

HIS BANNER OVER ME IS LOVE!

We human beings are prone to make things difficult and God is telling us to keep life simple. A wonderful example of this truth is seen in John chapter 9 where Jesus heals a man born blind. Here is the short version.

Jesus sees the blind man, sees his need and said, *“as long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”* Then He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and he anointed the eyes of the blind man and said, *“Go, wash in the pool”*. The blind man went washed and came back seeing.

This made the Pharisees (a religious group) very angry because Jesus healed the man on a Sabbath. When they kept questioning the man, he simply said, *“I told you once what happened and you didn’t believe. I’ll tell you again, I don’t know whether he is a sinner, but I know this: I was blind, and now I can see.”*

We need to trust Jesus and keep life simple. When worry and anxiety comes to torment you, hang tight to your faith and God’s truth, and give those cares to the Lord for truly his yoke is easy and his burden is light. Jesus is only too happy to carry our burdens that are weighing us down. Why hang onto the burdens when you don’t have too? Jesus is more than willing to carry it for you.

We can sum this action up in one word—LOVE!

This truth was illustrated to me as I was sitting in the park one day on my lunch break. I saw this man and his small son approaching me. They caught my attention because the little boy, who looked to be three or four years of age, was carrying this huge basketball that was almost as big as he was.

The boy was doing his best to keep up with his daddy, but he was lagging farther and farther behind, and I could see he was struggling to hold onto the basketball. Suddenly the father stopped, turned, took in the situation, and instantly reached toward his son.

“Oh good, he’s going to take the basketball and carry it for his son. That poor little guy’s had it, but bless his heart, what a *“little trooper”*; he just keeps trudging on. Dad to the rescue—yeah!”

Without a word and in one continuous motion, I saw the father take the basketball in one hand, while his other hand tenderly lifts his son high into the air, places him securely upon his shoulders, and they continue down the path without skipping a beat.

It happened so quickly, I was still trying to process it, as I watch them start to pass by me.

My gaze was drawn to the little boy’s face and the look on his sweet little face will stay with me for a long time. It was a mixture of relief, joy, love and pride. His *“look”* said it all and my heart was genuinely touched. His face was reflecting in all its glory the truth of a daddy’s love—his look said, *“My daddy loves me! I’m important! He’ll always be there to help me. I don’t have to do it all by myself. He knows when I need him.”*

As they walk by, I bow my head and quietly said a simple “Thank You” to my Heavenly Father, as I remember the many times he took my burdens from me and carried me when my strength was gone and each step was a struggle. The Father doesn’t always wait until we cry out for help, he often relieves us from the burdens for He know how much we can handle and when we are about to fall. His loving arms will always be there for His children.

A Father’s love—it stands alone—there is no comparison. The story of the prodigal son flashed across my mind for this father too, showed his son a father’s love in its truest form. The world is limited in what it can give to us and often has a price tag attached, but God’s love is not limited nor is it conditional. His love is freely given and Song of Solomon 2:4 says it this way “He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.”

I watch the father and son until they disappeared around the corner and were gone from my sight—the son’s body posture was telling me a lot and I knew one day I would tell his story. He was sitting up very straight and taking in the sights. Sitting high upon his daddy’s shoulders, the world had a whole different look to his little eyes than when he was on the ground and struggling with the basketball. He was refreshed. He felt secure. He was relaxed; Daddy had him. I wished I could have seen his face; for I knew I would see the biggest smile ever! Love does that to you!

Know beloved, that God loves you with an everlasting love. You are precious to Him. God knows you as a person, an individual in your own right. He knows your name. He knows the number of hairs on your head. He knows where you live. He knows all your needs, and He is more than willing to supply them.

I was invited to conduct a Prayer seminar in a certain city and was entertained in the home of a middle-aged couple. When the hostess escorted me into the guest room, she said in a welcome voice, “Now, I want you to make yourself completely at home. Hang your clothes up in the closet and put your other clothes in the drawers. I made room for you. This is your room while you are here. After she left, I unpacked my suitcase and put my clothes away in the closet and drawers that were emptied out and ready for me to use. I felt very welcomed—LOVE—had prepared the room for my use.

We need to do the same thing when we invite the Holy Spirit to come into the chambers of our hearts. We must be willing to be emptied of all that is contrary to His nature and we must put out the “Welcome” sign and mean it! He must be more than a Guest: He must be Lord. And don’t be surprised, because when you invite him in and give him full reign, He will do a thorough job of housecleaning and will even rearrange the furniture to His own plan. After all, you did invite Him in and LOVE ALWAYS MAKES A WAY!