

Love Means Taking Responsibility

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Photo date and location unknown

I recently read a speech in which Father said that God didn't want men to cling to Him; He wanted them to cling to each other and then God would dwell with them. I had never heard Father say this before, but I could understand what he meant because God wants us to take responsibility for each other. If a relationship is centered on God it is impossible to make a commitment to another person without also making a commitment to God. If we love someone with our whole heart and offer everything we do to Heavenly Father for the benefit of that person, God will be drawn to us. He will want to be a part of that relationship. Then we will become partners with God in loving that person. To know that we are loving someone together with Heavenly Father brings the most fulfilling experience of love and of God. We have so much to share with Heavenly Father and with others. It is the reason we were born and the way we were meant to live.

My own life is always at its best -- I am the happiest, the most fulfilled and have my deepest experiences with God -- when I have someone

to whom I can completely devote myself. At such times, all of my relationships are good and I have the desire to extend myself to many people because I have a lot to give. When we give our heart to someone, God gives His heart to us and fills us up. Then we have so much to offer to everyone because we are experiencing the purpose of life and want to share it. Our purposes as an individual and as part of the whole are automatically fulfilled. What we have to share inspires and benefits others. And because selfless love is a purifying experience, we become liberated from our self -- our life no longer revolves around ourselves but around someone else. Our own problems become secondary -- and can even totally dissolve -- because our energy is expended for the sake of someone else. Because no one really knows how to love yet, in our desire to do only what is good for the person we love, we constantly turn to God for guidance, and thus our relationship with Heavenly Father reaches a new level.

Unfortunately, many people are afraid to either make deep commitments to someone else themselves or to accept it if someone wants to make a commitment to them. This is probably because they are afraid of losing a part of themselves. But we never lose anything by giving, especially by giving of our self. When Father said that total prosperity comes from total giving, he wasn't just talking about material things. If we give our heart to someone, if we share our deepest experiences with God, we aren't losing any part of our self. Rather, we are multiplying the most valuable part of our self, the part which is connected to God, and in doing so, multiplying our own value because we are sharing the God in our self and offering a part of God to others. When we do that, Heavenly Father continually fills us up because He wants so much to share Himself with His children. Once He finds a vehicle through which to do that, He will pour out to us as much as we can contain so that we can give it to others. In the process, we will find God and have an eternal connection to Him. The preciousness of that experience is something that no one can ever take away from us. Then we will have something to cling to when we go through difficult times. It won't just be a memory of God, but of the experience we had with God through deeply loving someone.

Sometimes people are afraid to let someone make a commitment to them because they realize it requires some responsibility on their part and they are unwilling to assume that responsibility. Because of the spiritual dynamics involved in committing oneself to someone, the person to whom the commitment is made is drawn to the person making the commitment, feeling compelled toward that person. Sometimes people say they feel obligated but this is a wrong definition of what happens. It is a self-centered explanation that soon evolves into the excuse to avoid taking responsibility and that often turns into the accusation that what is given doesn't come from a pure motivation. Accusation is the handiest excuse to avoid doing something. But, in the end, the accusation will come back to the accuser because he is the one who is saying he doesn't care. It is natural to feel compelled toward someone who loves us. And our initial responsibility is only to accept what is given. In other words, it means letting God love us, because the person loving us is actually expressing what Heavenly Father would like to express to us personally but for some reason cannot. Rejecting someone's love means rejecting God.

When we do that, we commit a serious crime against Heavenly Father, against that person and against ourselves. Most seriously, we become indebted. Father always talks about not becoming indebted. When he says that America is indebted to him, it is because America is not accepting what he is giving. It's not because she isn't returning it but because she isn't even accepting it. It's all right if we can't return measure for measure what is given. Our responsibility is to accept what is given, learn from it and change. God gives because He wants to offer us something precious for the sake of our eternal life. We often talk about making offerings to God, but fail to recognize it when Heavenly Father makes offerings to us. To reject God's offering is a serious matter and a total contradiction of why we are here in the first place.

Because we are victims of the fallen world, we build barriers around ourselves to protect ourselves. It's a quite natural thing to do. But we can never experience true love if we keep boundaries around ourselves. Love doesn't make boundaries. True love can only exist in an atmosphere of total freedom. There is no reason to close our self off because true love seeks only the benefit of the loved person. God doesn't draw boundaries. Now there is a distance between ourselves and Heavenly Father because we are fallen people. But in the restored world there will *be* no distance between ourselves and God. If there is, if in the end God says we can only come so close to Him and no closer, He will have been misleading us and making empty promises to us. My goal is to melt into the heart of God. I believe He wants every one of us to become a part of Him and exist together eternally in the closest relationship with Him. And if we all melt together within God's heart, we will ultimately all melt together with each other anyway. This does not mean we will lose our individuality. We will all still be our own unique selves, but we will have completely open hearts big enough to embrace each other and totally fulfill each other.

It may sound like a grand, almost impossible goal, but it is God's ideal and what Father constantly talks about. The time for us to begin striving toward that goal is now, by finding someone to whom we can commit ourselves. When we love someone with our whole heart, we want to give everything we can to that person. Unless we give with this kind of heart, we shouldn't give at all because then giving just becomes a means to draw attention to ourselves. No matter how much material or monetary value there may be in what we give, if we only give for our own benefit, it can have no eternal value and is meaningless. But what we give out of love will remain forever valuable. It will be so precious to us, even if it is not accepted in the way in which we hoped it would be. We can never forget what we have given out of deep love, nor can we ever regret it. It is something we can share with Heavenly Father time and time again. And, ultimately what we receive in return for our love will come directly from Heavenly Father, not from the person to whom we are giving. This is because God's heart is a giving heart which automatically responds to another giving heart. God wants to *be* where He can see His nature reflected.

If we make lasting commitments to each other, we will find God, find each other and, ultimately, save each other. Father has said that "if you love one person, God's love will be there in proportion to the depth of that love. If you can love many people like this, God's love will come in proportion to the greatness and depth of that love. To love a person as you would love God is the point." This means God wants us to invest our whole selves in someone. If we love someone to that degree and let someone love us to that degree, we will find God, find the meaning of our life, find ourselves, and be well on our way to establishing God's kingdom on this earth.