

A harvest of love

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We had just moved into our house the day before Thanksgiving. But there was our Thanksgiving dinner on the table anyway, complete with homemade rolls and pumpkin pie. All of us were bowing our heads in silent prayer and gratitude as we sat at the table. But I was wearing a wide grin. I was in awe of God's incredible goodness.

A few years before, my head had been bowed, not in gratitude, but in tears of sadness, grief, and fear. Both my mother and husband had passed away within a short time of each other, and I was struggling with grief even while trying to learn how to cope with the responsibilities of being a single mom. There were times when waves of uncontrolled loneliness would roll over me.

But I found a way to turn that sadness into compassion and love.

The turning of that tide came when I took to heart a statement that became my lifeline: "As adherents of Truth, we take the inspired Word of the Bible as our sufficient guide to eternal Life" *Science and Health*, p. 497). I asked myself, "Could the Bible be my sufficient guide to understanding more about the eternal life of my mother and husband? Could it bring the deep comfort and peace and purpose that I was yearning for?"

I decided to take a look. Actually, it was more than a look. I spent about two years in this study. And it was worth every minute. Yes. I found inspiration and insight into eternal life, but one of the most helpful ideas was this—"Divine loving is how divine Life is expressed." Jesus' answer to a question about how to inherit eternal life was to love God and love your neighbor (see Luke 10:25-28).

With my whole heart, I began loving God more. When waves of loneliness would roll over me, I answered with hours of prayer for humanity, for those who were homeless, widowed, sick, afraid, abused. Tenderly, I began mentally embracing everyone in God's love and precious care.

Even when I was out doing errands, I would pause in gratitude and love for all those around me at the moment, cherishing them as the loved children of God.

I remember the joy I felt when I realized that because I was the reflection of God, I had all of God's love with which to love everyone in the whole universe!

God's love could never run out, never be withheld, never be selective. I found that satisfaction, coming not so much from receiving love from someone else but from my actively loving others. Soon I was helping others through prayer.

One night I realized I had found a new way of expressing life . . . to love everyone divinely. At that moment every shred of sadness just dissolved, and I felt fully restored to wholeness, full of the light and joy of the Life that is God.

The next day I received a call from someone who was facing circumstances similar to what I had gone through. I shared with him my insights and inspiration. This caller and I became friends. Eventually we got married. We began our new life together with a new family, new home, new work.

That's what brought such a smile to my face on our first Thanksgiving together. My heart was singing, "Thank You, God! We have all of Your love to love everyone in the universe."