

Love grows through the courage born of humility. God's truth is welcome there!

By Rev. Callender

Proverbs 24 :16 (NIV)

Though a righteous man falls seven times, he rises again. But wicked are brought down to calamity.

“The wise understand they cannot prosper in love outside humility”

The humble person has the courage to love! The cross of Christ is their example. Understand this: absolutely no sin can represent Love.

We cannot hold truth guilty if exposes our sin. True courage is allowing God to judge sin in us putting it to death (separating it from us). No flesh dies easy and it would be foolish to say “I have it handled”. This is why Jesus introduced grace through the Cross. This grace is given to the humble because God knows they will repent before making excuses for sin.

Courage is born through repentance by facing one of our greatest enemies and in case you don't know it is we, us, ourselves. Years ago the Lord showed me that the Devil works through the flesh to destroy the spirit and God works through the Spirit to destroy the works of the Devil in our flesh (mind will emotions). Through the seed planted in Adam we became slaves to the sin hidden in our in the flesh.

After giving our life to Christ we are no longer subject to death through judgement but sin is still present. Since it hides in the flesh it must be nailed to the cross with Christ in order that we may partake in a better resurrection. Then His life of love will be glorified in us.

Matthew 10:38 (NIV)

Anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

When we humbly come to God in prayer, always acknowledging the cross of Christ, the power to fight against sin aroused in us through the presence of the Holy Spirit. Then we are given the courage to live with integrity, truth, and above all God's Love.

Godly wisdom is not hard to understand but it is hard to implement. Jesus in the garden experienced agony not fearing so much physical death, because perfect love drives out all fear. His Gethsemane experience of agony was dying to self (being separated from perfect love) the Father who is His life. Jesus did this because being the perfect truth of God we were all found worthy of death. This allowed us access to the Father's love for

grace. Our only agony is being separated from sin that we may join the Father. Therefore repentance through Christ is a justified requirement for a relationship with God, who is perfect love.

Once as a new Christian I did not feel the presence of God. I began to panic because my life had become so attached to the love of God. He was the only rest I ever experienced. Too young in the Lord to understand His promise never to leave or forsake me I began to pray with tears telling Him I could not survive without Him.

This was the answer I received: read Daniel 10:12 and put my name in it.

Daniel 10:12(NIV) (Jim)

12. “ Do not be afraid, Daniel, Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them.

The secret here is “humble yourself before your God”. He responds to everyone as an individual and if you are sincere He will respond according to your unflinching faith and humility.

Even so, after this I tried to find comfort in the things of this world going after a life I thought would bring me happiness, “WOW” what a mistake! The Lord allowed me to suffer the consequence of my actions while continually working to bring back to the center of my faith. Though some of my decisions have been costly so much so that I thought I would never recover but God’s love came through my repentance by humility. We must not fear His work in us because each time we humble ourselves to repentance we gain more and more courage to live the godly life.

Don’t be too stubborn or prideful to repent but do it quickly and avoid the grief that follows disobedience. If you are reading this and have never given your life to Christ repent and trust Him not only for this life but also for eternal life. If you are reading this and it makes you feel mad, awkward, scared, or embarrassed it is a good chance you need to trust Christ for salvation through repentance.

There are times I wish I could again be that spiritual child and get lost in His embrace but it is time to be the spiritual adult that Lord has created me to be. Christ Jesus has a purpose in me, which must be fulfilled. He is still my comfort but instead of sitting in His lap I am learning to walk with Him. Oh the patience of a loving Father training a child for the way to greatness, not only for this age but the age to come.

Praise God for His unshakable, unflinching, and unconquerable love!