3:17 Everything you do or say, then, should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, as you give thanks through him to God the Father. (GNB).....And.....

2Ti 2:24 And the **servant of the Lord** must not be quarrelsome (fighting and contending). Instead, he must be **kindly** to everyone and mild-tempered [**preserving the bond of peace**]; he must be a skilled and suitable teacher, patient and forbearing and **willing** to suffer wrong.

2Ti 2:25 He must correct his opponents with courtesy and gentleness, in the hope that **God may grant that they will repent and come to know the Truth [that they will perceive and recognize and become accurately acquainted with and acknowledge it].**

2Ti 2:26 And that they may come to their senses [and] escape out of the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him, [henceforth] to do His [God's] will. (Amp).

*This month I want to **share the contents of a letter** sent to a hurting member of our brethren. **We all live in a very real but fallen and imperfect world, with real, but fallen and imperfect people.** Yes, and numbered amongst the members are our closest family and friends. They are the ones who usually cause us the most grief; simply because they are the ones with whom we have the most of ourselves, invested. Because **“Living, Loving and Life”** consumes every hour of every day for all of us; it is important for us to recognise any issue, and **promptly deal with it in the correct manner, with the correct motive.** Always, be firm but be fair! **And, only and always, be motivated by “LOVE”.***

Faith works by LOVE, (Gal 5:6), and LOVE never fails! Amen!

*I want for us to **“learn”** from this letter! **It is very relevant information for the perilous times in which we live.** Every day, we encounter so much hurt and anger; bitterness and resentment; we almost feel overwhelmed! We have all heard the comments:- **“They are unequally yoked”- or - “But he is Catholic”,** etc. There are so many people who can relate to this situation, I believe the Lord would want for us to - **stop, look and listen!** I guess it is not all that much different to some of the letters the apostle Paul wrote to the Churches, way back then...! Come share with me some of the advice I shared with my dear friend. Perhaps you too, may find blessings, amongst the **“nuggets”** within!*

Oh darling!!! How that breaks my heart to hear you say you have longed to be loved all these years, but have only felt judgement! I am so sorry for having neglected you. Please accept my sincerest apologies...I am so sorry. I had no idea you felt that way. I too, at times, have been incredibly disappointed with other believing friends. I question the sincerity of some? That is not a personal reflection on you...just sharing similar frustrations.

Thank you for sharing from your heart, with me. That has been an incredible teaching tool for me. God has used your sharing, to encourage me, and to tell me, - that His ways are always perfect, however much we may try to resist... and for however long...!!! ***He would want for me to use His Truth to encourage you and others, by this Good News!*** Amen!

*NOW... as for **God's perfect timing**... absolutely, **this is it!!!** We are meant to be in touch, **and right now!!!** I cannot emphasize that enough. God doesn't make mistakes, and he don't make no trash, neither!!! (Excuse my grammar). **You are so special to HIM!!! So special - He walked ahead of you, and provided someone ‘special’ to come into your life - to hold you, speak to you, to look into your eyes and see the real - beautiful soul, that you are. Someone who would share with you, and care for you. HE - provided the human arms (we require), whilst walking in the flesh! Isn't that wonderful! It was GOD who said that it was not good that man should be alone, and I believe Him! Yeah! Let me remind you...***

Gen 2:18 Now the Lord God said, It is not good (sufficient, satisfactory) that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper meet (suitable, adapted, complementary) for him.

I don't want to be beating up on any of your family, or “friends” for that matter, but... hear this!!!

It is God's job to JUDGE...

It is the Holy Spirit's job to CONVICT...

It is our job to LOVE...

LOVE, LOVE, LOVE!!! That's the job of the brotherhood of the brethren...the church!!! Me and you - (plus, your family members; and mine)...!!! **We are running out of time!!! We need to get over our pious little selves and get into Christ... and go "make disciples"...**just like He told us to do, in Matthew 28:19!!! And I have this incredibly naive idea - that to have a friend, first you must be oneAnd even funnier; to know that my Jesus, had that same idea, and said that same thing. Let me remind you: -

Joh 13:34 I give you a new commandment: that you should love one another. Just as I have loved you, so you too should love one another.

Joh 13:35 By this shall all [men] know that you are My disciples, if you love one another [if you keep on showing love among yourselves].

I'm sorry!!! Did I miss something??? I understood HIM to say that we should LOVE!!! And "keep on showing LOVE... even amongst ourselves"... and especially our family.

Now, we all may have family members that simply and blatantly, spit in the face of God on a daily basis. They may be disgusting in every sense of the word. **But it is not our job to be in their face about their choices. It is my job to love them!** From a distance - maybe; (because God also says, {see Isaiah 32:6 and 2 Tim 2:23}, to have nothing to do with a fool), and to **respect their choices, whether I like them or not.** Now it's at about that point that we sort the men from the boys. I have not met many people who have learned to fly above "offense"...! Most persons want to justify their behaviour, speech, etc. **But when I last looked, my Bible still read: -**

*Heb 10:30 For we know Him Who said, **Vengeance is Mine** [retribution and the meting out of full justice rest with Me]; **I will repay** [I will exact the compensation], says the Lord. And again, **The Lord will judge and determine and solve and settle the cause and the cases of His people.** [Deut. 32:35, 36.]*

I have this policy: - If I don't have a mandate; compulsion in my spirit; and the assurance beyond doubt; that what I want to say is Holy Spirit inspired; then I shut up!!! And the Lord only, knows how difficult that is for me to do. But I am mastering that art. Thank you Jesus! I can do all things through HIM...! Amen.

Let me give you a - **new mandate....JUST LOVE!** Pray for them all every day, even many times a day, if they come to mind, with no expectation of anything from them. No expectation equals - no hurt. **That is forgiveness.** I have learned to 'Thank the Lord' for whomever, and ask Him to wrap them up in His arms, and do with them as He would please; (Thy will be done, Lord), because - **it is not my job to change anyone - - ever! I am simply asked to love them,** however difficult that may be sometimes!!!

This is life changing. **This is the TRUTH...and the TRUTH will set you FREE...every time...not just some of the time!!!** This, my love, is Freedom...**FREEDOM in CHRIST!!!** Whoohoo!!! I am excited for you. You are about to embark on a whole new experience; a whole new journey! This will (may) empower you - to become the catalyst your family requires for healing. You may (or may not) be the person the Lord may use to see this happen. Remember what Jesus said about His own walk, among His own family... others would listen and He could perform miracles, but NOT among His own!!! So, like me, you may just have to leave their being influenced for the better, up to some other - God appointed and God anointed person. It doesn't matter. When you think of them, Love them! Pray for them! Praise God for the years they spent getting you to this place. They aren't bad people. Just a little misguided.

Prayer changes things. You cannot control anything about them. You only get to control how you respond to them. If your response is always LOVE...watch; **as they fight with the "divine plan"**. That becomes their problem...NOT yours. I understand that some of our family members are very controlling. I love your family. But, like you, the only persons we get to **control**, is us. Amen! And from God's perspective, that is all that matters.

I want you to be blessed beyond measure. That is also, what God wants for you, on a daily basis. But you need to learn: - **the art of walking in victory!** To do that, you need to **KNOW that you KNOW!** And you are already half way there, because, you have already told me in conversation! **You said: - "Christ died for me and loves me and no matter what anyone says...He is with me"**. Amen! Now, **if you really believe that, then you need to live it!!** Every day you wake, you go meet with the Master, and ask Him what He wants for your life today. **Be specific.** He said to make your requests known to Him. And if you search for Him with ALL your heart, then He would give you the desires of your heart. And He never fails. Remember, back at the beginning we said: - "Faith works by LOVE! And LOVE NEVER FAILS! If something goes amiss, it's always us that have moved the goal posts; just practice being quiet in your spirit, before God! Practice spending all of your day in a **spirit of thanksgiving.** It is very difficult to complain, or vent, when you are thanking the Lord for the person you are thinking about. **This is life changing.** If something comes into your mind that is **not God honouring**, rebuke the devil, in Jesus name, and tell him: - "**No, devil, they are not my thoughts, they are your thoughts; so you, and them, can just get out, and go back to pit of hell, where you belong.**" And thank Jesus that He is all you need... and get on with the rest of your day. And, repeat all of this as many times as you need... **until it becomes habitual.** It should be the - "**natural process**" - in your life. **You will find that depression cannot live in such a life as this! Christ permeates your inner being...not depression! Christ is not depressed, and if you overflow with HIM, how can you be?**

So, my love, I hope this has been of some help, and positive encouragement to you. I pray I have been as firm, and yet as gentle, as you require me to be; **that I be heard.** **You don't have time to be wasting being depressed - (which is really only another way of saying...being full of yourself...and we have been told to die to self, daily...and live for Christ).** You are beautiful, articulate, and Oh, so loving and giving, and we feel so blessed and honoured to be considered your friends.

Before I sign this letter off; **... about you and your new man!** You need only answer to God for your choices. Remember, every choice has a consequence. If God be for you, who can be against you? **If you KNOW that you KNOW** - that what you are doing and saying is what God wants, then **DO IT!** If not, you had better be in consultation with Him; repent, and get on with the "**RIGHT**". That does not mean you throw the baby out with the bath water! **He - being Catholic, has nothing to do with you two being together. Him, (names withheld), "being a blood bought son of the living God" - now that is a different question.??!!**

I personally have known some very godly Catholic people, whom I love dearly. It's not about a tag. God does not want for us to be in "unbelieving relationships". But, having said that, **the level of "belief", your partner walks in, is not your business.** Again, **your business is to pray without ceasing, and to LOVE at all times and in all circumstances;** in a spirit of discernment. **Perfect - No! Forgiven - Yes!** If you are in a committed relationship, **don't** get out of it **unless** ...God says to! **God is bigger than all of our stupidities...!!!** If you don't like your circumstances - **then change them!** Learn to 'speak to your mountain'...and watch

as it crumbles into the sea! Amen! **That's what FAITH does. It's the "evidence of things not seen"!** Amen! And I'm not sure you will find anyone qualified, amongst the stone throwers - to argue this next scripture away. **God has made you some promises that He intends to keep! Whoohoo! Now that's shoutin' time about there...**

1Co 7:14 **For the unbelieving husband is set apart (separated, withdrawn from heathen contamination, and affiliated with the Christian people) by union with his consecrated (set-apart) wife, and the unbelieving wife is set apart and separated through union with her consecrated husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean (unblessed heathen, outside the Christian covenant), but as it is they are prepared for God [pure and clean]. (Amp).**

So, even if your man is an unbeliever, there is some consideration given to him here. Watch some of Brother Jesse Duplantis' teaching... He will tell you, **you have to be Catholic at least once!** I have never met a catholic yet, who didn't love Brother Jesse! Amen!

Love you sweetheart. Look forward to your response. Sorry this has been so **long winded**, but **I did not want for you to take anything out of context, or personally offensive;** and so I hope and pray I have been as **definitive as is possible; to bring blessing to you, and Glory to God; my ultimate goal!!!** Amen! **I am going to sign this off with a very memorable quote from Oswald Chambers. Since discipleship and mentoring, and the Truth of God's Word, is paramount to how we grow one another up into spiritual maturity - have a read of what he says, and be blessed. And I quote...**

"Remember that a disciple is committed to much more than belief in Jesus; he is committed to his Lord's view of the world; of men; of God, and of sin. Take stock of your views and compare them with the New Testament, and never get tricked into thinking that the Bible does not mean what it says, when it disagrees with you. Disagree with what our Lord says, by all means, if you like; but never say that the Bible does not mean what it says." Oswald Chambers.

Thank you for sharing this journey with us. It is a longer letter this time, but necessary to cover the ground. We live in a **real, but "fallen" world; with real, but "fallen" people – family and friends;** and we need to be a shoulder to lean on, and have an ear to listen, with a heart of **LOVE**, when our brother or sister is Christ, is in need. **Remember the great commission...Mat 28:19 "Go then and make disciples..."** **Disciple** comes from a Latin word meaning **"learner"** and discipline comes from one meaning **"instruction, knowledge."**

Yep! Discipleship – Mentoring - is exactly what this is! Living! Loving! Life! Enjoy!

Till next month

From my house to yours

Blessings of the abundant kind!

Leila Nord.

