

# A Year of His Love

Ruth shared these items at our morning gathering.

*"I declare this a "Year of His Love"! It's gonna be a good year! Nearly every night for the last couple of weeks I've been dreaming about breakthroughs in relationships. I truly believe that this month and forward that we're going to begin to see some major breakthroughs that we've longed for; breakthrough after breakthrough in our relationships are coming!*

*I've been dreaming lately of the love of Christ shining out of us so powerfully that the very atmosphere is changed and everyone is blasted by the glory. In one of the dreams I saw an angry mob coming for us, but they stopped as we began to radiate light and then like in the movie "Cinderella" their clothes changed from rags to elegant garments and their faces went from scowls to smiles and the atmosphere went from foreboding to a glorious sun lit day! The rest of my dreams have been of acts of radical kindness; serving, listening, encouraging, esteeming, honoring, giving, holding, caring, cultivating, understanding and on and on! It's time to release His love in greater measure; going the extra mile even when it's inconvenient!*

*I heard a wonderful true story once told by Don Finto at a conference years ago. It made an impression on me and parts of it has stuck with me. It was a story of a man who was imprisoned in a communist country. His wife would bring dinner to his cell every day. But day after day the prison guard would take the meal and would eat it in front of him each time. Finally the man was released from prison. And one day he and his wife were out walking when they encountered the prison guard coming down the street. He was coming from the opposite side of the street so the wife crossed over and said to him, "How would you like to come to our house for dinner? I remember how much you enjoyed my food." And to their surprise he said*

*yes. So he came and as he was eating the delicious meal he began to break down in front of them and through his tears he confessed to the husband, "I watched you every day as I ate your wife's wonderful cooking and I never sensed an ounce of hatred coming from you. What is it about you people? I want to know this God that you serve." And they were able to lead him to Christ!*

*What a savior we have. He's a savior that can even give us love for our enemies. He gives us a love that empowers us with His overcoming grace and peace; the best kind of love, the God kind! It's a love that awakens the soul, brings peace and joy and puts a fire in our hearts that makes us long for more! May our friends, family and yes, even our enemies say, "It was not into my ear that you whispered, but into my heart. It was not my lips you kissed, but my soul." "*<sup>1</sup>

**1 Corinthians 13** (MSG<sup>2</sup>) – *If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate. If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing. If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.*

- Love never gives up.
- Love cares more for others than for self.
- Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.
- Love doesn't strut,
- Doesn't have a swelled head,

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1 – Candice Simmons 11-2-2016 (non-copyright Stairways Ministries e-newsletter)

2 – The Message

- *Doesn't force itself on others,*
- *Isn't always "me first,"*
- *Doesn't fly off the handle,*
- *Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,*
- *Doesn't revel when others grovel,*
- *Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,*
- *Puts up with anything,*
- *Trusts God always,*
- *Always looks for the best,*
- *Never looks back,*
- *But keeps going to the end.*

*Love never dies. Inspired speech will be over some day; praying in tongues will end; understanding will reach its limit. We know only a portion of the truth, and what we say about God is always incomplete. But when the Complete arrives, our incompletes will be canceled.*

*When I was an infant at my mother's breast, I gurgled and cooed like any infant. When I grew up, I left those infant ways for good. We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!*

*But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.*

14-2-2016