

Daily Devotional

April 18, 2005

(Contributed by David Berry)

Theme: “Yes, he said it, he finally said it.....I LOVE YOU!”

Text: John 3:16; I John 2:27; John 14:16; John 16:13.

You’ve met someone to whom you are attracted. You go out. You see that person again. You start having feelings for that person. As you continue to see this person, you begin to wonder, you begin to hope they are having the same feelings towards you. For some, this process takes longer than others but when at last the following exchange takes place:

“I love you”. “I love you too”.

...things change! Boy, do they change. Prior to this, while you have enjoyed being in one another’s company, there was an element of uncertainty in the relationship. No more. As a result of your “faith” and your trust in that exchange, the relationship takes on a whole new character. It’s settled. You believe she loves you and she believes you love her. You’re “In Love”. You have “captured” each other’s heart. When you are apart, there is hardly a moment when you are not in each other’s thoughts. Your every thought is what might be pleasing to the other (II Cor. 10:5) and nothing is as important to either of you as being in each other’s presence. And then you exchange gifts, usually rings that symbolize your commitment to each other.

For most, being “In Love” is a transforming experience. You know. You’ve either experienced it yourself or seen it in another person. There is a lightness of being, a sense of joy, of hope and the better we get to know our beloved, the more captivated we become. We almost unconsciously allow a force external to ourselves to take over. We find ourselves doing things we never did before and not seeing or overlooking things in our beloved that would have otherwise bothered us.

When God said to me, “I Love You”, and when I said back to Him “I Love You Too” things changed. My gift to Him was my heart. His gift to me was the Holy Spirit and the promise of being able to live in His presence for the rest of my life. His job was to transform me into the image of Jesus. My job was to stay out of the way and allow Him to do it. And, the more time I spent in my Savior’s presence, the more captivated I became. The love that compelled me to say “I love you too” matured until He not only captured my heart but my entire being and nothing was more important to me than being in His presence. I began doing things I never did before and seeing others as I had never seen them before.

My decision to believe, my Faith, is a Grace, and an intentional act of my will that releases the power of the Holy Spirit to do His transforming work in my life. As I daily practice being in God’s presence and trust the Holy Spirit to do His work in me, I am with each new day given an even greater desire and capacity to trust Him. (Mt. 13:12; 25:29; Mk. 4:25; Lk.8:18; 19:26) It’s “compound” trust.

