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### “OUT OF DARKNESS INTO LIGHT”

by Carol Gordon

“He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.” (I John 2:9-11)

The Word is clear on the vast distinction between darkness and light. God is defined by the Apostle John as light, life, and love, in many references. Therefore, His opposites are equally clear: darkness, death, and hate! This grid should keep us from being confused.

If someone is acting hateful, they are being ruled by darkness. If we are holding unforgiveness we are not walking in love, and are entertaining darkness and hate, no matter how we may try to fool ourselves. There is no “line” where someone’s sin is too great for the Lord’s forgiveness or for ours! He will always help us to turn the corner from holding animosity to choosing to forgive. It is so destructive to us to hold on to the painful traumas of life. The Lord has a way out!

I once had someone confidently tell me that the only time one was required to forgive was when restitution was made. We should make amends whenever it is possible, but at least 85% of the time, it is not an option. One party or the other is not alive, or doesn’t even comprehend what they did, or a thousand other scenarios. That is why the “Mommy and Daddy Hugs” Louis and I were led to give were so powerful. We had some idea of the pain caused and its devastating effects. As we repented from our hearts, the Lord honored that empathy and made it real and effective to the “hug-ee”.

The loudest way we proclaim the Lord’s reality is in the love we share as we go about our lives. The words we speak about Jesus have to be validated by the character of Jesus others see in us. Loving and being full of the joy of life is the way His light shows through us. **“For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”** (II Cor 4:6) We can’t present a fearful, downcast, or negative attitude to the world and hope that we are drawing them to Jesus.

As we walk “in the light”, we will have clear ideas and values. In fact, the most constant thing about walking with the Lord is having to shift our thinking to agree with Him. There are so many mixed up relationships in most family’s lives, that they are very confused about godly standards. Most people think they have to adjust their standards to love a family member who has a different world view. We can love people without loving their behavior. We learn this from our Heavenly Father who does this with all of us all the time. We are loved by Him because we ARE. No earning it or behavioral standards are involve. If we do well, it is because of His love working in us.

He just wants the opportunity to live in and through us. That is why we get to yield to Him so that He can shine through. **“Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”** (2 Cor 3:17-18) We are transformed as we focus on Him.

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What a gift it is to have the opportunity to repent when we see we have made a mistake. Whether we discover something that has been hiding in our heart for years or a hard place we stumbled over two minutes ago, we can run to the Lord and repent and find freedom. A friend was recently sharing that as she went to pray for someone she asked the Lord if there was anything in her own heart that would hinder her prayers. He immediately showed her an offense that she carried about the behavior of strangers. She quickly repented, as she did not want anything to deprive her prayers of power. We all have "opinions" that on examination are really condemnations of others. We are to guard our hearts and words so that we stay in tune with the Lord.

In fact, the darkness that hides in our hearts as unforgiveness, bitterness, offense or condemnation really affect us in many ways. These unresolved heart issues open the door to sickness and disease. We have seen many people experience a physical healing as a result of releasing the poison that was in their wounded hearts.

**"Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life."** (Prov 4:23). We all have pockets of darkness that need to be brought to the light, so that the pure light, love and life can be seen in us. Father, forgive and help us all!!!

*(All Scripture references are from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted)*



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**NEWS AND NOTES**

Dear Partners and Friends:

What a wonderful time to be watching the Lord at work! I enjoyed hosting Pastor Marc LeBrun from France last month. He ministered and made new contacts here. His lovely wife, Annemarie, did not get to come this year and was sorely missed. We hope they can come again next spring. He spoke at Heart Menders and Faith Fellowship Church. We have had other dynamic guest speakers recently, including Dr. John Ward, and Steve and Tara Alexander.

I also made a trip to Texas for dental work. Dr. Cone C. Rice, III, better known as “Chip”, is engaged to my daughter, Katherine. We are looking forward to his joining our family. He lives in Eastland, Texas, where Louis’ father was an oil man in the “boom days” of the 1920s.

My oldest grandson, Austin, who is in college in Auburn, AL, was here for a visit in May. His next brother, Chandler, was here over July 4th on leave from the military. The youngest of Steve’s children, Sam, 17, is here for the summer staying with his sister, Grace. Faithe and I had a good time on the Fourth. Steve and Karen were out of town.

I have had some wonderful opportunities to pray for special events lately. I was on a team with Eddie and Alice Smith, from Houston, for an event in OKC. I also had occasion to pray for my friend and State Representative, Sally Kern. The ministers prayer group we work with here is seeing the Lord move in many ways.

The [website for The Child Heart book](#) and its workbooks is up and running and you can direct your friends to it. I would love your feed back on the video available on [HeartMenders.tv](#).

**PLEASE BE FAITHFUL IN PRAYER AT THIS SEASON. CHALLENGING TIMES ARE HERE. INCREASE YOUR PRAYER LIFE NOW IF YOU HAVEN’T ALREADY - FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR FAMILY AND THE BODY OF CHRIST! Pray for His people to move from the Outer Court to the Holy Place and press into His Presence in the Holy of Holies.** Always include your home church and Heart Menders, as well. I hope you will sign up on any of our prayer teams, for HM Prayer Requests, HM Support Team, HM Media Outreach, and Hope for the Hopeless Team. I encourage you to participate in prayer groups where you are.

Thank you to our financial partners. Your gifts, large or small, are a tremendous blessing in sharing the message that there is “help from Heaven” to heal the broken hearted. Our goals reflect our instruction to “value the anointing” and give it out!

Please keep praying, “LORD, HELP CAROL FULFILL YOUR CALL ON HER LIFE!”

Your sister in Him,

*Carol Gordon*

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