

# A CHALLENGING WORD

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## The Precious Promise in II Peter

By Dwight Knight  
(Part 2 and conclusion)

**Passion** for Him, i.e., loving Him, with every fiber of who we are, is an absolute requirement for living in the sphere of His peace and developing the ongoing walk that our souls long for.

From Old Testament to New Testament the relationships that are the hallmark of scripture were all based on the premise that the men and women of the bible whose lives were used mightily by the Lord fulfilled the greatest command, "and thou shalt **love** the Lord thy God with *all...*".

Whether it was Moses or David, Joshua or Hezekiah, Mary the mother of Jesus or Mary Magdalene, they all loved God with everything they had and their lives were markedly different from everyone around them that did not love God with the same intensity. There was always an apparent difference in the way they approached situations and how others responded.

We have both an Old Testament and New Testament mandate that almost are identical on this issue.

Joshua speaking to the children of promise, just before his life is over, says,

"Take good heed therefore unto yourselves that ye love the Lord your God." (Joshua 23:11)

The apostle Jude fifteen hundred years later sounded the same clarion call in his epistle,

"Keep yourselves in the love of God." (Jude 21)

The importance of this is explained by the Lord Himself both in the book of Psalms and the gospel of John.

Psalms 91:14, "Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he has known My name. He shall call upon Me and I will answer him: I *will be* with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. With long life will I satisfy him, and show him My salvation."

John 14:21, 23 states, "...he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him."

"If a man love me, he will keep My words: and My Father will love him, and We will come unto him, and make our abode with him."

There's no simpler way to put it; there are immense benefits to loving God with all of your passion and ability.

So often I am questioned by saints who say they want to grow more and deeper in their walk, yet when asked about this very sensitive and imperative subject I find they have not actively pursued loving the Lord Jesus Christ above all else.

God places the responsibility of personal intimacy and growth upon us.

It is no wonder that the great indictment that Jesus had against the Ephesians' church had nothing to do with service or scripture, commitment or character, it **was love!**

Ultimately, it will always come down to our love relationship with Him.

The number of good bible believing Christians that have ruined their lives and communion with God because of this one issue is staggering.

Salvation is separate from every religion at this pinnacle; we have a Lord who expects, no, demands that we are intimate with Him!!

With every encounter we with our Savior, the need for fleshly and earthly desires diminishes. So many appetites that believers' struggle with are the result of apathy caused by avoiding a passionate relationship with Christ.

The decision to pursue Jesus with all of ourselves will prove to be the difference between living all the principles and promises assured us by God or not.

Verse three shows us the **purity** found only through knowing Him, verse four, the **promises** given to us to know Him, verse five through seven, the **process** of knowing Him, and finally verse eight tells us as a result the **preservation** that comes because we know Him.

## Rebekah's Story

A testimony by Dianne

L. Coventry  
(Part 3)

I kept stumbling on forgiving myself and the other people involved in that decision that ruined my life. The Bible told me God forgives but until I truly confessed to Him and repented I continued hitting a road block.

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. NKJV

Luke 6:37 says

...Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

How truly humbling it is when you realize what it really meant for Jesus to die on the cross for us. Our sins are washed away!

Romans 3:25-26

...Whom God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

I participated in a Bible study that was designed for women seeking healing from the decision of abortion, which walked me through my grief and loss. I was able to mourn the loss of my child and to forgive myself and others. Most of all, I was able to accept God's forgiveness.

Mark 11:26

...if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.

Ephesians 4:32

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

God has an answer for every feeling you could ever feel, a way for every situation you could ever find yourself in. He is the Way and I found great comfort in His words.

### JESUS HEALED BY FORGIVING SIN

As individuals, we express ourselves uniquely as does the expression of illness.

Matthew 9:2 and 6

Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you" ... NKJV

...vs. 6...that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins – then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house". NKJV

When I was ready to walk through the Mended Hearts Bible Study I prepared myself for a flare up of fibromyalgia. I felt this was going to be the emotional ride of my life and figured I would experience a lot of physical pain from it.

Fibromyalgia symptoms first appeared when I was in high school. As the years progressed and other stresses in my life transpired, the symptoms continued to get worse and harder to live with. As the years progressed and other stresses in my life transpired, the symptoms continued to get worse and harder to live with.

I was so surprised when it came to mind that I hadn't had any pain during this study. One morning I was reading Matt 9 when I realized I hadn't felt any symptoms since that study started and still haven't felt any pain.

[The conclusion of this testimony will be in the next few issue of "A Challenging Word". National Helpline for Abortion Recovery 866-482- 5433 (You may download the entire testimony at [www.challenge-ministries.org](http://www.challenge-ministries.org). Go to the Directory's Corner and click on A Challenging Word and Rebekah's Story will be listed among past issues).]

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UP COMING CONFERENCES  
BELIEVERS:FAMILY NORCROSS, GA NOV. 25-28 2010  
RENEW: WOMENS CHARLOTTE, NC MARCH 4-6, 2011  
JOURNEY: MENS SUMMIT MACUNGIE, PA APRIL 15-17, 2011