



A Newsletter from On Wings Like A Dove Ministry

February 2024 Vol. 20 Issue 2

Come Rest

“So, God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all His work that He had done in creation.”

Genesis 2:3

I've been contemplating the verse from Mark which says, “Come with Me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest”. That is where God took me a few days before my husband, and I were to take a break. I often land on this passage when He is calling me aside. At this point we needed some rest due to the heavy schedule we had kept all year.

On the first day of vacation, I woke up with a sore throat. As we made our way to the beach my throat cleared up and I thought it was not going to be an issue. The next morning, I woke up with achy joints, congestion, a cough, and general malaise. I believe I had the flu.

As I investigated the meaning of rest this is what I found: to get rest by lying down; to cease from action or motion, refrain from labor or exertion.

2023 was a truly challenging year of ministry and family changes. It was a year of uncertainty in many ways as we invited our residents to come into our homes God had provided. There were sleepless nights, challenges, learning curves, steps forward and what seemed at times like five steps back, but we knew God had called us to this great need as those coming out of prison had no one to guide them in their next steps----no where to go that would propel them to success.

Saying yes to God's call we knew would be challenging but we decided we wanted to be in His will not ours. It has meant denying self, taking up our cross and following Him but we wouldn't have it any other way.

So, to say rest was needed is an understatement. I have always had trouble resting. A Doctor years ago tried to help me learn to relax and really rest but it seems I have always been driven, sometimes to the point of exhaustion.

This trip God seemed to really “make” me rest. My illness made me lie down, cease from action, and refrain from any movement. I had no energy, no motivation to even read during this time which is so unlike me.

Once again, He amazes me with His divine intervention giving us just what we need for the moment. We can resist and complain, or we can make the decision to surrender to His plan and see it as a blessing ordained by His hand.

I choose to be Grateful for His Grace bestowed on me in this week of rest for my spirit, soul, and body. I had to change my plans for His and oh what a blessing it has been. I have honestly been in a state of rest just as Jesus was with the Father. I couldn't even walk out on the beach but once, but I relaxed in His will for me during this time. I literally could not get up and do anything.

“You have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you” Augustine.

Maybe you need to rest by coming aside to hear from him. I hope you don't have to get sick to do it, but it is the way God got my attention. He knows when we need to put the brakes on and truly rest. Make it a habit in your life, and I will try to do the same this coming year.

455 South Church Street
Winston Salem, NC 27101

Office Hours:
Tuesday-Thursday
10 am-2 pm
or by appointment
336-829-5060

sandra@onwingslikeadove.com

Prayer Support

JOIN US FOR
Prayer Support
February 5, 2024
6:30 PM
At On Wings Office
Winston Salem, NC

Ladies Bible Study

Each Tuesday
At On Wings Office
From 12:30-2:00

We are still studying
Master Life

Come Join Us!

~ Sandra

YOU ARE INVITED TO A

TEA PARTY



February 17th
from 10 am to 12 noon

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
(CHAMBERS ROOM)

134 PEACEHAVEN ROAD
WINSTON SALEM, NC

Leah Wagoner Wheeler
will be our speaker

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND

REGISTER BY EMAIL TO KATHY VANHOY AT
KATHY.VANHOY@OWLAD.COM OR CALL
336-829-5060 BY FEBRUARY 9TH

GENTLE REMINDER

LOVE IS PATIENT
AND KIND;
LOVE DOES NOT
ENVY OR BOAST;
IT IS NOT
ARROGANT OR RUDE. IT DOES
NOT INSIST ON ITS OWN WAY; IT IS
NOT IRRITABLE OR
RESENTFUL; IT DOES NOT REJOICE
AT WRONGDOING, BUT REJOICES
WITH THE TRUTH. **LOVE** BEARS ALL
THINGS, BELIEVES ALL THINGS,
HOPES ALL THINGS, ENDURES ALL
THINGS.
LOVE NEVER ENDS.



1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8 ESV



THAT'S AMORE

Perhaps related to our recent trip to Italy last fall, the song "That's Amore" has been filtering through my mind quite often lately. The line, "When the moon hits your eye like a big pizza pie, that's amore" is so interesting. It's a line that for me is better to just sing than to think too much about.

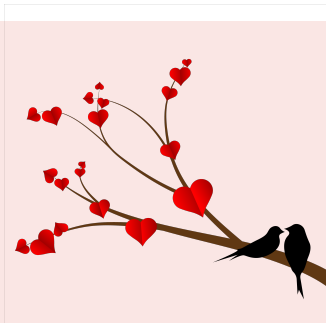
Amore is a fitting word for this time of year. Amore is an Italian word for love or to express a strong feeling for people, animals and passions. We use the word "love" in many ways. I love my spouse, I love the weather and I occasionally love pizza. Though I certainly love my husband differently from my love for pizza, just looking at the word you couldn't tell it! The Greek language has many words for the thought of love with the four most common being Storge (affection between family members), Phila (friendships, personal relationships), Eros (between couples) and Agape. Agape refers to an unconditional love, the type of love that God gives. It is the way God loves His people, and a love we must strive to give God.

We see the word agape used in the New Testament over a hundred and forty times. In Matthew God uses it while speaking of His Son, Jesus. (3:17). It is used for the love we should have for our neighbors and our enemies (5:43) and in Matthew 22:37 agape is used for the love we should have for God; one that incorporates all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

I was reading a devotional today which urged its readers to "work on your relationship with God like you would any relationship." One of the things I am striving to do this year is to be intentional about communicating with extended family members who don't live close. I am trying to send cards, text and even call. What could this look like, if I am to be intentional about my relationship with God? He's already sent me a big love letter, let me read it. I send Him letters when I write in my journal. Spending time in prayer allows me to call Jesus whenever I want. Sometimes I have long conversations, and sometimes it's a quick chat just to share what's on my heart and mind. I have found setting up "Prayer Reminder" alerts on my phone to be a helpful tool to remind me to take a couple minutes a few times during the day to check in with God and share what's on my heart.

Maybe the moon is in your eye like a big pizza pie right now. Maybe your heart feels like the dough is flat and the sauce has been spilled all over the floor. God's love is not dependent on our circumstances, our behavior or how those we love are treating us.

How precious it is to know that we are the apple of God's eye, that He loves us, unconditionally, that He's as close to us as our breath, that He protects and shelters us with His wings, and that He sings and dances over us. God says "I love you" throughout the Bible and in our daily circumstances, and it's the best love ever!



Sandra's Book Review #2

Hinds Feet on High Places

by Hannah Hurnard

I love the journey found in Hinds Feet as well as the Song of Songs which is our next featured book on my list. In reading and meditating on these writings I find that I take on the role of Hinds Feet and the Shulamite maiden in both writings and I pray if you read it you will also. Each chapter takes us deeper into a love relationship with the Shepherd, or Bridegroom Lover as it is portrayed in Song of Songs. I believe we are designed with a void in our hearts which can never know satisfaction until we lay down our own will and follow after Him.

Much Afraid was very insecure as she was disfigured with a crooked mouth causing speech issues and she was also cripple. She lived with relatives who constantly belittled and terrified her. Her longing was to escape the Valley of Humiliation and go to the High Places with the Shepherd to be completely away from her relatives, but she didn't know how. She kept making excuses that she was too lame and slow of speech.

She finally answered the call of the Shepherd and He gave her two companions, Sorrow and Suffering. As she takes the hands of her new companions, she learns to submit her will to the Shepherd and embraces the help of Sorrow and Suffering. As she did, she began to make the climb to the High Places, out of the grasp of the enemy.

The Shepherd came and gave her comfort and encouragement along the journey, always coming when she called out for Him in her toughest moments when it seemed she would not be able to take the next step. But she soon found that each new level brought her to maturity and gave her renewed strength for the journey closer to the Shepherd.

I see this whole allegory as a picture of our journey to Him as well. As we answer His call to come with Him, He doesn't promise it will be an easy road but one where we find strength to persevere no matter the obstacles.

We can find our own way to the High Place and be renamed as she was, Grace and Glory, no longer Much Afraid. Both of her companions also received new names, Joy and Peace.

Will you answer the Shepherd's call today to follow Him no matter where it leads? He is calling and the journey leads you to Peace and Joy.

~ Sandra

Prodigals

You know I had my doubts
I thought the fire went out
But the old winds are blowing, blowing again
You know I lost my way
And I'm sure I will again someday
But there's a whisper calling, calling again

This is the sound of a child coming home
Hallelujah

This is the sound of a welcome prodigal
Hallelujah

I thought I was too far gone
But you always leave the light on
Praise God, praise God, praise God
I'm coming home

Thought I was miles away
Somehow my vision changed
You've been with me, with me all along
Took me a long, long time
To finally realize
That you've never, ever, ever shut the door
This is the sound of a child coming home
Hallelujah

This is the sound of a welcome prodigal
Hallelujah

I thought I was too far gone
But you always leave the light on
Praise God, praise God, praise God

I'm coming home
For those who are afraid to come
There is no fear in perfect love
For those who don't know where to start
He always meets us where we are
For those with just a little faith
A little faith is all it takes
He's calling, He's calling
If you got caught up in religion's game
Then let him show you the real thing
For the skeptic still in search of truth
He'll bring that child out in you,
what are you still waiting for
He's standing at an open door
He's calling, He's calling

This is the sound of a child coming home
Hallelujah

This is the sound of a welcome prodigal
Hallelujah

This is the sound of a child coming home
Hallelujah

This is the sound of a welcome prodigal
Hallelujah

I thought I was too far gone
But you always leave the light on
Praise God, praise God, praise God
Praise God, praise God, praise God
I'm coming home



Prayer Thoughts

Messiah asked Peter, "Do you love Me?" In the tale, "Fiddler on the Roof," Tevia echoes this to his wife after 25 years of an arranged marriage, "Do you love me?" She eventually says, "Yes, I suppose I do." Marriages back then were not like today. They were arranged by the parents. There was no romance, infatuation, or head-over-heels emotion. They were just told this is the one. For most of human history, those marriages survived more than marriages of modern times because they were based on commitment. When you base love on feeling, love becomes fleeting because feelings come and go. You don't always feel like loving, you choose to. If you are married, it doesn't matter whether you feel love or not- you have a commitment, a covenant. Love them because you choose to love. God doesn't just love you when He feels like it, He made a covenant with you and it's an arranged marriage. We're never commanded to 'feel' like loving God. We're commanded to love Him regardless, with our heart, mind, soul and strength. Why? Because that's just what love is.

TAKEN FROM

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