

Ladies Prayer International Newsletter



United Pentecostal Church December 2017

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Falling in Love with Jesus

By Vercinia Reed



Love frequently begins as an exciting, giddy, all-consuming rush of emotions leading people to declare ecstatically, "I'm falling in love!"

When my husband and I met, we lived two hours apart. We didn't have cell phones in those days, so we relied on landlines, answering machines, and letters. The first time he called, I wasn't home. When I returned his call, he wasn't home. It took several weeks before we finally talked, but when we did, we talked for hours. From the silly to the serious, we never ran out of things to say. We began sharing hopes and dreams, and as months passed, deeper feelings developed, moving us from friendship to love. Moreover, we wanted people to know!

Have we fallen in love with the One who matters most? Have our children? Through His Word and by example, we can encourage them to fall in love with Him, too.

- Spend time communicating with Him. Openly read the Bible. Pray for, and with, your children.
- Display trust in Him. He is reliable. "As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the Lord is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him" (II Samuel 22:31).
- Talk about Him. The more time we spend getting to know Him, the stronger our love grows. As our love and understanding increase, we will naturally bring Him up in conversation.
- Take action. Feed the hungry, clothe the poor, care for the sick, speak a kind word. Get your children involved; faith and works go hand-in-hand (James 2:14-26). Ample opportunities abound.
- Celebrate your relationship with Jesus. "Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation" (Habakkuk 3:18). Sing aloud in praise and worship.

Nineteen years of marriage, two kids, and many responsibilities later, I've learned that love is more than emotion. It is a choice which requires consistent commitment and intention. God's love is unfailingly committed and unerringly intentional. Nothing can separate us from it. When trials come, He has promised to never leave us nor forsake us. When we stumble, He is faithful and just to forgive us. When we feel beyond hope, His mercies are new every morning. His grace is sufficient. Oh, what love!

Are you committed to loving Him with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind? He is pursuing that kind of relationship. It is available to us, and it is available to our children. Falling in love with Jesus is wonderful; staying in love is essential. There is no greater joy than knowing our children walk in truth (III John 1:4).

Note: Vercinia Bailey Reed and her husband, Brad, serve as AIMers in the United Arab Emirates where they pastor Abundant Life Church. They have two children, Jaden, age ten and Elias, age three. Vercinia has a BHS and MHS in Communication Sciences & Disorders and worked as a speech-language pathologist prior to moving to the UAE in 2003.

Tried Faith or Tired Faith

By Jerolyn Kelly



While enjoying a ladies Bible study at our church on the subject of faith, we began reading the chapter 11 Hall of Fame in Hebrews. As we took turns reading, one of the ladies misread part of a verse on Abraham and said "tired" faith rather than "tried" faith. Immediately this slip of the tongue spoke something to my spirit.

How many times have I reached the point of tired faith? I'm not faulting myself or anyone else who has found themselves in this place. It is reality!

Evidently, Abraham-the Father of the Faithful-along with his wife, Sarah, had tired faith. It was understandable considering how long they had waited for the promised child. I have a deep appreciation for Sarah. Although I immigrated from another country, I'm not sure I could have done what Sarah did. When I left my home and familiar surroundings, I knew where I was going to land. Sarah just had to leave all, not knowing where she was going.

Often, over the long haul, we can find ourselves in a place where our faith just gets weary. We keep doing all that we know is right and good. We keep standing on the promises of God; we keep an optimistic outlook and speak positive words. We eat right, sleep right, and take care of our bodies. We pray, we read and meditate on the Word; we stand for Truth and holiness. We evangelize; we disciple; we cast vision and encourage others. It's not that we want to give up, but we do just get tired both naturally and spiritually.

Looking back to Abraham and Sarah, we need to remember that when their faith evidently got tired and waivered a bit, they became vulnerable to their own thinking and devices. They made choices that are still affecting the world today. By giving Sarah's handmaiden, Hagar, to Abraham, Ishmael was born and became the father of the Arab nations. The long-awaited Isaac that Sarah bore became the father of the Jewish nation. Their tired faith led to dire consequences for all mankind.

My mind bounces to the familiar scripture: "Be not weary in well-doing, for in due season you shall reap IF you faint not." Just as the lady had a slip of the tongue in our Bible study, so can we inadvertently and without even knowing it slip into tired faith. Remember Abraham and Sarah and realize your vulnerability to the devices of the enemy in these times. Hold on to the vision and the promises God has given you. Don't let the lack of results or lack of evidence of your faith discourage you.

My husband has often stated that even if he doesn't live to see the revival God has promised, he believes it nevertheless. It's not about you and me! We never know how long lasting and far reaching our efforts may be. When our faith is stretched and tried, be assured God is with us. Perhaps, looking back on past years, your faith became tired. I challenge you that when your faith is tried, don't let it get tired!

It's just a simple reversing of two letters and the word tried becomes tired. It can happen so easily in our spiritual walk without us even realizing it. Every day I must stay in tune with the Spirit and hold onto God's promises. Even though my faith is often tried, I'm not going to let my faith get tired!

Note: Jerolyn Kelley loves doing missionary work in Northern Europe. She lives in Glasgow, Scotland and thanks God for her wonderful husband, children and grandchildren.

From the Mailbox

Dios les bendiga

Gracias por los correos, los he estado recibiendo en Inglés, pero gracias a Dios, me di cuenta que también lo tienen en Español, estoy feliz de poderlos recibir en Español!! Se que seguirán siendo de gran bendición para mi vida y para todas las hermanas de mi congregación, donde la mayoría mas que todo entendemos Español. Gracias y estaré atenta. -Gloria Q

(Translation) God Bless you

Thank You for the post, I have been receiving in English, but thanks to God, I realized that I also have it in Spanish, I am happy to be able to receive in Spanish!! I know you will continue to be of great blessing for my life and for all the sisters of my congregation, where the majority more than all we understand Spanish. Thank you and i will be attentive. -Gloria Q

From the Editor

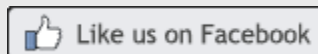


God is doing mighty things!

God is opening many doors and this newsletter is now available in English, Spanish, French, German, Dutch, Portuguese, Russian, Greek, Arabic, Farsi, Czech/Slovak, Chinese, Swahili, Hungarian, Tagalog, Indonesian, Romanian, Italian, Norwegian, Polish, Hindi, Georgian, Japanese, Swedish, Vietnamese, Bangla and Thai. Please help us pray for Serbian, Bulgarian and other translators!

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Who we are . . . Since 1999: Ladies Prayer Intl. is made up of women worldwide, who meet on the first Monday of each month to unite in focused prayer for their children and the children of the local church and community.
Our Mission . . . We are committed to the spiritual preservation of this generation and beyond and the spiritual restoration of previous generations.
Our Need . . . Committed women who will join together on the first Monday of each month and pray focused prayer for their children.

Three Priorities of Prayer...

- The salvation of our children (Isaiah 49:25; Psalm 144:12; Isaiah 43:5-6).
- That they take ownership of the faith at an accountable age (I John 2:25-28; James 1:25).
- That they enter into the ministry of the Lord's harvest (Matthew 9:38).



Ministries we support...

TUPELO CHILDREN'S MANSION

Children live in an environment with opportunity to grow spiritually, physically and emotionally.

NEW BEGINNINGS Maternity care for birth mothers considering adoption and child placement for adoptive couples.

HAVEN OF HOPE A program for girls ages 13-16 with behavioral and emotional issues.

LIGHTHOUSE RANCH for BOYS Healing broken and hurting lives of teen boys



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UPCI Ladies Ministries, 36 Research Park Court, Weldon Spring, MO 63304