

I AM THE DOOR OF THE SHEEP

God's love in the Bible is evident in the most famous Psalm in all the Bible: "*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures...*" It is a perfect picture of God's love for His children, as He continually makes provisions for their needs, watches over them, keeps them safe from predators, and guides them away from danger.

We also see God's heart of love and faithfulness in the most beautiful of all His sermons. In it He said, *I am the Door of the sheep; by Me if any man enter in he shall be saved. I am the Good Shepherd; the good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. I am the Good Shepherd, and know My sheep, and am known of Mine; and I lay down My life for the sheep, And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear My voice, and there shall be one flock under one Shepherd.* (See John chapter 10)

The other sheep that Jesus spoke about meant the Gentiles, the people who are not Jews. He meant you and me, and it meant all the heathen. And down through the centuries many sheep, many quiet little lambs, have heard the voice of Jesus, and are following Him. Have you heard Him calling you? Have you followed Him? If not, make haste to do so now, for He cares for you and is not willing that any perish without Him. Why should I follow Him you may ask? Let me help you count the ways.

Man's importunity is God's opportunity. He uses our problems as building materials for His miracles. The Bible contains many promises that God will lead those who obey Him. We are given direct guidance through the Holy Spirit. Have you ever heard of a good shepherd who does not lead his sheep?

The secret of victory comes through obedience. Many are caught in the trap of bitterness, and the only way to get rid of bitterness is to surrender it the Lord—let it go. If we forgive other people, our hearts are made fit to receive forgiveness. *For if you forgive men their trespasses (sins), your heavenly Father will also forgive you. but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*

When bitterness tries to return, just stand your ground, claim the victory of Jesus over fear and resentment, and let God's love fill your heart and forgive the person(s) who has hurt you—even when you don't want to. This is the message that God gives us. It is not only a commandment, but a daily experience. Forgiveness is not an emotion—it is an act of the will, and that *will* can function regardless of the temperature of the heart. As we stretch forth a hand, allow Jesus to supply the feeling, then God's love through the power of the Holy Spirit, will set us free. Our love can't do it; we need God's love working in our lives and hearts to truly be able to forgive others.

When I think of forgiveness I often think back to the story Corrie Ten Boom shared in one of her books about coming face to face with her former guard in Ravensbrück. Corrie and her sister, Betsy, suffered much abuse along with the other prisoners under his hand, and how she had to choose to forgive him in obedience to God. Can we do any less?

I read once that when you feel there is no light to guide you, you can still be in God's will, for actually when one is abiding under the shadow of the Almighty, there will be no light, but that is only because God's presence is so near.

The filling of the Holy Spirit is the beginning of a new spiritual blessing that each day brings us into a closer walk with the Lord Jesus. Now whether I am walking in the bright light of His presence, or abiding under the shadow of the Almighty, we can be assured that Jesus is not only with you, His is in You! *Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.* (1 John 4:4)

SATAN:

1. Satan opposes God and His work.
2. Satan is the God of this world/blinds the minds of people to the truth of God's word.
3. Rebelled against God/cast out of heaven for his rebellion.
4. Caused man's fall in paradise.
5. Father of lies' a liar and a murderer.
6. Satan often works as an angel of light/seeking ruin of the elect.
7. Satan was cursed of God.
8. Jesus triumphed over Satan at the Cross of Calvary and in His resurrection.
9. Satan has been condemned.
10. Satan will finally be destroyed in the lake of fire.

D. L. Moody – *The valley of the shadow of death holds no darkness for the child of God. There must be light, else there could be no shadow. Jesus is the Light.*