

www.giftsofmercy.org

December 2011

Our Goal is to Love like Jesus

Having a goal means to start at a point of agreement in time and purpose to arrive at a destination, and/or achieve a goal we have set until it is reached, whether it is tangible or intangible. It can be money, physical, spiritual, relational, job related, etc. The important thing is to realize that we are not going to get there overnight, and we are not there currently.

Love is different than most goals because it is something we need to achieve by command of the Lord, but it is not within us to perform it ourselves. Loving like Jesus cannot be performed in our own strength; it is supernatural. Jesus has already conquered death, fear, hate, and all sin under the sun through His death on the cross, and shedding His Blood for us. God is love. His Son Jesus prepared the way for us by demonstrating His love to us by dying for us. He commanded us to be like Him by loving Him first; then ourselves; by forgiving ourselves as Jesus did, and then others as He has loved us. "Freely you have received; so freely give." We cannot love others; if we cannot love and forgive ourselves first through Jesus. We cannot give to others what we have not given to ourselves, and that is forgiven love by Jesus. Otherwise, His death would have been in vain. What Jesus wants from us daily is our sins; so, we can worship, praise, and love Him; without being hindered, encumbered, distracted, and weighted down by our sins. He wants us to be free from our sins to serve Him in the best capacity we can daily; renewed, joyfully, and free as a bird.

It is accomplished through choice, will, submission, surrender, and obedience through the Holy Spirit's power for God's purpose, glory, and all our good; including the greater good of all mankind while here on earth; which will be further understood and revealed in Heaven.

We start our love goal by making a choice to "love God with all our heart, mind, soul, spirit, strength, and our neighbor as ourselves" that is the beginning point. That means with all of our being that is within us; we commit and surrender ourselves to His loving power and commands. It is a no excuses command that will never go away, and it rests above our head as a cloud of love that watches over us day and night, like the cloud by day and the pillar by night for the children of Isreal walking toward their promised land. God's love command is to all mankind, forever, and will never be relinquished. His command to love is a "you must love" God with everything in your being. Obedience and adherence to love Him has all the power, strength, and grace to overcome all temptations and incongruities in our being. It purifies us and makes us holy.

God knows we are not going to get it right the first, second, or third time. It is a process that we are in called life, and we need to be forgiven daily for our mistakes, errors, misjudgments, and sins; and His grace will bring us to maturity; if we don't give up and die before we reach our goal. If we die prematurely; that's ok you are in heaven then; we are not talking about salvation here; we are talking about a preferred lifestyle choice that serves God, us, and others best here on this earth. It is the law of God in Heaven and will also be here on this earth during the thousand-year reign of Christ. We know it is His Will to begin today for it is written in the Lord's Prayer: "Your Will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven".

The book called “The Calvary Road” by Roy Hession best exemplifies this daily walk with God in a very simple basic process that we should always keep fresh by following the Holy Spirit’s sensitivity as a dove to empower our life. I would encourage you to read it, make it a part of your personal library, basic Christian understanding, and follow the guidelines to genuine love for God.

It is God’s will that we become like Jesus and reflect His Image in our life through grace, forgiveness, love, mercy, and wisdom. Making our goal to love as God loves takes us through a spiritual love journey until we reach maturity. Reaching maturity means that we are now able and equipped to further develop our love skills and continue until we meet Jesus face to face at His Second Coming, or death; whichever comes first.

Loving God is a lifelong goal, but we will never be perfect and sinless in this life until Jesus returns to gather His saints for His thousand-year reign on the earth. We don’t have to be perfect because only Jesus was perfect, but we need to be forgiven, and that is the mark of the high calling in Christ Jesus to be perfect in our forgiveness toward ourselves and others. Sinless we will never be but forgiven we will be; if we forgive others as Jesus has forgiven us. Loving God and others as He loved us is a goal we will never fully reach; until we meet Jesus’ face to face. That is why it is called a goal; we work to that end; but we will never arrive and be perfect. “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth (God’s Love) is not in us.” I John 1:8.

¹⁶This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord, **I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them.**

¹⁷**And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.**” Heb 10:16-17 KJV

November 2011

God's Love and Ours

We Love God Because He First Loved Us.

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born again because of what God has done. That person knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

⁹ How did God show his love for us? He sent his one and only Son into the world. He sent him so we could receive life through him.

¹⁰ What is love? It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins.

¹¹ Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we should also love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God. But if we love one another, God lives in us. His love is made complete in us.

¹³ We know that we belong to him, and he belongs to us. He has given us his Holy Spirit.

¹⁴ The Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. We have seen it. We give witness to it. ¹⁵ God lives in anyone who agrees that Jesus is the Son of God. That kind of person remains joined to God. ¹⁶ So we know that God loves us. We depend on it.

God is love. Anyone who leads a life of love shows that he is joined to God. And God is joined to him.

¹⁷ So love is made complete among us. We will be bold on the day God judges us. That's because in this world we love as Jesus did.

¹⁸ There is no fear in love. Instead, perfect love drives fear away. Fear has to do with being punished. The one who fears does not have perfect love.

¹⁹ We love because he loved us first. ²⁰ Anyone who says he loves God but in fact hates his brother or sister is a liar. He doesn't love his brother or sister, whom he has seen. So he can't love God, whom he has not seen.

²¹ Here is the command God has given us. Anyone who loves God must also love his brothers and sisters. I John 4:7-21 RSV

¹⁶This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them.

www.giftsofmercy.org

October 2011

God is a Covenant God

God has made an agape love covenant with His people, and He commands us to love one another as Jesus has loved us. God wants a two-way love relationship that is free and voluntary. He created us in His image for His pleasure, and by His grace our willing and loving obedience determines our love relationships.

**“A New Command I give to you.
LOVE ONE ANOTHER, as I have LOVED YOU,
so you must LOVE ONE ANOTHER.
By this ALL will know that You are My Disciples,
If YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER.”
John 13:34-35 NIV**

Benefits:

- 1) God’s commands are always good for us and gives us strength. “His commands are not grievous” (and obeying them will not hurt us).
- 2) His protection is around us.
- 3) It is healthy for us.
- 4) It keeps us emotionally and mentally intact, gracious, blessed, strong, confident, assurance by faith, prosperity, and gives us the ability to fulfill our purpose, plan, and vision God has for each person.
- 5) Obeying His love commandment gives us His **power and grace**, mercy, wisdom, the fruits of the Spirit; love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance; against which no laws can prevail.
- 6) God’s love is the strongest force in the universe. It is stronger than death, hate, and fear.
- 7) God’s love overcomes all; He never gives up, and His love never fails us.
- 8) Does God expect us to keep our marriage covenant with our spouse, as with God? Yes, “until death do us part”.

I Corinthians 7:10 – 14 says:

“To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband. But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife. To the rest I say this: if any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. The unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise, your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.” (39): A woman is bound to her husband if he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord.”

Making the marriage vow “until death do us part” is an oath and command from the Lord, and is an agreement to love, serve God, our spouse, and our children as covenant partners in Christ Jesus; until death parts us. Failure to

keep our marriage vows is the biggest single reason why we are experiencing as individuals, family, and people in our nation, a severe drought and famine of God's agape love. It is our connection to Him, and our blessings depend on our love and obedience to Him. The consequences for our disobedient choices are separation, hate, loneliness, poverty, strife, anger, fear, divorce, lack, unmerciful events, and destruction, because of our unforgiving hearts.

As we are as a family; so are we as a nation. Return to God and He will return to us. The conclusion of the matter: King Solomon is celebrated as the wisest, richest, and most understanding King in the world ever to exist; he recognizes his folly after many wives and says this in Ecclesiastes 12:11-14 NIV: "The words of the wise are like goads, their collected sayings like firmly embedded nails- **given by one Shepherd. Be warned, my son, of anything in addition to them.** Of making many books there is no end, and much study wearies the body. Now all has been heard; **here is the conclusion of the matter: "Fear God and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil."**

This is a true picture of law, grace, forgiveness, love, and mercy provided by Jesus Christ; and we all have sinned, and we all need Christ's forgiveness.

¹⁶This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord,

I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them.

¹⁷And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. Heb 10:16-17 KJV

- 9) Loving God does not come without persecution. The world hates God, His commandments, and us because love is the opposite of rebellion, disobedience, hate, and fear. Do not think that something strange has/is happening to you when you are hated. It is in God's plan that we are baptized into His sufferings just as He has suffered. The servant is not greater than His Lord. "A man's enemies are those of His own household" **quoted by Jesus in Mt. 10:36.**
- 10) Loving God is the single most important thing we can do with our life to Glorify God while we are here on this earth.
- 11) Choosing to love God and one another is like grabbing onto the Rod of God He gave to Moses. We individually possess the power to be able to do all things through Christ who strengthens us in all areas of our life. His grace becomes sufficient for all our needs; and Jesus, God, and the Holy Spirit literally lock their arms of love around us to support, encourage, heal, comfort, and protect us with Their Holy Love and wall of Fire. **Make the decision Today** and experience the true rapture of God's love. Let His everlasting arms pick you up and carry you through every trial, temptation, turmoil, hardship, heart ache, fear, grief, loss, into complete victory that Jesus has promised you when you accepted Him as Savior, and Lord with the full love of God.
- 12) God told Moses that He gave permission for divorce for **basically one thing; "because of the hardness of your hearts"** to not love and forgive one another; but from the beginning it was not what He intended. God hates divorce. God wants us to receive His forgiveness, grace, power, perfect love, favor, and experience the original Adam and Eve marriage before sin entered

- into the world. By one man's sin all were condemned; and by one man's obedience, sacrifice, and death; Jesus prevailed and gave us His new inheritance. Now all can experience His forgiving love and relationships as it was in the beginning in the Garden of Eden and be holy and whole.
- 13) Once you make the choice to Love God fully with all your heart, soul, mind, strength, and your neighbor as yourself. You will experience a love that you will never want to lose, and never want to return and wallow with the pigs in the mud hole of this world. "No eye has seen, nor ear heard, neither entered into the heart of man what God has prepared for those who love Him." Whatever you can imagine; God's love is greater. Let Him reveal it to you day by day as you are obedient to His command, will, and call by faith.
- 14) To God be the Glory and Blessed be the name of the Lord Jesus. God created man in His Own Image; so we can enjoy the eternal riches starting in this world through His Heavenly Kingdom of faith, love, hope, and charity. And in the world to come Eternal Life in Heaven where Jesus has prepared a place for us eternally without end with Him.
- 15) The question was asked recently: **How do I get in agreement with God?**
First, accept God's plan of forgiveness and Grace by faith by asking Jesus to forgive your sins and invite Jesus into your heart, as Savior and Lord.
Second, we need to acknowledge what the Word of God says about us, after being born again. We are now a new creation, forgiven saints, sons, and daughters of God. We are now new citizens of heaven; we have a new inheritance, spiritual, and divine nature to become like our Savior Jesus. Accepting our new nature is the most important thing you can do after receiving Jesus into your heart. Jesus will never leave you or forsake you.
Third, agreement means to acknowledge what God has said and done for us at the cross through Jesus, and walk in the faith and forgiveness given to you by the Holy Spirit when you were born again. The old has passed and all things are become new. Wash and cleanse yourself daily by asking Christ's forgiveness whenever you sin, and forgive yourself; because you will sin. I John 1:8 says, "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us." Walk in forgiveness so you will be walking freely, unencumbered, and unburdened by any sin. Jesus lives inside you now and your body is now the new temple of the Holy Spirit of God.
Fourth, verbalize your new nature in your expressions and confessions of faith back to God in prayer, praise, and worship; both private and public. daily unto the Lord. You have God's grace, favor, and blessing in everything you do as a new creation. Read the Bible daily, tune into Christian radio & TV, get in a bible study, find a loving, Bible practicing church to fellowship and grow into a mature believer and disciple of Jesus Christ.

September 2011

This is the time to receive Gods blessings of the Harvest of God's abundance. His love is made manifest to us through the Holy Spirit, and by our obedience to His New Commandment to "**love one another as Christ has loved us...and.....by this shall all men know that you are my disciples.**" Obeying His New Commandment is all we need to be successful in His Kingdom on Earth as it is in Heaven.

The many feasts that traditionally took place during the Jewish holidays in September give honor to God for His many blessings in our life through His Son Jesus Christ our Lord. They will continue on into the new millennium after Jesus returns with His Church to rule and reign a thousand years. The blood covenant Jesus has made with us by dying on the cross for our sins; enables us to receive His grace, mercy, healing, forgiveness, and blessings to live bountiful lives of service on earth to our King, Master, Lord, Savior, and Redeemer; until He calls us to Heaven.

The harvest of souls is coming to fulfill God's prophecy of the reapers sent forth by his angels to thrust forth their cycle and reap the harvest of wheat. Only the angels can reap the harvest with the combined tares and wheat together; so as not to damage God's work but to destroy the works, the plantings of the seeds, weeds, and tares of the devil.

August 2011

".....Give glory, honor, and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, and who lives forever and ever. Rev 4: 9.

Let all Believers and Saints of God give glory, honor, and thanks to Him who sits on the Throne, and who lives forever and ever. He is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. He is worthy to be praised and to receive glory, honor, and thanks because He is the Only One who can and will deliver us from evil, and the hour of temptation that will come upon the earth. He will deliver all Believers from the traps, chains, and seduction of the world system. He is worthy of our praise. He is worthy to open the door to our deliverance. Praise Him night and day, all day continuously; until Jesus returns and delivers us. PG!

For a great glimpse of Heaven read:

Forty Days in Heaven the True Testimony of Seneca Soda's Visitation to Paradise, the Holy City and the Glory of God's Throne by Rev. Scott Elwood. For online publication ISBN 978-145-05125-1-0

July 2011

LOVE IS THE PRINCIPAL THING

Love is the principal thing. What is love? Love is defined as God himself. **God is love.** It is God likeness in every aspect and detail. Can you get your arms around that? Well, let's start by getting a closer look at the real meaning of love.

- 1) It is not predominately a feeling but a choice.
- 2) It starts with a decision to know and get acquainted with the living God.
- 3) God loved us so much that He gave his best gift through His Son Jesus who died on the cross and forgave our sins. He took our punishment for us and paid for our sins so that we can have eternal life and live with Him in Heaven.
- 4) "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16"
- 5) We receive Jesus by His gift of faith, and faith believes. Jesus gives us faith to believe and when we take the first step in acknowledging belief in Jesus; **we are saved!** You are now a born-again believer! You are a child of God, a new baby.
- 6) It is very important for you to accept and believe this fact; **you are now born again.**
- 7) That's the beginning and gets us into the door of the Kingdom of Love (Heaven). He is now living in your heart and will communicate and live with you, and never leave you or forsake you.
- 8) Call on Jesus today and He will show you great and mighty things which we do not know.
- 9) As a new believer, a new child of God; you need nourishment; spiritual food for strength. "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."
- 10) The enemy of your soul, Satan; will challenge you and try to make you believe that nothing happened. You will get feelings and emotions that are good and bad. You can't trust your feelings. You made a choice, a decision, and that is the fact you believe, not your feelings.
- 11) Ask Jesus to fill and baptize you with His Holy Spirit. He is the Comforter sent by Jesus until His visible return to nurture, love, bless, fellowship, and protect you from the enemy until He returns, or you are called into Heaven; whichever comes first.
- 12) Read the scriptures daily. Start with I, II, & III John (the no excuses book); this will give you a good foundation in the love of God to grow and mature. Then read the gospel of John, Psalms, and Proverbs for daily encouragement and wisdom.
- 13) Get in a good bible believing fellowship group if you can. If it is not possible to do so; you can get great faith bible teaching on tv, cable, or the internet to help you along with your newborn faith in Jesus Christ.
- 14) Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you all things according to His Word, the Scriptures.
- 15) Enjoy your newfound faith, love, forgiveness, and freedom in Jesus Christ who has forgiven you of all your sins. Praise Him continually. It is very important that you also forgive yourself and agree with God about yourself. Freely as He has forgiven me, so I accept and forgive myself. **Forgiveness is God's plan for man that God provided for us through His grace** because are works are not able to deliver and complete us, or we could boast of our own goodness and strength. "For by grace you are saved through faith; not of works; lest any man should boast." Eph 2:8-9.
- 16) Every day humble yourself to God, submit yourself to Him for each day's activities, and ask for His grace and power to lead and guide you. At the end of the day, ask Jesus to forgive you for any unkind, sinful thoughts, actions, and wash yourself clean through the blood of Jesus. It's like taking a shower at the end of the day to clean ourselves from the sweat, dirt, and normal activities that get us dirty; so we can be a sweet smelling, clean person for God to ourselves and others. It's like spiritual breathing to survive and live in God's power, health, healing, and strength. "Whoever loves God and His brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. I John 2:9" What an amazing promise for us to live by!
- 17) Congratulate yourself for making a wise, living, eternal choice, and share it with someone.

June 2011

“The fields of the harvest are ready to be picked and the laborers are few,” Jesus said. Pray that God open our eyes to see the vision of the harvest and the people who are ready to be invited to accept Jesus into their heart for salvation, all around us, right within our reach.

Whoever wants to, or wills, let them come to Jesus now, “Whoever calls on the name of the Lord Jesus will be saved.” Jesus is reaching out to you right now to ask Him into your heart. If you are reading this and feel God tugging at your heart to receive Him; please do so now while you can. “Today is the day of salvation; make that choice to ask Jesus into your heart to be with you wherever you go. Jesus promised that He would be with us always even to the end of the world, and that He would never leave us or forsake us.

Scripture tells us that all kindred's, peoples, tongues, and nations will be drawn to Him and be saved. If you are Chinese, Asian, Russian, European, American, Japanese, Indian, Spanish, Mexican, Arab, or Jew; whatever your nationality or ethnicity God loves you and wants you to be in Heaven with Him to enjoy the eternal riches of God in Heaven that He has prepared for you. He died for you and me so that our sins can be forgiven, and our names will be written in the Lamb's Book of Life to enter into Heaven.

God is so good, and He is love. Knowing God; is to know love for the first time. He will reveal Himself to you as you seek Him day by day, hour by hour, as you enjoy His presence and forgiveness of your sins daily. Get a bible you can read and start reading in I, II, and III John of the New Testament. Love is the main them, foundation, and knowledge that helps us to grow and become a mature Christian. “Jesus gave us a new command to “Love God and one another, as He has loved us.” Then also read daily in the Gospel of John, Psalms, and Proverbs for your daily spiritual food and growth. You will grow and be blessed and become a new person in Christ and He will strengthen you daily.

Jesus said, “Whoever believes in me, in my name, will be saved...and whoever wants to let them come of such is the Kingdom of God.” You don't need to be in a church to receive Christ. You can do it right now wherever you are, just say, “Lord Jesus, I believe in you, I ask you to come into my heart and life, forgive me of all my sins, and I freely receive you as my Lord and Savior and the forgiveness of all my sins. Thank you for dying on the cross, saving me, and giving me your eternal life so I can be in Heaven with you and enjoy the eternal riches, blessings, and life with you always, Amen.”

Thank God and praise Jesus always for your new life, forgive others freely as He has freely forgiven you, and you will be blessed, loved, and free. Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty; you have been liberated by Christ. Walk in His love, Amen.

www.giftsofmercy.org

May 2011

Today we are having floods, earthquakes, tsunamis, tornadoes, wars, pestilence, economic destruction, which is predicted as “the beginning of sorrows” in the scripture. Jesus said, “Occupy until I come.” The newspapers and all the media report a very dismal and gloomy forecast for the future.

Is there any hope for today? What increases our hope? Love hopes all things, endures all things, it never gives up, and it will keep us from stumbling; it never fails us. That is an amazing promise from God to love because He is Love.

God said, “Love God with all our heart, soul, mind, strength, and our neighbor as ourselves.” Jesus gave us a new commandment to “Love one another, as I have loved you.” This builds our hope, strength, and guides us as we steer our ship through the storms of life. It keeps us from destruction, casts out all fear, and our ships from being broken up as we are faced with life’s difficulties, and choose to love God and others.

It is all fueled by one main ingredient, “forgiveness”. Loving God and one another is our only solution that will bring us good results and heal us. Number two is “humility”, and number three is “wisdom”, and four is giving thanks to the Lord in and for all things that God allows to come our way. By giving thanks we are saying by faith I trust you and I commit the results to you because you know what is best for me to work out all things for my good benefit.

Do you love God? You can by inviting His Son Jesus into your heart and asking Him to forgive you for all your sins. He will cleanse you and give you His Holy Spirit to fill you, empower, guide, lead, comfort, heal, and give you the greatest love you have ever known with Him. **God is Love.**

www.giftsofmercy.org

April 2011

I have recently been tremendously blessed to read the book: **MY TIME IN HEAVEN**
By Richard Sigmund - ISBN 978-1-60374-123-1.

I highly recommend getting a copy to read; you will be greatly encouraged, and it will definitely increase your hope and joy to carry you through difficult days. It draws you into Heaven as seen by Richard and encourages you to save souls as our time draws nearer each day.

It is a must reading for all Christians.

www.giftsofmercy.org

MARCH 2011

I am back after six months plus sabbatical. I had triple bypass surgery on August 20, 2010. God blessed me with great doctors, rehabilitation care, and cardiac rehab, which ended on December 7, 2010.

I have been building up my strength, I am not where I was before surgery, but I am getting closer every day. I am fighting sugar diabetes, and the last week has been a phenomenal blessing of my sugar being under control around 100-120 for a week plus, and it is the grace of God to which I credit for my continued healing from diabetes and neuropathy-nerve pain from diabetes.

I have been off the internet for the same time and have logged back on since March 22, 2011. I am going through a lot of changes, and I appreciate your prayers for wisdom, strength, courage, and the grace to move ahead in God's divine plan for me and my family.

The scripture for the month of March is: **"Look up for your redemption draws near."**