

RainDancing101.com

Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass
It's about learning to dance in the rain

Dance Classes Here

April Newsletter

Rx For The Soul

Negative folks don't realize they're negative! But they drain you of joy. So surround yourself with positive friends!



Knowing the Bible is one thing.

Knowing the Author is another.



When life isn't a bed of roses, Remember Who wore the thorns.

Don't let small minds convince you that your dreams are too big!

Silence is consent.



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Every time I say the word diet, I wash my mouth out with chocolate.

Incredible to see how the mother instinctively cradles the young croc in her mouth to keep it out of harm's way.



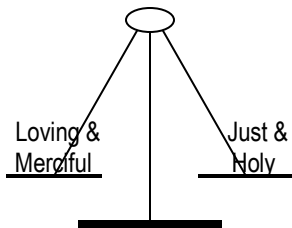
How To Stir Up.... Love

A woman I barely knew called me yesterday to say how she enjoyed my newsletters, and thanked me for being 'the voice of truth'. It reminded me that my son has often called me that, and for a time, had a ringer on his cell that played that song! If there was ever a time when I'd hoped that people would hear me, it is now.

Scripture admonishes us to "consider how to stir up one another to love and good works."¹ The word *consider* implies putting some real thought to it. Good works are easily understood. But I have a question, about **love**.

What if our concept of the love of God is diminished? Even twisted? Could that happen?... Easy. Because our perspective of God is often shaped by our own opinions, not scripture. Our idols then look like us!

The most accurate description of God is like the scale of justice. He is both:



We're all grateful for His Loving and Merciful side. It's that Just & Holy side that's so bothersome...!

In Moses' time, people prepared for days for God's appearance - His presence on the mountain. Yet when He did appear, the people told Moses, "Don't you ever do that to us again!"

Why? Because His holiness is fierce - frightening.

Today, we feel we can just saunter into God's presence any old way, without any kind of preparation. *And we can*, provided we've repented and come thru God's grace. It's only thru Christ that any of us

can do so! God sees *us* thru Jesus' work on the Cross...

Yet it's the **New** Testament - the era of GRACE - where Paul urges us to consider something else! "Consider the *kindness* and the *severity* of God."² Another **New** Testament verse tells us to "strive for the *holiness* without which no man will see God."³ What meaneth this...if God's Love is all encompassing?

It means that we don't truly understand the love of God at all. How to do so?

Hebrews explains that Jesus is the "express image of God."⁴ Wanna see God? Then look at Jesus.

That same passage later tells us that Jesus led a balanced life. How? Because He "loved righteousness, and hated iniquity."⁵ That hatred is aimed at evil! Mark 3:5 says when Jesus talked with phony Pharisees, he "looked around with anger" at their hardness of heart... His fierce holiness surfaced there!

If Jesus is going to return for a church 'without spot or blemish', we'd better get it right, Friends! This generation of believers is responsible for this generation of souls, so we must minister in 'truth'...!

You can't know what you love until you know what you hate! Proverbs 8, the wisdom chapter says, "The fear of the Lord **IS** hatred of evil." Do you fear God - enough to hate evil? Ps. 97:10 says "Oh you who fear the Lord, hate evil." Romans 12:9, again **NEW** Testament tells us to "abhor evil." Ps. 36:4 King David defines the wicked as one who positions himself so that "he does not reject evil."

Do you ever side with evil, because you don't recognize what it **is...?** If you are guided by sentiment over principle, this happens... Scripture is our only plumbline!

A great heresy in today's church is, God's love is only warm & fuzzy... No, it's **holy!**

Paul said 'there must be heresies among you that the genuine may be approved.'⁶ But he left instructions on how to keep order in the church. His words: "I am writing to you not to associate with anyone *who bears the name of brother* if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, *reviler*, drunkard, or swindler - not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those **inside the church** whom you are to judge? God will judge those outside."⁷

This is how church order is maintained...! J.u.d.g.i.n.g. It can ferret out hypocrites & keep the flock from being defiled. Believers are **told to judge** other believers pursuant to scripture, but it is a rare believer who even knows that...But intimidation is used to prevent it!

If you side with God on this matter, you **will be** called *judgmental*. This mindset in the church is a bleeding heart theology, taught in Bible schools and seminaries.

So if we're going to 'stir up one another to Love', we'd better point them toward holiness -so they'll **see** God! ³

Example: If we have family living in sin, & we invite them to stay in our home, we're lowering our own standards. Worse, we're accepting *theirs!* We can't be like the world and change it...!

People see our standards, - they're visible - that's why they come to us in crisis. But don't *give them* fleshly love, watered down from **holy**. *Stand* for what's right & true!

Jesus will return as a Lion, not a lamb.⁹ This time He's angry. Get on His good side. Embrace a **holy** compassion!

The devil doesn't come dressed in a red cape and pointy horns. He comes as everything you've ever wished for ...

God's mercy keeps us from what we deserve. God's grace gives us what we don't deserve.

If I have seen further, it's by standing on the shoulders of giants.
Sir Isaac Newton

Do not go where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path & leave a trail.
Ralph W. Emerson

I once heard a great explanation of what it means to be 'more than a conqueror.' A prize fighter trains daily by running ten miles, practices long hours in the ring, lifts weights and pommels his body with weights, etc. to be ready for the big day when he competes.

Along comes that day and in the ring, his face becomes bloody, teeth get jarred loose, and his ribs become sore. He wins.

When he goes home that day, he hands his check over to his wife! SHE is **more** than a conqueror!

Corrie ten Boom & her family of WWII rescued almost 900 Jews from the Holocaust. Corrie was the Generalissimo of the 30 people or so in their resistance group.

They hid people in a 3rd floor room simply called "the hiding place." At one point during the war, many war weary German soldiers came to Corrie to escape the war. She gladly took their uniforms which their group used them to rescue Jewish babies from a nursery who were destined to die

As a volunteer there, Corrie also had a plan to save them - a car and a big barking dog. She went in and out at the same exit, and trained that dog to always bark there, to cover any cries of the infants. They rescued 100 of them..

Did Corrie wake up one morning and decide to be a heroine? No, she became indignant at the injustice surrounding her! And Nazi intimidation tactics didn't work on her or her family anymore!

After being arrested, sent to death camps, family dying there- she was released by a clerical error. God avenged her and her family by sending her all over the earth for 40 years, writing books, and founding 100+ churches & saving hungry souls! **More** than a conqueror, she was!

Wherever she went, she took God with her, and that made her a majority!

Her faith was simple. She said, "I have not a great faith. I have faith in a Great God." In WWII, she made a *decision to do what she could...* Oh that we wud-Do what we can!

When asked her opinion of an issue - 'as a mature saint'- Corrie protested. She said she didn't regard herself as mature - only a *teen-aged lamb!* What does that say? We are but lambs, forgetting, straining, pressing onward ...9



References:

1. Heb. 10:27 2. Heb. 11:22
3. Heb. 12:14 4. Heb. 1:3
5. Heb. 1:9 6. I Cor. 11:19
7. I Cor. 5:11-12 -ESV
8. Reve. 19:13
9. Phil. 3:12-15 "Let us who're MATURE think this way..."

Let us offer to God acceptable worship with reverence & awe, for our God is a Consuming Fire.
Heb. 12:29

Sorry I'm **CLOSED**

Be An Encourager - Insulate, Don't Isolate

Dear Agatha: Hi - I have two pre-adolescent children and I'm so worried about their future. My husband travels and so he isn't around much to help with them when issues arise. So I'm on my own. We know parents of older kids who've lost them to drugs or bad influences. How can I steer them towards accomplishment and not to those downers? **Jill.**

Dear Jill: Well your question itself sounds like you are onto something, Jill. It's tough today to raise accomplished kids today! It's our role as parents to help them discover giftings, something that they're good at. Maybe baseball or soccer. Or dance classes or cheerleading. A video on morning news had teens learning to fly...!

My own children had horses. If they can conquer and control a 1000 pound horse, it's quite a deed! It builds self-confidence. Give them riding lessons, no matter how young. Each child is different. Maybe it's Student Council, chess, spelling or the debate team. Problem: Parents don't spend enough time helping them *explore their options.*

Gangs are counterfeit *family.* If you do the above, they won't be so inclined to blend into the Loser Club that exists in every school, or gangs. Technology such as video games - isolate & focus on killing! You want them to interact with other peers & adults. Show interest in *their* interests, encouraging them **wherever** you can.

It occurs to me that as believers, we are the 'called out ones' which is what the word for church (*ecclesia*) means. And to be holy (*hagios*) is 'to be set apart.' We're not to blend in with the world. But we should use elements of the world to widen our children's horizons. God made this world *for* us, and for our use. It's the 'system' that is adversarial.

I Cor. 15:33 tells parents there is deception in this matter. Never count on your child as too wise to believe lies. "Be not deceived. Bad company ruins good morals." Their good intent to **help** someone may well be their downfall. That's how the devil works with youth... So, be vigilant! "If you have a goat, *the devil knows how to get it!*"



Jesus talked to trees, fevers, storms - Follow Him.

