

HEALINGLINE

2018 VOL. 4

CALLED TO LOVE

JUDITH MACNUTT

The Lord calls us to love. Most of us know the verse John 3:16, "For God so loved the world," but are we familiar with 1 John 3:16? In 1 John 3:16, the apostle John speaks again of love. *"This is how we know what love is: Jesus laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters."*

We are called to be the presence of Jesus in this world—to show His love to people. Love fulfills the gospel of Jesus Christ. I believe one day when we stand before the Father, one question He will ask us is, *How much did you love? Did you love those I placed in your life? Did you show my love to your husband, to your wife, to your children? Did you reflect my glory and my love with those that I brought to you?*

I find that many people want to be anointed by God to have a healing ministry. When I sit down with them and tell them what a healing ministry really entails, they usually change their mind. The healing ministry is hard work. Ministry in general is hard work. It requires laying down your life for another person. It calls us to lay down our humanity and our natural emotional responses. When people reject you, it requires loving them in response. Gifting them with these types of loving responses is difficult. It assaults our pride. Instead of offering forgiveness to people, everything in us might want to strike back. As a society, we are too sophisticated

or cultured to strike back physically, but we do it verbally or sometimes nonverbally. We want to punish a mean person and let them know they will have to live the rest of their lives with the consequences of their mistakes.

Paul invites us to pray for the renewing of our minds—I find this to be a necessary response, and one that is advisable. In addition to a changed and renewed mind, our hearts must be softened in order to give and receive love.

In marriage counseling I found this to be pertinent. A person may understand intellectually that their spouse loves them, but they might be unable to receive love and therefore find it difficult to return love. They might say, *I feel like my heart is a block of ice*. Where do we begin the work of healing with someone whose heart is unable to receive? We can't just read them Bible verses and say, *Claim that scripture*.

I love the Word of God. It is precious to me and to most believers, but my experience is that some haven't been able to incorporate the Word into their lives. They can hear it, but it hasn't yet made that 12-inch journey from the head to the heart, the journey that enables them to love.

Ideally, when the Lord moves into our lives and we receive Him and the Holy Spirit, changes start taking place in our hearts. Unfortunately, many people stop at the point of conversion. They receive Jesus, but they don't incorporate His life, love and mercy into their lives. The grace of God must be poured



out supernaturally into our hearts. The love of God will do two things—it will bring healing of the experiences that have wounded us (the events that prevent us from walking in love), and it will enable us to receive the gift of love to act graciously toward other people.

While I was a psychologist working in Boston, I thought, *If I could only love enough, these people would be healed*. Hour after hour I poured out love to my patients. My efforts gave them a shred of hope, but didn't heal them. God got through to me and allowed me to realize that my love doesn't heal—He is the healer. When I combined prayer and God's love with the love that I felt, healing was able to flow. Then and only then did I begin to see people healed of all kinds of mental illnesses.

It is very difficult to be a loving person if we have not been shown love. In psychology, we were taught that the cornerstone of mental health is love, acceptance, and affirmation of your life, your goodness and your very being. You can often tell when someone grew up with

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wonderful, loving parents. They are secure, confident, loving and accepting of others and self because they didn't experience rejection. When parents reject a child, it may be difficult for them to believe they are acceptable. I have had people say to me, *If my own mother didn't love me, how can you love me?* or *My father abandoned me at birth, I must have been terrible and ugly.* Lack of love or abusive behavior in the home may be the cause of deep wounding.

Someone once said that our lives are shaped by those who love us and also by those who refuse to love us. Those that have rejected us leave a powerful imprint on our hearts.

Those that love us unconditionally, however, come and help wash away the hurt. God's love cleanses and frees us to then become His agents of healing to others—to be His hands extended on this earth.

Allow the Spirit to show you what keeps you from knowing and receiving His love. ➤

JUDITH MACNUTT is author, teacher, conference speaker, co-founder and president of CHM.

BREAKING THE BARRIER OF OPPRESSION

GRAHAM COOKE

Editor's Note: *I was in a battle to get free from fear most of my life. I had endured multiple traumas, including abuse, an abduction and living in a war-torn country where bombs and evacuations were deemed "normal." The fear that grew from those events defined my battle and journey to freedom from fear. This journey was a healing journey that took time and brought with it an intimacy with the Lord that I would never have if I hadn't been in that original broken place. Once I had the majority of healing from these events, I found the oppression of the enemy pounding on my door to make me think the healing hadn't occurred. The enemy always wants to put us back in that pit where we feel stuck. Graham Cooke, in this article below, describes well the "territory" or "fear-conquered" place I had come upon, just like the Promised Land for the Israelites. For me, this "piece of land" that Graham refers to is a "new place" where inordinate fear does not control my choices and behaviors. Once I was no longer having the symptoms of PTSD, I experienced such a place of peace that I thought I had "arrived" at healing. But I found that the Lord wanted more. My life experiences had built up so many defenses and walls, I soon learned that I often operated with fear as a foundation. Ultimately, the process of this journey brought me into intimacy with the Lord. In 2012 I went through a cancer diagnosis (chemo, multiple surgeries, reconstruction, etc.) and had no fear. I would not trade the closeness I found with God in the process for anything! I feel so*

blessed to spend time now encouraging people who have fear and anxiety from their past and helping them on their journey toward peace and intimacy with Him. God wants our freedom—and He desires an intimate relationship with us in the process. Read Graham's article below describing this battle. —Kathi Smith, Editor

God has a huge desire in His heart to see you set free in everything and gain your own piece of land in Him. What is the piece of territory that has your name on it and how are you going to take possession of it?

FREEDOM AND TERRITORY

A battle is always about freedom and territory. God has huge desire in His heart to see you set free in everything—compulsions, addictions, bad habits, and ungodly mindsets. I firmly believe there is a piece of territory out there in the realm of freedom that has your name on it. God wants you to have it, to take possession of it, occupy it, and own it, in Jesus' name. It could be in your place of work or in your business. It could be in your relationship with God or in your neighborhood, or in your ministry.

TWO BATTLES

How many of us know people who won the battle to get free but lost the battle to stay free and six or twelve months down the line they are right back where they were? It is one battle to break out and it is another battle to break in. Israel, in bondage in Egypt, was facing a battle to break out of oppression and to break into the land of promise that God wanted for them.

PROCESS

Those battles can be hard, but they are magnificent. They are magnificent in the process and they are magnificent in the outcome. Sometimes we don't understand that it is the process that makes us rich, not necessarily the outcome. We are so geared toward outcome, because what we want is to get from point A to point B without any pain, without any process, and without any trouble. That is not supernatural, that is magical. God doesn't do magic. God likes to walk you step by step out of something and into a new place. Walking through that process is where you get to know Him. It is where you get to hear His heart, you get to see Him, you get to understand Him, you get to walk with Him, and you get to hear His voice. It is the process that makes you rich, ALWAYS. Battles are hard, but they are also magnificent in terms of process and outcome. ➤

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GRAHAM COOKE

Author, founder of Brilliant Book House and Brilliant Perspectives. Visit www.brilliantperspectives.com for Graham's blogs, teachings and event calendar.



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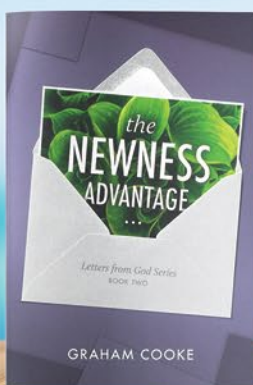
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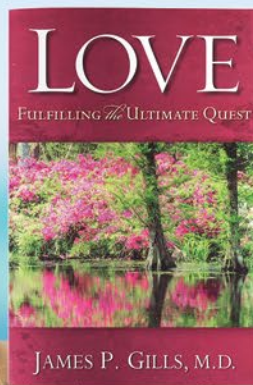
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God placed a dream on the hearts of Francis and Judith, and it has become the dream of the whole CHM family. Our dream is to build a healing place where people can come to receive prayer and training, now and for generations to come.

Thanks to the support of so many who have come to realize God's purpose for CHM, we successfully raised enough to purchase land in Jacksonville, FL. This land is dedicated to our new healing center that will become a visible sign of God's love for His people, and a "city of refuge" for all those in need.

We pray that our dream becomes your own! Please consider partnering with us today by making a one-time donation, a monthly donation, or a planned gift.



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