

The Fascinating Woman And Her Love Relationships

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By Sue Burnham

I have had the opportunity to talk to some of those professors after class. Not that it did any good, but I would talk to them and say, I know what the Bible says. The Bible says that God is love. That's where love begins. There are those of pagan cultures, and there are those people today even who have worshiped other gods, who are amazed that the Judeo Christians has a God that loves them.

They have been taught that their gods really can't be touched with any infirmity, that God could possibly love that one, that he created, that if you are really a God, that you're beyond feeling. But the Bible says that God is love. If we go a little further, I like what it says that God loves first. If you are in human relationships, you may discuss back and forth, perhaps with your boyfriend or with your husband. And you'll say, now, if I hadn't loved you first, do you think you would have ever loved me?

Or he might say that he might say, I loved you first. And if I hadn't, I wondered if you would have loved me. Always concerned about who loved who first. But in the case of God, we can know that he loved and he loved first of all, I am so thankful that God loves us, you and me, that he loves the world. He cares about us.

He continually cares about us, no matter what our lives are about. We go into the New Testament, we see Jesus Christ, his Son also, who loves he loved us so much that he came to this world. God loves the people in the world. Jesus loves the people in the world. Jesus, as a matter of fact, had the deepest form of love, of compassion.

And the word in the Greek. I'm not going to try to tell you what it is because it's very long, but it means compassion and it's the deepest form of emotion. And when compassion is used in the New Testament, it refers to Jesus every time, except for three occasions in parables. But when we read about Jesus where it says that he looked at the multitudes and they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he was moved with compassion toward them, his heart moved out towards those people that maybe many of the Jewish leaders felt were nothing more than chaff. They weren't worth anything. The Jewish leaders were busy trying to find their own position and struggles among themselves.

And so they did not care about the common people. But Jesus looked at them and was moved with compassion. And he said, they are like lost sheep. They need to be brought home and saved. He cared about that common person and was moved with that deep form of care.

You know, he cared and was moved with compassion when he saw the multitudes and they were hungry. Remember when they followed him and he realized that they didn't have anything to eat. And he was moved with compassion. And you might have thought that he would have said, well, look, if you're going to follow me, why weren't you prudent enough to bring your lunch? Why didn't you bring your lunch with you?

It's your problem, not mine. But he was moved with that deep feeling of concern because they were hungry. He was moved with that deep feeling of compassion when he saw the blind men and the lepers. He felt for them because they were isolated. He felt for them because they were lonely. And he touched them and he healed them.

He was moved with compassion when he saw that widow of name, when her only son had died. And he looked at her and he said, We've not. Can you imagine if you were in sorrow and you knew that Jesus would look at you and say, don't we not? His heart was moved with that kind of deep compassion. And he cared enough. And he was able to bring that boy back to life. He felt for that woman who was all alone, was able to restore that son back to life because he was moved with deep compassion. God loves you. Jesus loves you. Jesus cares about you. He's moved with compassion when he sees the needs of your life. And how do you respond for that love?

Now, if you have your papers and pencils, if you would draw just a picture of a heart, kind of in the center of your paper and give room, because later you're going to draw a larger heart. So if you just draw a heart that's in the center of your paper.

And I'd like to describe something about that heart. The most important organ that we have in our bodies physically, is the heart, only it doesn't look like a Valentine's heart that you're going to draw in your paper. It looks entirely different than that, but it's the chief organ of the body. But the Bible talks about a heart in another way. It talks about the heart and what it contains, that it is the seat of our feelings, of our thoughts, of our will.

It's really the inner person. It's not something, however, that's tangible that you can perform surgery upon. You have surgery on the outside, and the doctor would get in there and look around trying to find that heart that we're referring to. You can't see it, but we know that it is there. Even the man that knows more about the brain than anybody else in the world.

John, I don't know how to pronounce his name like a Clez? ECCLES. And he says he knows that there is something different Besides just the brain. He understands the brain, that there's something else within man. He might call it a spirit. We might call it a spirit, but the Bible usually refers to it as the heart. And those things that come out of the mouth proceed from the heart, and they defile a man, a heart. That inner person is deceitful. There's a sin principle that works upon that inner person, upon that heart. But God still loves us. That sin principle works upon all our hearts. God continues to love us, and he wants us to respond to that love, and we have a choice. You can either spurn. You can just not acknowledge that love and go your own way, or you can absolutely surrender to that love. You have a choice.

And I met a girl that was about 23 this fall. She came from a family where both the mother and father are atheists. There were no rights and wrongs in her home. She had no teaching of any sort. She went to one of the finest Eastern girls schools in America, one that would be familiar if I were to mention it to you. She began to date out of that girls College, and she dated and lived a very free life, had one lover broke up with him. And then she began to live with a man when she was 19 years old that practiced voodoo on her. And it sounds like, oh, that's nothing. It was something very something because she ended up having a mental breakdown, ended up in a mental hospital, couldn't understand what had happened to her. He was really able to cast spells upon her, and she knew the extent of evil.

When she was out of the hospital, her parents took her to Europe to sort of help her recover, to try to give her time to recover. So they spent time with her there. And she went into the museums in England and in France and in the Netherlands. She went to the Reich Museum, and she said she saw religious art, and she knew that there had to be a contrast from evil to something that must be good because she could see reflected in the art something of goodness, and that there must be someone who believed in somebody that would make them draw the things that they would draw. And she was beginning to seek out who this God and goodness would be, she began to read poetry that was written many years ago by Christian poet. And she began her search. And when she found that Jesus Christ was the son of God and that he would forgive her of her past and that he could give her a new life, she surrenders herself to Jesus Christ. And I want to tell you why she would come to Agape counseling services. Why did she continue to have problems, a whole different kind of problems. Her whole concern was how could she surrender more of herself to Jesus Christ?

She had never known anything of God. And many of you have heard about God all your life, so you can't appreciate the love that he has displayed, that you have some direction in your life.

This girl knew nothing. She didn't understand evil. She didn't understand God. She didn't understand how she could be good. She didn't know there was somebody that cared for her personally that could give her eternal life and give her direction in her life. And when she found out, she surrendered to him, she made him her savior. And she was full of Thanksgiving.

Now I want to tell you about your drawing. You've got your heart. Now, what I'd like for you to do is to draw another, larger heart, great big heart around your heart, because what happens when

you surrender to Jesus Christ? Romans Five chapter says that we come into the sphere of God's love. The Holy Spirit sheds abroad God's love in our hearts when we come to him. And so now we are able to reach out with all sorts of love.

God's love becomes available to us personally. What I like to think of is if you want to even draw lines from God's heart down to your heart, just draw, like, all kinds of lines that show that God's love is like rays of love reaching down into your heart, able to pour his love into your heart. And, oh, how you desperately need it, how I desperately need to know that I'm loved and that God's love is available for me. And so when we become these Christians, when we become surrendering to God's love, God places us as a branch into the vine. You read about that in John the 15th chapter. And we abide that branch, that we are as believers are positioned and placed into that vine, and we are there permanently once we have surrendered to Jesus Christ. And you know what happens when we belong to Jesus and that branch is in that vine? There is like a flow from Jesus right into us. We abide in Him, we dwell in him, and we commune with him. And he says that we have joy. We are his friends, he hears our prayers. All those things are ours. And we have that kind of a Communion. And it's a very close, intimate relationship, and it's a wonderful walk that we can have with him. And you remember maybe what it was like, but why don't you have it right now?

If you are positioned in him, and yet you don't experience that flow from the vine to the branch, why not? Francis Chaffer gives one reason, he says, because you grow discontent. He says, you begin looking around, have this relationship, but all of a sudden you start getting a little wiggly in the relationship, and you begin to look around and see this and this and this. And you kind of want this and you want this and you want this. And you forget to give thanks to God.

You want to get back into the right relationship with God. You are placed there, but you may have put some plugs in the relationship so that the flow isn't going so good from the vine to the bread. So I'll just call it little plugs that you put different places so that the flow can't continue. And one of the ways to get back into that good flow is to begin to thank God. Oh, God, thank you that you love me. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this body. Thank you that I am a branch in this vine begin to praise him. And it's amazing how you begin to experience something different and something renewed in the relationship with Jesus.

I'm going to read a verse to you also another reason why you may not experience that wonderful Communion that you did have at one time, the vine and the branch. It's because you may be walking in disobedience. Because I want to read to you out of John the 14th chapter, he that hath my Commandments and keepeth them. He it is that Loveth me and he that Loveth me shall be loved of my father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. Now what happens if we don't walk in obedience? God may have to correct it. He may have to discipline us.

And I want to read this to you also out of Hebrews 12:10, it says, Our earthly fathers trained us for a few brief years, doing the best for us. They knew how. But God's correction is always right and for our best good that we might share his Holiness. And afterward it yield us a peaceable fruit of righteousness. There are times that God has to correct us. Only his is perfect. Do you remember some correction you got when you were a child from your earthly father? It's easier to talk about somebody else than me. So I can tell you about my older sister. She had a will of iron, and my father and my sister clashed because they were so much alike.

He also had a will of iron. And I remember one time when I was a girl and my sister came home for lunch with me and my father came home for lunch regularly. There were no restaurants that fathers went to them. He was at a place of work that can come home for lunch. And he was there and he said to my sister in Maryland, you're going to have to put your leggings on when you go back to school this afternoon.

You remember leggings. Did any of you ever have to wear leggings? Those are the kinds of things that were like slacks with a lining in them that went with your coat. And girls back in Indiana and back in Ohio had to wear leggings to keep themselves from getting too cold from the snow. They were always a part of the coat and the hat and the leggings.

That was what every girl would have in her wardrobe. And he said, you're going to have to wear your leggings. And Marilyn said, I don't want to wear my leggings. And Besides that, I'm not going to wear my leggings. And that was enough just to make my father just rise right out of the chair.

Yes, you're going to wear your leggings. I said, you're going to wear your leggings. And I can remember that my mother stood there by my father and I can remember him using a switch and whipping her and her saying, no, I'm not. Yes, you are. No, I'm not. Yes, you are. And my father had to help her get the leggings on. And my mother had to help her get the leggings on also. And she got the leggings on and she went out the door. And I'm not sure, but I think maybe by the time she got settled down, she had that peaceful fruit of righteousness.

My sister also knew that she was loved. It wasn't just always correction. She's a principal today and she is applying the very things that she learned from my father when she was a girl. As a matter of fact, the first week that she ever was principal, there were some two little boys that flicked school. And it was my sister who had the will to get into the car and go Hunt those two little boys down. And when they saw the principal, they were in the Kennedy store. They had dirt all over their faces. They thought they had slipped and they were having a good time. And they looked up and they said, Mrs. Lifewood. And she took them in the car. She took them back to the office. And she knew how to give them a little correction so that they could remember.

But do you know what the most other amazing thing about my sister with her will of iron is that she knows something about love. She learned it from my father and my mother. And, you know, they're in this little school where she is a principal. There's all kinds of people, some that are very poor as well as those that are maybe have enough money. But at Christmas time, she's been known to get her own Christmas tree, put it in the car, take it over to somebody that she heard about, didn't have a Christmas tree and she's gone without her own Christmas tree. There has never been a child in her school that she knew of that wouldn't have a present for Christmas, that she didn't go personally and buy a present to make sure that everybody was covered because she knows something about love, but it includes something about correction.

And you know, that's the same with our heavenly Father. There are times he has to correct us. You know, when those times are, I wouldn't be able to make that judgment about your life when you're being corrected. You know, when God is correcting you so that you are willing to pull

some of those stops out so that the vine and all that Jesus is can flow into the branch and so you can be part of that branch.

Well, if we go on a little bit further and we come back into that abiding dwelling Communion that we know we've been positioned, we are abiding, but we are able to have that Communion flow freely. Then we hear a new commandment about love. He says, I've given you a new commandment that we love one another. Love one another.

Now, how do I do that? How do I do that? Maybe I look to see how do I love myself? And I will know how to love somebody else. How do I love myself? I hear people talking about that verse, Love your neighbors, yourself, and they say, Am I supposed to love myself? I'm not supposed to love myself. I'm not sure. I guess I really shouldn't love myself if I'm a Christian. It's not whether you should or will. You do love yourself. You may not like your size, you may not like your hair. You may not like your ability. You may not like certain things, but you do love yourself and care for yourself.

When you wake up in the morning and you go and look in the mirror, you don't say, oh, I love you. I mean, that's just a little bit ridiculous, isn't it? All that superficial, Yum, Yum stuff. But how do you show that you love yourself and care for yourself? You probably go downstairs. If you're in an upstairs house and you get some breakfast and you feed yourself, you give yourself some food because nobody has to say, Poor little sweetie. I bet you want something to eat. You just somehow feel a little hunger and you go get yourself something to eat. And when it's time,

when you're tired to lie down, you don't go 50 hours and then have somebody say, oh, I bet you want a little rest, don't you?

When you get tired, you take your own body and you lie it down and you rest. And when you hurt, somebody doesn't have to tell. You go get the sad and you call the doctor and you tell somebody it hurts. Help, I need some help. That's how you love yourself. You just automatically take care of yourself. God created you to take care of you. And it comes very natural. And that's the kind of care other people need is the same kind of care that you give to yourself.

It can be a whole variety of ways that you care for other people might begin with your roommate. I don't know what kind of roommate you had. You can't laugh too much because she might be sitting with you. I remember the kind I had, and I'm not going to tell about her because that's something that's in the past. But I can remember a few things, and I'm sure she could remember a few things. But if there's ever a time to practice, love it's. When you live with a roommate and you live with her more than a month. You live with her for a year in two years and three years and four years, and you better know how to practice love by the end of those four years.

I think a very fine example of loving someone is a friend of mine who is 50, was 50 years old into her 50s. And I love this woman very much. She was helped with the children when they were little and was always such a loving person herself. And she had got cancer last year, just about this time of year. And the amazing thing that her sister got cancer at the same time. And her sister was one floor down from her in City Hospital, there were two other sisters. One sister

would come every morning and she would get Gladys, my friend, up and out of bed and got her ready for the day. Then she'd go down in the next floor at City Hospital and get her other sister up and get her ready for the day.

Then the other sister, this would be the fourth sister. Now, she would come at night and she would go to Gladys's room and she'd wash her face, she would rub her back, she'd tell her how much she loved her. She'd read some scripture with her and pray. And then she put down to the second-floor right underneath Gladys' room to do that same thing with her other sister. That touched my heart as much as anything. I know they're both gone now. They would be with the Lord just within weeks of each other. The two sisters did. But the two that remains can be thankful for the way they were able to show love and care for their sisters. Sometimes loving your sisters is as difficult as loving your roommates, sisters and roommates and those people that cause those irritations in our lives. But God says he wants us to love one another.

Well, it's been a few years ago now when I met a girl named Tilly and she was externing from City Hospital, she was a medical doctor to come from Austria to external City Hospital, get that extra training for three months. And I met her kind of in the middle of the summer. And when I met her and looked at her face, I realized something really had happened to her because she had scars all over her face. She had beautiful Brown eyes and just a lovely personality and tremendous ability to be a medical doctor. But we had a retreat while she was still in Akron for women.

And there were nurses that came to this retreat. And our theme verse was that we should not love just in word, but indeed and in truth. And there was these group of nurses that rode together to camp for the retreat and they rode home together. And the Lord had begun to work in their hearts because they decided they wanted to put that specific verse into action. And they talked on the way home how they could pull their money and do something about getting some surgery for Tilly for her face. By the time they got home from camp, they had decided how much money it was going to take. And they pulled their money and they told Tilly and Tilly was able to have the kind of surgery where it's like the skin abrasion kind of a thing where all the skin is removed. They not only provided money for her to have that surgery, but they nursed her as well.

Now, it wasn't too amazing that when they shared Jesus Christ with her before she went back to Austria, that she would want to respond to Jesus because she had seen in those nurses not just words of love. She had experienced what it was to see love in action; indeed, and in truth.

What keeps us from practicing love one for another? I believe it begins by being released from selfishness. I believe we are so selfish taking care of me because I've been hurt. I'm never going to love again, that we forget to practice love.

Now I want to read to you something that CS Lewis says that he says it so well that there's no way to say it any better. To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love. Anything in your heart will certainly be wrong and possibly be broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one. Lock it up safe in the casket of your selfishness. But in that casket safe, dark, motionless airless, it will change. It will not be broken. It will become

unbreakable, impenetrable and irredeemable. And if you've had the opportunity to love and you have been hurt and you say, I'm not going to stick my neck out for anybody because that's being vulnerable. I certainly had that experience in my own life. But you see, what CS Lewis says is so true. If you don't keep attempting to love one another, what's going to happen to you? There's so many different ways that we can love.

Let me just read you about four or five different kinds of thoughts on love. Love is honoring somebody, accepting somebody, serving them, carrying each other's burdens, being patient with them, submitting to another and encouraging one another. Those are all words that are taken from the scripture, that are substitute words for being able to love. And I want to tell you this, that I believe that love is action. Love is action.

Anyone can wear a little something or other around their neck with a cross on it. You can put a little pin over here. That's a symbol of a fish, of a Christian. That's no Mark. Anybody can put something around their neck and wear something over here in their lapel. But the one Mark of a Christian is to be able to love another person, to be able to love another Christian.

Trying to think, if I have enough time to tell you this one illustration I think for my own life that it's something I like to do a lot and that's to win. When I get out to play a tennis game, I like to win. And yet I know that sometimes it's a toss up of one priority over another, winning and loving. Now there was let's see, a year ago last fall, I decided to join a new tennis group because I like to have new groups in my life where I don't know if the people know about Christ. And so I moved myself out of one tennis group and joined with another.

And I said, Lord, may I be that witness? You want me to be with these new five women in my life? Well, he gave me quite a task, because these women, I'm telling you, they were toughies in every way. You call them tough cookies. These ladies were tough cookies. And I listened to their talk. I watched their behavior, and there was nothing loving in their lives, and they did not know Jesus Christ. And I kept saying, Lord, I want to be a witness for you. I want to be able to share Christ with these women. That's why I have joined.

But I didn't seem to have the opportunity until about the second part of our season when I had to begin practicing love, not talking practicing love, because my partner started getting these aches and pains. She was older than I was, and she first got something in her knee, and then she got it in her ankle, and then she got it in her wrist. And with it, her game absolutely deteriorated. And it was my temptation when I'm right in the heat of a battle, when we're playing a good competitive tennis game, that I want to say, go get it. Why didn't you get that shot? Move a little bit. Those things were all going through my mind. And I said, now, Sue Burnham, remember what you decided before you started, that you want to practice love more than winning? Maybe I didn't want to. I shouldn't say that, but that's what I knew God would honor.

And so it was a real hard battle because the second part of our season, we didn't come out to be winners. And I didn't even get a chance to talk about Jesus Christ. And I thought, My goodness, what am I doing? But it's amazing. The first time we played again this fall, we got together and I wasn't thinking about witnessing or anything.

I came in all relaxed, and all five of these women began to ask me questions about my life. It was just like everything had been dumped right into my lap. And my partner came back and she only played two games and decided that it was not for her to play tennis competitively anymore. And she got a brand new partner. But when she left the tennis team, we had an opportunity to talk together, and I was able to share Jesus Christ with her.

And she had a change in her life. It took one whole year for God's work to prepare me that love would go before winning. It's the highest Mark. It's the highest priority. I don't always practice it, but I know that that's what God would want you to do and what he'd want me to do.

Dorcas in the Bible in Acts, was not a tennis player of the 20th century. She lived 2000 years ago on the coast there at Chapa on the Mediterranean Sea. And she sold for widows. And when she died, the widows wept. They had experienced love from somebody else. And when she wept when she died, the widows went down the way to get Peter and bring him back, even though Dorcas had died because they thought maybe Peter could do something. Peter went upstairs with the women and there Dorcas was lying on a bed dead. And all of these widows were around the bed and they were weeping and they were showing Peter, look at my tunic that she made for me. Look at this, Peter. She made this for me. She was wonderful. We miss her. Remember, the women left the room and Peter was able to bring Dorcas back to life. And as a result of that, how many people came to know Christ? The love of this woman preceded how God would work to bring others to Christ.

Why don't we love our selfishness, our envy? It's easy to weep with somebody who's weeping. But, you know, if we have someone come in and they do better than we do music fields, you're the soloist, and somebody comes along and they're a little bit better than you are, pretty soon you almost forget to use your gift because you think they're better than I am, and I want to be that good. The best thing for you to do is to work up to your highest potential. Might challenge you to do better, do all that you can. But if she's just got straight old raw material better than you are, then be able to say thank you for blessing my heart. It's just like when we forget to thank God, sometimes we have to thank one another for the gift that the other person has that we don't have.

I'm going to talk tomorrow morning about envying. That's kind of a whole topic by itself, that I'm not going to have time to continue on because selfishness and envying and love of the world. I would say those three things get in our way from loving one another.

Remember when Paul says, Demas has left me because he loves the world. The lust of the flesh, the oeras that we talked about the other morning gets in the way, the lust of the eye. We begin to look at all the things the pride of life. We begin enjoying our own selfish ambitions and don't want to love somebody else.

I was trying to think of somebody that I knew that didn't seem to demonstrate envying or selfishness or a love for the world. When you try to think of an example of someone on a national scale that doesn't seem to be tripped up by those three areas, you have to think a little bit. But I thought of a man that I think has been able to love and that he hasn't been tripped up on

a pattern, at least on a regular basis, by those three areas. And his name is Nelson Bell. This would be Ruth Graham, who's married to Billy Graham's father.

And remember, he was a missionary, a medical missionary to China. And I have a friend who was in a Sunday school class and Nelson Bell taught and she went to his home and he was going to give a lesson, but he really didn't need to because the lesson was in going to his home, a medical missionary, a very brilliant man, she said. The home was as simple as simple could be. It wasn't filled with materialism, she said before he taught the lesson, he had an Invalid wife who was in a wheelchair. He washed her face and gave her her food in the presence of the members because he was the one that took care of her. He loved her. He loved her more than he loved the Sunday school class or that he loved his home. He loved his wife. His own son in law is probably the greatest Christian leader in the world. Billy Graham.

There seems to be no in being the envying, the selflessness, the lack of love of the world makes him have that relationship, that Communion with Jesus Christ, that allows him to fellowship with God and to love other people. Well, let me tell you what it says in 1 John, we are provoked to practice love. 1John 4:17 says, until it matures. Dr. Ryery, in his study Bible has a footnote there, and he says that we may practice love so that when we see Jesus Christ, we will not be ashamed, we will not be afraid when we see him because our whole life has been practicing love.

Now let me give you one more thing to do here or two more things to do on your drawing. Try to think of four people that are the closest to you in your heart and draw a little heart that would represent those four people not inside your heart, but right outside your heart, between your heart

and the heart that you drew of God, kind of in the sphere of God's love, but outside of your heart only put them where they are in your thinking and feelings right now. In other words, you might have one of those four people that your mother and she may be clear up in the corner. Your father might be right next to your heart. Your boyfriend might be just a little distant from your heart tonight. Your sister may be way down at the tip somewhere. Nobody's going to know who those four people are, but just position them right now so that you know who you put there and why you put them there.

Now I just want to ask you what God would want you to do to bring all four of those hearts so that they would be right next to your heart. Is there an action that God would want you to perform that would bring that person draw that person back close to your heart? Why aren't they close to your heart? Is it because of envyings or is it because of selfishness on your part? Or is it because of your love for the world or your love for something? Why aren't they close to your heart? Are you experiencing the love of God flowing into your heart? You know that he wants you to be that delivery agent of his love. How people need it. One more comment I want to make that God told you also to love your enemy.

If you'll take outside of the sphere of God's love and write and draw some hearts that are outside of the heart of God because they're not in the sphere of God's love, they haven't responded to God's love. You want to draw some hearts outside of that. Who are those enemies? What does God say that we are to do? He says, to bless them, that curse you, to do good to them who hate you and pray for those who spitefully use you.

And who are your enemies or your enemies are anybody that's opposed to God? Those friends that I've played tennis with, the other four who are opposed to God, those are my enemies. That's what God's word says and I am to pray for them and I am to do good to them no matter what happens, that I may show love to them so that I may woo them into the sphere of God's love. That's the desire of my heart.

Now what about you? Where are you in your love with Jesus? Revelation in the 2nd chapter it says this, your heart has grown cold, he says to the Ephesian Church, and what I want you to do, he says, is to remember what it was that God did in your heart way back some time. The next thing he says he wants you to do, he wants you to God, forgive me for being discontent and unfaithful. God forgive me for myself. Listen, God forgive me for walking in disobedience. God forgive me for loving the world more and I love you. That's why I want you to deal with this issue tonight, to say to God what's in your heart. If you need to repent, just tell him, God forgive me.

God, I remember what you did for me and I want that Communion with you again because when I have that Communion with you, there is that joy, there is that friendship and you reveal yourself to me when I love you and obey your Commandments. Dear God, I pray for these girls tonight, Lord, I prayed that they might deal with these issues in their hearts that they might be able to know your love that you want to shed abroad in their hearts. Lord, I mean, they pull out all the stops and allow your love just to fill their hearts so that they don't even have to work to love somebody else that will just flow from them. Lord, we know that our friends need love so much. Our families need love, the world needs it and we are a constant resource of love if our

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relationship with you is what you want it to be oh, God, I pray to you in my own heart that you'll show me where I've stopped up that Communion with you.

And Lord, I pray that you show it to me and teach it to me because I want to move to your spirit right now. Lord, I pray that I'll be willing to take those steps out and that I might know that wonderful Communion with you. And Lord, may we go from this room tonight saying that we are determined to love one another, that you'll give us that strength and that we can trust you for Jesus sake. Amen.