

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN ROME

GOD IN LOVE GIVES YOU LIFE

Romans 8:32 “He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all—how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?”

During World War II many babies in Europe became orphaned. Orphanages had to be quickly created to provide care for these parentless infants. The story is told that in one of these orphanages an unusual number of babies were dying. Autopsies ruled out abuse, malnutrition, and disease as the cause. The nurses and doctors were baffled.

A retired, revered, local doctor was asked to observe the care of the babies to see if he could detect what was causing these babies to die. He told the staff to simply go about their daily routines and he would stay out of their way. He observed the babies as they were fed, bathed, put into their cribs, and slept.

At the end of the first afternoon, after carefully watching the routines of the staff in their care of the babies, the elderly doctor took out his prescription pad and wrote on it, “when feeding the babies, the one doing the feeding should hold them in their arms. While the babies are being fed the attendant should sit in a rocking chair rocking, speaking, and singing to the baby. Between feedings all babies are to be held, rocked, sung to, and cuddled for at least fifteen minutes.”

This elderly doctor's prescription was implemented immediately. The baby mortality rate in this orphanage quickly dropped to almost zero. The doctor observed that all of the physical needs of the babies were fully being met. Only one thing was missing. They were not receiving love.

One of the greatest human needs is to be loved. Babies thrive on it. So do adults. And, this love is not just the kind the babies received in the orphanage. St. Paul prayed the following prayer for the Christians in Ephesus, “. . . And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.” (Ephesians 3:17-19)

There is nothing worse that can happen to you than to feel God has forsaken you. Think back to Jesus on Calvary's cross uttering the words of abandonment, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46) Weighed down by

the sins of all of humanity, Jesus felt abandoned by His heavenly Father. Sin does that to you as well. God did not abandon Jesus. God does not abandon you. "This is how (you) know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for (you.)" (1 John 3:16) God sent His Son Jesus out of His love for you "as an atoning sacrifice for (your) sins." (1 John 4:10)

Because of God's love for you in and through His Son Jesus you will live!

Prayer: Grant me Your love, dear Father, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Love divine, all loves excelling. Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit, us with Thy salvation, Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit Into ev'ry troubled breast;
Let us all in Thee inherit; Let us find Thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing, Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish then Thy new creation, Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation Perfectly restored in Thee,
Changed from glory into glory, Till in heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise!
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