

I'm not much of a theologian. I'm not really a biblical scholar. At best I am a lover of the Word. I love to embrace it, to read it, to eat and drink it, as it were. I desire to be consumed by the Word. Mind you, not the printed sentences in our Love Book we know as the Holy Bible, but by the Person who breathed it into existence, by God Himself.

Someone commented to me recently that when teaching I place a heavy emphasis on the fact that God loves us. I was reminded that some other teachers and preachers lay far more emphasis on the God who expects us to repent, to change, to do things His way. And I was asked to explain why I stress His love so much. I had not really analyzed what I stress in this way, but I have decided it is because that is Who He is.

As I read the Word, His Love Letter to me, to you, to all, I am absolutely convinced that He is "ruined" by His love for us. Every thing He has ever done bespeaks His love.

Yes, He is just, Yes, He requires our lives. Yes, He calls us to repent. But that is because He wants to be in the most intimate, caring, fulfilling, divinely transforming relationship with us, both personally and corporately. From Genesis to Revelation, He loves us.

His love for us compelled Him to make creation, to make us, even knowing how we would fail to respond to His friendly (yes, I did say friendly) love. He decided before He even made a speck of dust, to "fix" the devastating results of our "No's" to Him. Oh He loves you. Oh He loves me. Jesus, speaking of his approaching crucifixion said, "But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!"

Scripture scholars liken his comment on that word "straitened" to the feelings of a woman facing imminent childbirth. She as it were, feels pressure to enter into the travails of labor so that it will be successful, and she will be able to embrace the fruit of her suffering.

This is how Jesus felt about me. He love for me in my lost state was so overwhelming that He HAD to come, He HAD to do this for me. He was compelled to it by His love for me. He knew I had nothing good in myself; He knew I would never really turn and become good; He knew I couldn't. So He did it for me. HE WAS COMPELLED TO DIE FOR ME SO THAT I COULD LIVE FOR AND WITH HIM.

My dear and treasured friend, you surely know this is true for you. Listen, oh listen to His love song to you. Listen to Him as He sings over you and me before all of heaven, before all of hell, before all of earth. Listen to His love song to you.

“I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have continued my faithfulness to you. Jeremiah 31:3

“When Israel was a child, I loved him as a son, and I called my son out of Egypt. But the more I called to him, the more he rebelled..... It was I who taught Israel how to walk, leading him along by the hand. But he doesn't know or even care that it was I who took care of him. I led Israel along with cords of kindness and love. I lifted the yoke from his neck, and I myself stooped to feed him.”
Hosea 11:1-2a, 3-4.

Oh can you hear that Father love reaching out for you?
In the sense of His loving care, along with literal Israel He speaks to in this passage, He is talking to you! He is calling out to you. Think about that Scripture:

**“When you were a child, I loved you – like a son. I called you My own son, My own daughter.
I called you out of Egypt, out of the land of unbelief.
I taught you how to walk,
I lead you along BY THE HAND.**

I hear His grief in **“But you don't know or even care that it was I who took care of you.”**

And finally, **“I led you with cords of kindness and love.”** (other translations say kindness and compassion)

**“I lifted the yoke from your neck.
I stooped to feed you.”**

I want to remind you today that God is Love.
and He loves you.
and He wants you to be completely immersed in Him.

He wants to give you rest.
He wants to comfort you.
He wants to heal you.

Would you just think upon these things????? I send you my love in Him this week.

