



Food for the Journey

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Evergreen, Colorado Rev. G. Duncan Miller, Pastor

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**Everyone
Who
Loves Is
Born Of
God and
Knows
God**

SCRIPTURES ABOUT LOVE FOUND IN FIRST JOHN

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. I John 3: 18

*Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
(I John 4: 7)*

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.

¹⁹We love because he first loved us.

²⁰Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this:

those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

I John 4: 15-21

⁹Whoever says, 'I am in the light', while hating a brother or sister, is still in the darkness. ¹⁰Whoever loves a brother or sister lives in the light, and in such a person there is no cause for stumbling.

I John 2: 9-10



Prayer From the Darkness and the Light

Dear Friends, Moments of light and darkness are a part of every journey of faith. Sometimes we mistakenly want to believe that our moments of darkness are unique to us, and that other “saintly people” do have such movements into despair. Below are two writings of Mother Teresa of Calcutta. The first was written in her early 50s, after she had become well known for her work among the poor. This was truly a time of the “dark night of the soul” for her. The second was written toward the end of her life. If Mother Teresa could have such movements in her spiritual life, perhaps we should not be too surprised or too hard on ourselves when we too have such thoughts and movements. The spiritual life is not a flat line journey, but a journey of tremendous highs and lows. We are thankful for both, because God is with us at each step and turn. Duncan

— *“Lord, my God, who am I that You should forsake me? The child of your love — and now become as the most hated one — the one You have thrown away as unwanted — unloved. I call, I cling, I want — and there is no One to answer. The darkness is so dark — and I am so alone. Unwanted, forsaken — the loneliness of my heart that wants love is unbearable. Where is my faith? Even deep down, right in, there is nothing but emptiness and darkness. My God, how painful is this unknown pain. It pains without ceasing. I have no faith. So many unanswered questions live within me — I am afraid to uncover them because of the blasphemy. If there be God, please forgive me. When I raise my thoughts to heaven, there is such convicting emptiness that those very thoughts return like sharp knives..... The whole time smiling, Sisters and people pass such remarks. They think my faith, trust, and love are filling my very being and that the intimacy with God and union to His will must be absorbing my heart. Could they but know how my cheerfulness is the cloak by which I cover the emptiness and misery. From: The Private Writing of the “Saint of Calcutta”.*



— *“The joy of loving Jesus comes from the joy of sharing in His sufferings. So do not allow yourself to be troubled or distressed, but believe in the joy of the resurrection. In all of our lives, as in the life of Jesus, the Resurrection has to come, the joy of Easter has to dawn.” From: The Joy of Loving by Mother Teresa*

A Prayer Psalm

O God, I have cried unto you.
 My whole being has sought you out.
 O God, I have wrestled with you:
 In my pain I cry to you for help.
 In my weakness, I seek your strength.
 If I cry out, will you hear me?
 If I weep, will you dry my tears?
 Be like a good mother to me; gather
 me in your arms.
 Be like a good father to me; protect
 me from evil.
 Our days, they seem as deepening
 shadows
 Casting darkness on the land.
 Our moments, like grass, wither in the
 sun.
 Send light, O God, and let us live!
 Send light, O God, and let us live!
 No creature lives but that she dies;
 No flower blooms nor tree nor plant
 but that they end.
 O God, we do not ask for more than

these;

- The strength to bear the pain
- Your presence in the evening star,
- Glad praise when the day is done.
- Praise Life that in us grows,
- For time and toil and love,
- For every moment of our days,
- For what we are is yours.

By John C. Morgan

From: Fire In The Soul: A prayer book for
 the later years. by Richard Morgan



Send
 Light,
 O God,
 and
 Let Us
 Live!

Prayer of Trust and Surrender

MY LORD GOD, I have no idea
 where I am going. I do not see the
 road ahead of me. I cannot know for
 certain where it will end. Nor do I re-
 ally know myself, and the fact that I
 think I am following your will does
 not mean that I am actually doing so.
 But I believe that the desire to please
 you does in fact please you. And I
 hope I have that desire in all that I am
 doing. I hope that I will never do any-
 thing apart from that desire. And I
 know that if I do this you will lead me
 by the right road, though I may know
 nothing about it. Therefore I will trust
 you always though I may seem to be

lost and in the shadow of death. I will not
 fear, for you are ever with me, and you
 will never leave me to face my perils
 alone.

By: Thomas Merton



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Lectio Divina (Sacred Reading) for Spiritual Growth

"*Lectio Divina*", sometimes called "*Sacred Reading*" is a special type of reading. The aim of *Sacred Reading* is to allow the printed word to open your heart to the heart of God. When practicing the spiritual discipline of *Sacred Reading* you might want to find a quiet place, become attentive to the presence of God within that place, and ask God to open your heart to God's life-giving word.



You are invited to use this *Food for the Evergreen Journey* for such reading. Leave the publication somewhere with easy access. God might move you to receive its blessings at different times during the day, week, or month. Perhaps you will want to go back and read its offerings several times. Each time, God may reveal something new to you. Perhaps there will be a word or a phrase within this publication which moves you deeply and opens you to the fruit of the Spirit: ***love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.***

Pay attention to those words and phrases. They are God's word for *your life* today.

If you would like to contribute to this publication, please write or call Rev. Miller. The only requirement is that all submitted items be uplifting and convey some quality of the fruit of the Spirit as found in Galatians 5: 22-23.

Hymn For The Month

The Gift Of Love

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless
gain.

Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts
control,

our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.

(based on I Cor. 13)

Text by: Hal H. Hopson 1972

