

April 30th

“LOVE TAKES NO PLEASURE IN EVIL BUT REJOICES IN TRUTH”

by Dona Hake

As believers we need to love the truth of God's Word. We must be able to discern that which the devil would try to make us believe above the Word of God. We need to be careful as believers that we never enter into taking pleasure and rejoicing in evil, wrong doings or injustice, but to always rejoice in the truth. I can remember one preacher say "Truth always out lives a lie!" I will never forget that. □ The following are two different translations of 1 Corinthians 10:5 which I feel are excellent to look at in light of the love chapter. □ "We are demolishing arguments and ideas, every high-and-mighty philosophy that pits itself against the knowledge of the one true God. We are taking prisoners of every thought, every emotion, and subduing them into obedience to the Anointed One." The Voice (VOICE) □ "and we tear down every proud idea that raises itself against the knowledge of God. We also capture every thought and make it give up and obey Christ." Easy-to-Read Version (ERV) □ I love how The Voice translation put it..."demolishing arguments and ideas, every high-and-mighty philosophy that pits itself against the knowledge of the one true God." There are many arguments, ideas, and high-and-mighty philosophies in the world in which we live. I find it sad that there are many Christians that have watered down their convictions because they do not challenge their hearts in this area. We are not to just accept anything that comes along in this world, we are to judge it according to the truth of His Word. God wants us to be a people that love and hold fast to the truth of the one true God!! When we love God's Word with all of our heart we will hold fast to it no matter what our heads, our circumstances or emotions are screaming.

In the area of friendships and relationships as Christians we must always value the truth. When someone comes to you and shares something negative or untrue about anyone you have a choice to make and you must make the right one. If what the person has shared with you is true, it is your responsibility to react in love and purpose yourself to pray for that individual. It is also your responsibility to never repeat it and enter into gossip. This is such a sick and dangerous thing to do. Gossip is a sin and the Lord is very displeased with it. Every situation is different and you need to be in

prayer as to how to handle misunderstandings, accusations, etc. The Lord wants us to confront such issues and restore one another in love.

In closing this is the sum of rejoicing in the truth – When you rejoice in truth you will have a heart that is totally free. You are happy because you have put the truth above your opinions, your desires, your feelings and emotions, and you want Him and only Him. Let these scriptures come to life to you today, and if any negative or untrue thoughts come your way, deal with them according to the truth. See ANY untrue, poisonous thoughts and wrong emotions as enemies and take them as prisoners and subdue them into obedience to the Anointed One!

As I mentioned in past devotions it is vitally important that we guard our hearts with all diligence for out of it flows the issues of this life. If you want His life to flow in all of your affairs than love Him and His truth with all of your heart! Have a blessed day in Him!

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April 29th

LOVE DOES NOT REMEMBER WRONGS

by Dona Hake □ “Love does not remember wrongs done against it.” 1 Corinthians 13:5-6 Easy-to-Read Version (ERV)

When someone sins against us or hurts us it can be painful. We can be assured that the Lord knows our frame very well and He absolutely understands our emotions, and our thought processes. He knows what it is like to be falsely accused yet He kept His mouth shut and He walked in forgiveness. He bore all of our sins, pains, and sicknesses on His body. He forgave all while He suffered on the cross that He might accomplish the will of the Heavenly Father. □ Sometimes people say they forgive but they choose not to forget. This is where the whole issue of “taking account of wrongs” begins. The longer we hold onto the pain and all the details of the

offense the more it will eat away at our hearts and tear us down physically. We are the ones that become prisoners when we choose to withhold forgiveness from the one that has hurt you. I believe we can ask the Lord to help us with the pain and the memories that hurt has caused us. Sometimes even after you have forgiven you may still bear scars from that particular hurt but praise God you have forgiven and you are free! You know when you are free from any pain someone has caused you when you can talk about it and you feel absolutely no resentment toward the individual that hurt or offended you.

As a child I have one memory in particular that was painful to me. I was only about five years old, yet if I think about it, it is as if it happened yesterday. I can remember the little pink chiffon dress I had on, and the memory never left me, yet I can honestly say that I forgave that person for the anger and unfair treatment that was exhibited toward me that day. After I was born again as a young woman I began to experience God helping me to see people as He sees them, He showed me how to forgive that individual and He gave me compassion like I had never experienced.

It is important to remember that when you forgive you must forgive by faith, NOT by how you feel. It is so important as well to understand the fact that just because you forgive does not mean that the situation is going to turn around over night. Forgiveness keeps your heart right before God as you release that person. When you truly forgive you will NOT embrace an attitude that they owe you something because they have hurt you.

We live in a world of hurt and pain. We have all been hurt and maybe some of us have caused hurt to someone and you were on the receiving end of forgiveness. Just remember when people have hurt you, God commands you to forgive.

Matthew 18:20-21 The Voice (VOICE) □ Peter: " Lord, when someone has sinned against me, how many times ought I forgive him? Once? Twice? As many as seven times?" □ Jesus: " You must forgive not seven times, but seventy times seven."

Our God never requires anything of us than He will not equip us to do. Remember also how the Lord Jesus looked down from the cross

and said, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." Let us be reminded to look to Jesus everyday as our example. Forgiveness is a must to keep you in His love walk and keeping your heart totally free.

I pray this has blessed your heart and I hope your day is blessed in Him!!!

April 28th

YOU ARE GOD'S LIGHT!!

by Dona Hake ☐ Blessings to you this beautiful Sunday morning!!!! Tomorrow we will continue our devotional on "love takes no account of the evil done to it and pays no attention to a suffered wrong." Today I would just like to exhort you relative to growth in your spiritual walk with Him.

First I would like to share this quote with you because I love it and it is so true..."To reach a great height a person needs to have great depth." Anonymous

I think it is important that we as believers have a hope within us that we will continue to grow deeper and deeper in Him. Refuse to stand still and be stagnant. The evil of this world is moving at a swift pace and you need to continue to prepare ourselves to be used to give God's Word where ever your assignment is.

As you hear God's Word today in your church I pray that you will receive all that you are expecting from Him. Remember we must walk into His green pastures with expectation in our hearts. Rest in

the peace and fellowship of fellow believers and hear His Word with gladness and a receptivity. If you are weary, expect to be refreshed. If you are dealing with a difficult circumstance, expect the Lord to speak through your Pastor.

The Lord Jesus desires that we continue to go deeper and deeper in our knowledge of Him that we would be fruitful in every good work. As we grow in Him we will have an abundance within us that is spilling over to a lost and dying world. The world needs what we have and we must be ready to share it with them.

Matthew 5:15 Common English Bible (CEB) □ 15 “Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on top of a lamp stand, and it shines on all who are in the house.” As you enter your job this week expect your light to shine on ALL that are around you. Expect opportunities to share, to listen, and just do whatever He asks you to do!

I am going to wrap this devotional up with this scripture as a prayer just for you! □ Ephesians 3:17-19 Easy-to-Read Version (ERV) □ 17 I pray that Christ will live in your hearts because of your faith. I pray that your life will be strong in love and be built on love. 18 And I pray that you and all God’s holy people will have the power to understand the greatness of Christ’s love—how wide, how long, how high, and how deep that love is. 19 Christ’s love is greater than anyone can ever know, but I pray that you will be able to know that love. Then you can be filled with everything God has for you.

God bless you and have a wonderful day!

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April 27th

LOVE IS NOT TOUCHY AND IRRITABLE

by Dona Hake

Love is not touchy and irritable. This is the sum of a few different translations of the first part of I Corinthians 13:5. When I think about one being touchy or irritable it could be a result of being

preoccupied, sickness, or lack of rest. I am sure there could be other reasons but God's Word makes it clear in Phillipians 4:6-7 " Don't worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks for what you have. And because you belong to Christ Jesus, God's peace will stand guard over all your thoughts and feelings. His peace can do this far better than our human minds." Easy To Read Version

I shared yesterday how God desires so much for us to bring every detail before Him. He wants to perfect every concern in our lives. I truly believe what happens is many times when things are going good for us we can fail to keep conscious of Him and we can be tempted to relax in our faith. You will have those days where you wake up and it seems like everything is going wrong. If you do not take your thoughts captive and take every problem to Him immediately you will find yourself in trouble and end up being easily irritated with people and situations.

If you are preoccupied with thinking about problems and you do not make a quality decision to give all to Him you will carry the burden in your own ability. It is when we are trying to carry burdens that we pull ourselves away from being immersed in the peace of God. I know for myself when I feel peaceful and tranquil within my soul, things that normally would flip my switch and upset me just do not bother me. If I am struggling with an existing problem and I allow my mind to wander I become consumed with worry. It is those times in my life that I am prone to being touchy and irritable. I think it can be so hard not worry at times but knowing that God's Word says that it is sin makes my heart desire to put a stop to it.

I think the other thing that I would like to bring up as I addresss being touchy and irritable and that is many times people can fall into the sin of wanting a comfort zone where there are no challenges. A comfort zone is a nice little place where you try to make your world a perfect place where there are no bumps in the road. This is not reality to try to do this. If you deal with feeling that things should always go your way and you should have no pressure in this life you are setting yourself up to get irritated and touchy with those people that upset your world.

The more I am sharing from the Love Chapter it is more and more

apparent to me that the more we do that which is right in the sight of the Lord we will NOT do wrong. Those times we do miss it and do wrong we need to remind ourselves that God is loving and merciful. God will always pick us up and move us forward after we have sought His forgiveness. I pray your day will be blessed and remember to take all your cares and worries to Him and enjoy His peace that passes all understanding. (below are archived devotionals) ~~~~~
~~~~~ April 26th

## **HE CARES ABOUT EVERY DETAIL OF YOUR DAY!**

by Dona Hake

Before we move on in I Corinthians 13 I wanted to share a quote from a woman that I have always loved and respected. Mother Teresa understood love, walked in love and lived for God while she was on this earth. I love the many quotes that she has left with us. This one blessed me and inspired me in this devotional for today. "God speaks in the silence of the heart. Listening is the beginning of prayer." Mother Teresa

Many times our hearts are troubled with many things. There is so much going on in this world today. I hear it almost everyday when I am out and about doing errands. "We live in a different world." This is so true. We can not allow the troubles, pressures, etc. to cause our hearts to be so weighted down and full of things that we can not quiet ourselves before Him.

Many times our prayers are just asking for one thing after another. Take time today and just be quiet before Him, listen to Him closely and then as you proceed into your day be open to His help and His voice. Ask Him to be with you and bless your day. He loves to help you with the smallest of details. I would like to share a testimony of something that recently happened to me.

Last week I needed to go to a store to pick up a gift card. I have never been to this store before and I was having a very hard time finding it. In my frustration I almost decided to forget about it and just head home. I heard His voice quietly speak to my spirit, "Have you asked me for help yet?" I thought to myself how we can so easily go about our business and forget that He wants to help with all kinds of things. So I prayed a simple "Help!!!" prayer, nothing fancy because I had to make a decision and traffic was horrible. I pulled into a grocery store and I felt to ask a shopper for directions. I pulled up and there was a woman to my right and another to my left loading their car with groceries. I originally went to ask the one woman and I felt I was supposed to ask the other one instead. It

was just amazing what this woman did. She said, "Pull your car over, wait till I get my groceries loaded in the car and you can follow me and I will lead you right to the store." She explained that it was complicated and so many have trouble finding this store. She led me right to the entrance. I purposed to tell her that she was an answer to prayer and she seemed blessed that I shared that with her.

I could of missed this blessing by not listening to His still small voice speaking to me about something I perceived to be too trivial to pray about. Lesson learned! I hope this blessed you and I hope you are reminded to include Him in the smallest of details in your day today as you take time to quiet your heart and listen to Him.

Below are archived devotionals

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Thursday, April 25th

## **LOVE IS NOT SELF SEEKING**

by Dona Hake

We are continuing to look at I Corinthians 13:5 in part... □ "...Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; ..."

We have all seen and heard it in little ones: □ "I'll do it myself!" □ "It's mine!" □ "He has more than me, it's not fair!" □ "But I have to have it!!!" □ "I want it now!"

You could probably add a few to the list. This kind of behavior can wear you down but we all know that every child is going to act in this manner until they are taught differently. If a child is not challenged in this area they will eventually be the young adults and eventually the adults that think the world should come to a

screeching halt when something is not going their way. I think the thing that must really grieve the heart of God is when the His children do not deal with self seeking tendencies and they become totally absorbed in themselves.

I think more than ever that this world is swirling at a rapid pace trying to take our eyes off of Him. The devil wants our eyes on ourselves because he knows it will keep us from being used and being effective for Jesus. There are so many ways the enemy will try to deceive you in this area. Let me discuss one for an example. I am sure you can all identify with times in your life that you really wanted something but DID YOU REALLY NEED IT? There is a big difference you know. We live in a world where fashions, makeup, hair, etc....scream from the billboards and magazines at the checkout of our grocery stores. They remind us of what we HAVE TO HAVE to look and be perfect. We end up that we have to have it, but we really do not need it. All this is doing is feeding your "self" nature and making you focus more and more on your self.

The Lord desires that we grow up into Him. He desires that our focus be upon Him and only Him. I Corinthians 13: 11 When I was a child, I spoke, thought, and reasoned in childlike ways as we all do. But when I became a man, I left my childish ways behind. (The Voice)

There is child likeness that God wants us to continue to embrace but childishness is exhibited by the one where their "world" is all about them. If you feel there may still areas where you have a hard time giving Him your total focus ask the Holy Spirit to help you identify and root it out in order that you can serve Him more effectively. He has promised to be your Helper and He will help complete you in every area that you desire.

Be blessed this day in Jesus Name!

(devotions below are archived)

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**April 24th**

**LOVE IS NOT RUDE**

by Dona Hake

We will look today at part of I Corinthians 13:5 from the Amplified Bible. Again we are looking at some things that love IS NOT...

“... it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God’s love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; ...”

Sometimes I just cringe at the rudeness and unbecoming behavior in this world. I think about the people that are working and serving us in the public and they really should not be serving the public because they are terrible working with people let alone tolerating them. What disturbs me even more is when a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ exhibits themselves rudely. As a believer we need to be ever so conscious that at any moment in time the Lord could call upon us to be a witness for Him in a public place. He wants you to be His mouth piece. More importantly He desires that we be consistent in our behavior that we be not offensive to people.

Sometimes we can be guilty of taking things out on people and we have no idea that we are doing it. Then there are times we can be tempted to be rude simply because our patience has run out therefore we act unbecomingly. By the way that means to act in an unsuitable or inappropriate manner.

I constantly try to remind myself that this world is so very dark and it is hurting. There are so many people that are lost and looking for the true light and real answers. There is a lot of “light” out there

right now. The devil is manipulating this world in so many ways to offer peace, strength and all kinds of wonderful ways to live in this chaotic world apart from the Lord Jesus Christ. God is looking to shine in a seriously bright way like never before. We cannot allow ourselves to waste any time and we must purpose ourselves to be used by Him like never before.

If someone else's rudeness bugs you, stop and get your peace and pray for them and then pray for yourself. I could think of so many things that people do that are rude and I have to stop myself from getting irritated on a regular basis. I cannot tell you how many times that rudeness in public places drives me straight up a wall. It really exposes that we are living in a time that the world is so self absorbed and it just seems to get worst all the time. Let us be watchful over our behavior that the kindness, patience and love of the Lord Jesus Christ is being exhibited through us.

Tomorrow we will look closer at not insisting on our own way. Blessings to you beyond what you expect this day! (Ephesians 3:20).

(archived devotionals below)

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April 23rd

## **LOVE IS NOT PROUD**

by Dona Hake

Today we will look at the second part of Psalm 131:1 in light of the love chapter..."I don't even begin to get involved in matters too big for me..." A prideful mind will invite it's opinion into places where it is not welcome. A prideful person thinks they have the answer to

everyone's problems. When I see this scripture it speaks to my heart to not concern myself with things that I have no power to change. It says that there are things that my opinions are not invited, therefore keep my mouth shut and my mind open to hear from the Lord as to how I should pray. If you have situations that bother your heart yet it is beyond your power to change, then pray. Simply pray and leave it with the Lord.

As I was thinking about this scripture I began to think about how we can be tempted to think about things we have NO business thinking about. I believe one of those ways that this happens is when we allow our minds to just wander. I'll throw in a little analogy here to help you see this a little clearer for yourself. I put a leash on my dog when I take her out front because there is no fence. It is for her protection and my sanity. Our German Shepherd left to her own instincts could end up chasing a rabbit and getting hit by a car. She could end up biting someone because she is so darn protective. Sometimes she reads into things because she is so protective of me. Can I emphasize that she READS into things that are not there. When we take our puppy to the back yard she runs free because there is a fence, and she knows her boundaries. There are times she is tempted to stick her big old head through the fence cause the grass on the other side looks like more fun but she gets her self together and forgets about it. She is clueless that the fence actually keeps her safe but she abides by it by not going through it.

We too need to know our "boundaries" in our thought realm. Next time a thought hits you that is somewhat beyond the realm of your business, ask yourself if it is your business to be thinking about it. Is it safe for you to be wandering around in someone else's affairs? Is God just wanting you to pray about it and leave it with Him? As I shared about our dog, we too need to keep ourselves protected and watch over our minds. It is pure pride to think you are called to figure out other people's problems. There may be times when someone will ask your opinion or wisdom and this is different. You will know when it is the right time to be thinking about such things. God will prompt you in your heart to pray, give counsel and wisdom at His leading.

Guard your heart and guard your mind. You must know your boundaries in order to keep the peace! Praying this will bless your heart as you ponder it. Blessings to you this day!



(archived devotions below)

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Monday, April 22nd

## **“Love Is Not Proud” Part 2**

by Dona Hake

We continue with our study in I Corinthians 13 and we are presently on the verse, “Love is not proud.” □ Psalm 131:1 □ O Eternal One, my heart is not occupied with proud thoughts; my eyes do not look down on others; I don’t even begin to get involved in matters too big, matters of faith, state, business, or the many things that defy my ability to understand them.

Today we will focus on how important it is that we never look down on others. This is just so sad. I have always felt that when someone does this it is because somewhere along the line they have elevated themselves in their own heart and mind. I think how grieved this must make God to see His people do this. I can always remember being told that the ground is level around the cross. He came to save all mankind. He looks down on no one as lesser than another. Our Loving Heavenly Father is merciful and loving to all and He expects that we do and think the same. If one feels they have reason to put themselves above others, remember this...their opinions and reasons for this thinking hold no water in the sight of God. Remember, God hates the sin of pride.

I would like to conclude this devotional with just encouraging you to keep your heart laid open to God relative to how you view people. Many times and sadly enough people put people down because it makes them feel good about themselves. Isn’t it sad to think that this is how one would seek self esteem? We need to see ourselves in light of how God sees us. Again, as we stay humble before Him

and we constantly permit Him to examine our hearts, I believe that He will show us the ugly sin of pride if it is trying to creep in. Be quick to repent if you catch yourself in this sin of looking down on people. God is good and merciful to restore you and purify your heart. God is good!

Tomorrow we will look at how pride can cause you to think about things that you have no business thinking about. Have a wonderful day! ☐ Dona

Archived devotionals below

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Sunday, April 21st

### **“Thanking God For His Word and His People”**

I’m pausing again to just encourage you this day. Give thanks to Him for He is good and His mercy endures forever!!! Thank Him that you are so very blessed to serve Him. Thank Him that you have been set free from the bondages of sin. It is such a blessing that we are able to walk out of our homes and we were able to head to church because we have that freedom to do so.

As you have heard His Word today, embrace it, and meditate upon the things that really hit your heart whether it was encouragement or conviction. This is our very special day to worship Him corporately and separate ourselves from the work of our lives and just gather at His green pastures to be fed.

I want to also just share with you that we are blessed to have each other. I feel so blessed to have so many brothers and sisters in Christ. Let us be reminded to give thanks for each other on a regular basis. Let’s look at the following scriptures: ☐ Psalm 119:63 9 (The

Message) □ I'm a friend and companion of all who fear you, of those committed to living by your rules. Your love, God, fills the earth! Train me to live by your counsel. □ Philippians 1:3 (The Message) □ Every time you cross my mind, I break out in exclamations of thanks to God. Each exclamation is a trigger to prayer. I find myself praying for you with a glad heart.

I thank God for all of those precious saints He has put in my life. It is so important for us to thank God for each other and also pray for one another. With the pressures of this world and trials that we face we must hold each other up in prayer and encourage one another in order that we remain strong in Him.

I pray you day is blessed beyond what you expected! □ ~~~~~  
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Saturday – April 20th

LOVE IS NOT PROUD

by Dona Hake

God's love is not proud. It does not boast, brag or strut about. Pride is so ugly and God hates it. We need to love what God loves and we need to understand everything that God hates and determine ourselves to hate it. We need to desire that we are in total sync with the heart beat of God. When we are totally understanding how He sees things we will walk in His discernment in every area of our lives.

Proverbs 18:12 (the Voice) A proud heart precedes destruction, and before honor is humility. I shared yesterday that our hearts need to be humble. If we desire to honor Him in every area of our lives we need to be humble and stay humble. The proud heart is the heart that is walking toward destruction.

Have a heart to ask the Lord to show you that if there be any pride in you that He would reveal it to you. Pride is an enemy to your soul. It will bring destruction to your life. With today's devotion I want to share the following scripture that I feel is very fitting with what we are looking at:

Psalm 131:1 □ O Eternal One, my heart is not occupied with proud thoughts; my eyes do not look down on others; I don't even begin to get involved in matters too big, matters of faith, state, business, or the many things that defy my ability to understand them.

I think this scripture just sums it up. First of all we need to ask God to help us to keep watch over our thoughts. I read some statistics and I do not know how true they are but they (and there again I do not know who "they" are) say that we have anywhere from 30,000 to 60,000 thoughts a day. If this is true I thinking how fun (or maybe not) it would be if God put every one of our thoughts in categories and gave us a report card at the end of the day. One thing for sure, God wants us to have thoughts toward Him, good thoughts, thoughts that are pure, and containing His wisdom. He desires that our thoughts are not containers of the ugly sin of pride. □ I encourage you this day to take inventory of your thoughts and ask God to help you. It is amazing to me how one thought that is not edifying or is critical can take you on a "rabbit trail" that will lead you to bad places. I believe that people with critical spirits basically are very proud people. Remember, God hates the proud look, the proud attitude, and anything that would pull your heart away from remaining humble. □ Tomorrow I will continue to share about the sin of pride from this scripture.

Blessings to you, □ Dona □ (archived devotions below)

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April 19th

HIS LOVING HANDS MOLDING YOUR HEART

Oh to walk like Jesus walked!!! This is what the Love chapter (I Corinthians 13) is all about isn't it? In Him we live and move and have our being!!! As we purpose our hearts to be like Him, we can be assured that He had promised to be our Helper and our Teacher. He will lead and guide us into all of the truth that is needed for growth.

Phillipians 1:6 (MSG)

There has never been the slightest doubt in my mind that the God who started this great work in you would keep at it and bring it to a flourishing finish on the very day Christ Jesus appears.

I had shared yesterday that I felt to pause once again for a few days from I Corinthians 13 because there were some truths that I desired to share at this point. One thing that I want to emphasize today is that we are all at different stages in our spiritual growth. Therefore, compare yourself to no one. As you seek His face know that He is molding you with His Word and all He asks for is humility. If you desire for Him to deal with you, you **MUST** be humble. A humble heart is a heart that can be molded by Him.

I remember reading a book by Watchman Nee and he shared how there are caverns within our souls that still have not seen the light of His Holy Word. The Lord knows your heart and He desires that His light invades every part of your being. He wants to turn every stone over and deal with you that you are in a position to fulfill His will and work for Him while you are on this earth. Remember He works in His timing. He is a patient and loving God and He sees the end result. I encourage you to be patient with yourself in your journey in this life.

Tomorrow we will begin to look at how love is not boastful or proud. Looking forward to sharing with you again. Blessings to you this day!

Dona

(below are archived devotions)

April 18th

WALK AS JESUS WALKED

I am hoping that these devotions have been a blessing to you. I strongly encourage you to go over the past devotions if you are just beginning to read these. So far we have covered that God's love is patient, kind, and it does not envy. I desire to go through this chapter at the pace the Lord is showing me. Last week we stepped aside from the Love chapter for a few days and we focused on guarding our hearts. We will be moving into the subject of pride but I am feeling once again to pause from this chapter and look at a few scriptures that will be good for us to saturate ourselves in.

As I have been sharing with you from I Corinthians 13, the Lord has been bringing a particular scripture to my remembrance. This evening I was searching the scriptures relative to pride and I ended up at this scripture once again. I realized that He is wanting me to share it with you. This scripture is from I John 2:6. I am going to have you read it from several translations.

1 John 2:6- The Voice translation □ Anyone who says, "I live in intimacy with Him," should walk the path Jesus walked.

NIV – Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did. □ KJV- He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

NLT – Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.

Simply put, if you claim to know Him it should be in your heart to

keep His commandments. God's Word should be your standard and nothing else. God is looking for a people that He can manifest Himself through. I believe as we saturate ourselves in understanding His love, we will walk as He walked. We will react to situations and circumstances exactly as He would react.

I know you probably all remember when the "WWJD" bracelets were popular. I actually thought they were great especially seeing how the teens just fell in love with wearing them. I think this thought should be branded within us. If we would just stop and ask ourselves "What would Jesus do?", "How would Jesus act?", what would Jesus say? I think of all the mistakes that I would avoid if I would just make more a conscious effort to consult with Him more often.

I just want to say that we serve a wonderful and merciful God. I feel like some of you may need to hear this because many times we can just desire so deeply to please Him and walk in His ways yet we seem to fall flat in our face. You know...those days when your love walk just wasn't going down the way you wanted it to. Know that when you fail, God is there to pick you up, forgive you and point you in the right direction. It is also important that we remember to forgive yourself when you miss it.

Well, this is what I felt I was to share today. I hope your day is blessed beyond what you hoped for.

Blessings to you,

Dona

(below are archived devotions on the Love chapter)

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April 17th

Contentment In Us

By: Dona Hake

I left you with this scripture yesterday and I would like to look at it again:

1 Timothy 6:6

The Voice (VOICE) □ “This is ironic because godliness, along with contentment, does put us ahead but NOT in the ways some imagine.”

Think about this...contentment puts us ahead but not in ways some imagine. You see, the world has a standard that is put before us of what success looks like, what beauty looks like, and sadly enough what happy looks like. “They” say you have to have this or that and then you will be happy. It grieves my heart to see how advertising whether it be on TV, internet, billboards, whatever...it creates a visual of what will really makes people happy and fulfilled. Truth is, it's not the truth!

The other day I was shopping at one of my favorite places and I had the greatest conversation with one of the girls that work in this particular store. She is a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ and we were fellowshiping around loving the Lord, being content with our lives and how we loved our homes. She too is a pet lover so we began to share our fun experiences with each other about our pets and also how wonderful it is to just be content with what we have. We discussed how it is so sad that some people just seem like they have a hard time being content with the simple little things in life therefore they compensate with having to do excessive buying of the newest things or running all the time. Some have to have the latest fashions, the biggest home, this car etc....on and on I could go. Things and places are nice but that is not where godly contentment is found.

We both concluded our conversation of the blessed fact that it is so sweet to live enjoying the sweet simplicities of life and the blessings that God has so richly and abundantly poured our way. It is

wonderful to own godly contentment because you cannot buy it, you cannot sell it but it can rub off on people if they hang out with you and wonder about this good thing you got going on in you!

I believe we need to be a thankful people. The more thankful we are for what we have the more we will value it. Purpose to keep things simple, ask God to order your day and lead a peace filled life.

Have a blessed day,

Dona

below are archived devotionals

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Love Is Not Envious- Part 2

by Dona Hake

Envy voices itself by it's longing to possess something that someone else has. "Envy is the art of counting the other fellow's blessings instead of your own." a quote by Harold Coffin

Isn't it sad that we as believers are blessed so richly and yet there are those times deep within your heart you may hear the voice of envy ? It is important that we recognize it's voice that we can quiet it because God's love is never envious.

Today I want you to just think about all the blessings you have in your life. I am not just speaking of material blessings but those blessings that can not purchased but yet they are possessed by you because of what Jesus has done in your life. Think about the peace that He purchased for you. He is able to give us the peace that passes all understanding in the midst of the greatest storms we

face. I think about being blessed with knowing that as a righteous person that my path will get brighter and brighter as the noonday as I walk hand in hand with Him! I am thankful that as I ask for His wisdom He blesses me with knowing what to do. On and on I could go, but I encourage you to think about all of your blessings and thank Him for them. Think about them often and thank Him over and over for them.

We live in a world where there is so much of the “they said it should be this way” or “they say this is the latest thing” or you are truly a success if you do this or that because “they” said it. Who are “they” anyway?? Did you ever wonder that? When you live your life for the Lord and only Him, it does not matter if you see others have things that you do not have. You will find that your heart will begin to rejoice with them and you will find yourself at peace with who you are and content with what you have. □ I am going to close this devotion with the scripture. □ 1 Timothy 6:6 □ The Voice (VOICE) □ “This is ironic because godliness, along with contentment, does put us ahead but not in the ways some imagine.” □ God bless you,

Dona

(previous devotions below)

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April 15th

Love is not envious

by Dona Hake

If this is the first day you are reading the devotional I encourage you

to scroll down and read at least the last three days. I felt that it was important to pause and just deeply look at the importance of guarding your heart before I began sharing on envy. Your heart is a very special place. It should be a tender place. If you are a believer, remember your heart is the place where Jesus lives. As a believer your heart needs tending to just like a beautiful flower garden. He sees no room in your heart for things that can poison your life and cause you destruction. He understands that it only takes a little bit of something bad that can become very big and destructive to your love walk and His will for your life. I believe He desires we be extremely serious about protecting our heart with utmost diligence. □ Today we move onto I Corinthians 13:4. Some translations say love is not envious. Let's look at the dictionary definition of envy: □ "Envy denotes a longing to possess something awarded to or achieved by another: exam.= to feel envy when a friend inherits a fortune." □ We need to know and understand what the enemy uses to bring us down. We need to realize there is not a one of us that can escape such a temptation a part from God's help and warning to you. I want you to understand that the devil can trick you into thinking it is okay to feel certain feelings such as envy . He will try to convince you that it is okay to feel envious as long as you don't talk about it. You know...just keep it to yourself. He cleverly understands the whole concept of hiding things from others and putting on a front of looking spiritual or good while the inside of you is being eaten up by a poison and weakening in your walk with the Lord. □ 2 Corinthians 11:14 □ The Voice (VOICE) □ "... Satan himself poses as a messenger of heavenly light..." □ Satan may try to deceive us but as we stay in God's Word, the God of the most Heavenly Light is shining in your soul and He will show you what needs fixed within you! I thank God that we can hide NOTHING from Him. When God warns you or maybe even gives you a good rebuke, be thankful. He is watching over you! Over the next several days we will look closer at envy. God desires that we be wise as serpents yet gentle as doves. We need to be wise about many things but above all we need to be wise to any tactic of the enemy that would try to pull our hearts away from the love of God. I pray your day in blessed in Him. □ (below are previous devotions on the Love Chapter) □ ~~~~~
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**Above all else, watch over your heart!!**

April 14th

I shared yesterday that we are pausing for a few days from I Corinthians 13. I am going to besharing the following scripture

because I really want you to keep meditating on this one in light of I Corinthians 13.

“Above all else, watch over your heart; diligently guard it because from a sincere and pure heart come the good and noble things of life.” Proverbs 4:23 (The Voice translation)

The attributes of God’s love are what good and noble are all about. In order for us to truly go forward in all the attributes of the Love Chapter we must be determined that we will guard and watch over our hearts. We must persist in growing in God’s Word that we can respond to any circumstance according to His will. God wants us to be totally enveloped in Him and His ways. I think of the scriptures that say that we ought to walk as He walked and in Him we live and move and have our being. God desires for us to rise up and be overcomers and He loves when we respond according to His will.

I am going to use my puppy dog as an example to stress a point. Our German Shepherd instinctively has it in her to protect and be watchful. She is in her glory when she is in protection mode. If she perceives something wrong you cannot talk her out of it. She is on her very own mission to guard and protect. These dogs just have it in them because it is their nature. I can remember talking to a neighbor that was a policeman. He was walking his dog and I had Aasha in the yard with me and Aasha just barked, growled, every hair on her back was standing up yet she was wagging as if she was happy. I was a bit embarrassed when I could not “make” her be friendly. This gentleman began to tell me it was okay and that he understood the breed as he had worked with them on patrol. I brought up to him how I thought it was so weird that she wags her tail when she is in protection mode. He began to share with me that when working with these dogs that even when they were commanded to attack to defend that their tails would be wagging because they were doing their “job.” They are doing what they were created for.

God has created us for His purpose and He desires that good and noble things proceed from our every action and our words. Let us determine to stand guard, fight, and do what ever God has commanded in His Word to keep our hearts right. A heart that is guarded is the heart where good and noble things flow out to a

world that is crying for help. We are in a day and age where “good and noble” are being rejected. We have got to fight for all the good things that we have been blessed with so that we in turn may be used to reach a lost and dying world.

Watch and be diligent! Have a wonderful day. ☐ Blessings, ☐ Dona

Devotions below are from previous days.

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**April 13th**

### **Faith and Light**

First of all I want to mention that if you are on the email list that yesterday I failed to give you the link and you actually did not get directed here. After this devotion if you desire you can read yesterday’s devotional entitled “God’s Love Requires Us To Guard Our Hearts.” ☐ Greetings! Good morning! or good evening!....whenever you have chosen to take time to read this I am believing the Lord that it will touch your heart and give you a nugget of truth to meditate upon. I shared yesterday that I would be moving on to “love is not jealous.” I am feeling to just pause at this point and have us focus on a particular quote before we move any further with I Corinthians 13.

I just want to encourage your heart at this time. Growth does not always happen over night. It takes time for any good thing to grow. As you are taking time in prayer and seeking His Word and you purpose to keep going forward, YOU WILL grow. Remember, we are all at different places spiritually and you should never compare yourself to anyone else.

I want to share this anonymous quote I found. Sometimes we need certain things that just boost or jump start our thinking about things. This one just blessed me: “Faith is like electricity. You can’t see it, but you can see the light.”

I want you to think about yourself in light of this quote. Sometimes it

seems as if nothing is changing in the natural but yet you know in your heart the Word is at work in you, you know you are connected and it is illuminating your path. I believe as we walk in faith it does not matter how hopeless it may seem or weak you may be, hang on because the light is there, the power is there and the seed of God's Word will grow in you as you tend to it. God will illuminate us and take us forward as we purpose to stay in faith. As we apply our faith to that which we know we need to grow in, we have the Holy Spirit as our helper to do it. As we purpose to guard our hearts with ALL diligence we will begin to see the good things of God pour forth from us in our everyday lives.

Tomorrow we will look even further at guarding and watching over our hearts with all diligence.

Blessings to you, ☐ Dona

All devotions seen below are archived.

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**April 12th-**

### **God's Love requires us to guard our hearts**

I shared yesterday the importance of watching your reaction if you are treated unkindly. We must guard our hearts that our feelings and emotions lead us not into the way retaliation.

#### **Proverbs 4:23 The Voice translation**

**“Above all else, watch over your heart; diligently guard it ☐ because from a sincere and pure heart come the good and noble things of life.”**

The devil wants nothing more than us to return evil for evil. He will use anyone and anything to get us off the path that God desires for us to walk in. Remember I shared that God's love totally runs against the grain of our soulish nature. Your mind will tell you to pay back and give them what they deserve. We must never, never do this. It only leads us to a place of regret for what we have done.

Remember God's love IS FORGIVING. Jesus spoke from the cross during His crucifixion and He said, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." The forgiveness of the Lord Jesus Christ is our example in this life. To know what He went through and He was still be able to maintain a heart of forgiveness is our example to live by. □ Sometimes we just need to forgive by faith and NOT BY HOW WE FEEL at the moment. Sometimes it is hardest to overlook someone's ignorance and unkindness especially if they seem clueless about their actions. I have often prayed a very simple prayer for people that handle themselves in a manner of unkindness. The prayer goes something like this:

*"Lord, help them to see how they are treating people. Help them to treat others the way they want to be treated. Help them to see how they are hurting people. Let their eyes be open to how they may be hindering someone as they act that way. Please Lord, minister to them by your Holy Spirit in the depths of their heart."* □ The Lord never promised that living in this world would be easy but He did equip us to overcome the obstacles. Many times God is the only one that understands the hurt that someone has created in your life. He is faithful to always hear your prayers. Be encouraged, He understands if you are walking through hurt, and He and only He can comfort your heart. □ Tomorrow I will begin to share on love is not jealous.

Blessings to you this day, □ Dona □ All devotions below are archived from the past week.

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April 11 th

**"Love Is Kind" Continued...**

We will look at the kindness of the Lord again today. Today we will look at handling and reacting to situations when you have someone treat you unkindly. I often have seen people just be so unkind and they almost seem clueless how their actions may be affecting the people around them. If you have been on the side of being hurt by someone that has been unkind to you I encourage you to first stop and forgive them. Sometimes in the heat of the moment our flesh can talk us in to reacting in a manner that we will probably regret once we get our cool back. Many times people just do not realize how their words and actions are affecting you.

I can remember many years ago I was in a fast food restaurant and the young lady that waited on me was extremely rude and very short with me as she took my order. She got the order wrong and then got short with me. I saw her treating customers before me in a very unprofessional manner as well. I can remember being tempted to be upset with her at the way she was treating me and the Holy Spirit softly reminded me that maybe she was having a bad day and there may be more than what meets the eye. I began to speak with her when I was paying. I had asked her intentionally how she was and she began to open up to me. I found out that one of her friends had just committed suicide. She was devastated and I was so glad that I just had the opportunity to speak words of kindness, comfort and hope to her. I continued to pray for her as I thought about her because she really needed it for sure. □ There is a whole other aspect that we need to look at here. Sometimes we need to stop and remind ourselves that we live in a world where there is so much fear in people's hearts and they deal with it by creating and living "in their own little world." A world that cannot be changed or touched by negative. Sadly they will find out that they cannot sustain this perfect little world. When their controlled world is hit by the troubles and circumstances of the world they snap and many times take it out on their loved ones or whoever is in their way. It is so easy that when we are preoccupied with problems and cares to react improperly to people around us. So be watchful over you soul when you are dealing with a problem that you are handling yourself properly with those around you. □ Let us purpose in our hearts to grow in kindness. Stop and think before you speak. Ask yourself if what you are about to say is edifying to the hearer. Back up in your busy day and ask the Lord to give you fresh ideas of how to be kind on your job, in your home or when you are out about doing errands. Stop yourself when someone is rude or unkind to you and purpose to show them God's love.



Mother Teresa so graciously said it this way: □“Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God’s kindness: kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile”. □Tomorrow I will share some things about dealing with your own heart if you have been experiencing hurt by someone and you are in a struggle dealing with it. □Blessings to you this day! □Dona □Devotionals below are archived from the earlier dates.

April 10, 2013

### **Love Is Kind**

By Dona Hake □Yesterday I shared about patience. We all need it and if you have it you will always find that you can never get enough of it. This world and it’s pressures seem to meet us each day and we must determine ourselves that we can and will walk victoriously as we grow in the attributes of love. □Today we will talk about being kind. I can’t help but think about how patience and kindness go hand in hand. We should value growing in patience because usually when you are not patient it can be quite challenging to be kind. I want to keep referring back to Ephesians 3:20 The Message translations

*20-21 “God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it NOT by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.”*

□Let’s admit it, it is quite easy to be kind to people that are sweet and loving to us. There are just people out there that are just easy to be with. But in the real world you will always have people that present opportunity for your love walk to be tested. How about the person that completely blocks the aisle in the grocery store and you can’t go around them. You KINDLY say “excuse me” and they look at you UNKINDLY. You are driving down the road and someone cuts you off and almost causes you an accident...I gotta be honest....my

thoughts are usually not kind ones at first until I get a hold of myself. I think you understand where I am going with this. There is just way too much unkindness going on in this world. Unkind words can crush us. Children treated unkindly can be devastated because they think they should be loved at school the same way they are in their home. It always disturbs me to hear of the bullying that goes on in our schools and needless to say some of the outcomes are horrific.

Reality is that we live in a world where people sometimes are not kind. □ God's love runs against the grain of the soulish nature of man. God's love is ALWAYS kind. As we trust in Him to help us, His nature of His sweet kindness will rise up within us to react to the lack of kindness that we all ultimately will encounter. We need to guard how we react to unkindness. Our reactions to unkindness are usually in the form of words. Once words are spoken they can never be taken back. Yes, you can say you are sorry, but words can cause damage.

Let us release our faith to walk in the kindness which proceeds from the love of God. Today I encourage you to look for opportunities to just be kind. Some call it random acts of kindness. Take time today to smile at someone for no reason at all. You would be amazed if you only knew that may be the only smile that individual may have gotten all day. **Love IS kind.** I have found my greatest opportunities are in the grocery store. I have been amazed how people will end up telling me their life story just because I struck up conversation with them and just stood there and let them talk. Today find ways to just be kind, speak kind words, and lend your ear to them.

I will share again tomorrow about His kindness working in us. Have a wonderful day in the Lord! □ Blessings to you!

Dona

Below are archived devotionals

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April 9, 2013

## **Love Is Patient**

by Dona Hake

We have probably all made some of the comments that I am about to share...

"I am so impatient!"

"Why is it taking so long for my prayer to be answered?"

"I can't take it any more."

"This person just gets on my nerves and I cannot handle their faults any longer..." On and on I could probably share the many things that run through our minds and come out of our mouths when our patience is being tested or running thin.

In light of saying that I want to look at the book of James. I love the book of James. The Living Bible translates it like this:

### **James 1:2-4**

"Dear brothers, is your life full of difficulties and temptations? Then be happy, for when the way is rough, your patience has a chance to grow. So let it grow, and don't try to squirm out of your problems. For when your patience is finally in full bloom, then you will be ready for anything, strong in character, full and complete." I don't know about you but sometimes the "not squirming" part can be very hard not to do! Believe me, James understood the soulish tendencies of man and how he thinks when his faith is being tested. □ We see from this scripture that in those times that circumstances seem to be stretching us to uncomfortable positions in our soul that just maybe God is doing a wonderful thing. When we are looking to God in the midst of any trying circumstance , we can

be assured that He is at work in us no matter how trying it may be. □ Think about an area of your life that you seem a bit challenged in the realm of patience. We all have an area or two that we can identify where our patience needs some growing.

I encourage you today to take that area to God and ask Him with a humble heart to help you. As you take that particular thing to the Lord admit that you are weak and you need His help. Remember difficulties come and we need to stop squirming when they do! Determine yourself that with God's help you will get through it and at the end of the day you will be a stronger person, stronger in character, full and complete!

### **Philippians 2:13 "The Living Bible"**

"For God is at work within you, helping you obey him, and then helping you do what he wants." □ Blessings to you, □ Dona

(below are archived devotions if you desire to re-read them)

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### **LOVE IS PATIENT – APRIL 8, 2013**

by Dona Hake

First I would like to say that when we purpose to walk in God's love, we will need to settle it in our hearts that we can only do it with His help. If ever we try to walk in His love in our own ability we will always fall short. I would like to share with you one of my favorite scriptures and I think it is an excellent one to ponder and memorize in light of this devotion.

### **EPHESIANS 3:20 TAKEN FROM THE MESSAGE BIBLE**

" God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it NOT

by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.” □ God desires to work deep within you but remember He is always a gentleman and He will not push you. He wants you to desire all of Him and when you do so, you will begin to see Him transform your life in ways that you never thought possible. I love the part of the scripture where it says that He can do far more than you could ever imagine, guess, or request in your wildest dreams! In light of that let’s think about the patience in our lives as individuals. Begin to see yourself a patient person in areas where you sometimes lose your cool. □ What does patience mean to you? I think we can all be honest with ourselves that we all need more of it. The truth is impatience can turn a bad situation into a REALLY bad situation. I love when I can walk away from a situation or circumstance knowing that even though my patience was tested I made the right decision by seeking God’s help. But then there are times I know that have failed. Do you have an area that your patience seems to be tested? Well today I want you to identify that area and give it to the Lord and believe that He is well able to help you grow in patience. □ I am going to share an interesting definition I found about the word patience. It is the quality of bearing an annoyance, misfortune, or pain, without complaint, loss of temper, irritation, or the like.

Tomorrow we will look at patience even closer. We will see that the mentality of “giving up” is not allowed in our thought realm any longer. I encourage you to meditate on the scripture I shared as well as the definition. Keep your eyes open today for opportunities to get stronger in the area of patience and continue to go forward in His strength. God bless you and have a wonderful day in Him!

NOTE: Below are archived devotions

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## **Reflecting on The Love Chapter – April 6, 2013**

by Dona Hake

I invite you to meditate and grow in what many call the “Love Chapter” of the Bible. We will be devoting our hearts to looking at and meditating upon the different attributes of love mentioned in this particular chapter. The scriptures are found in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. I found a translation that I really loved and I would like to share that with you. It is the Voice Translation.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 □ 4” Love is patient; love is kind. Love isn’t envious, doesn’t boast, brag, or strut about. There’s no arrogance in love; 5 it’s never rude, crude, or indecent—it’s not self-absorbed. Love isn’t easily upset. Love doesn’t tally wrongs 6 or celebrate injustice; but truth—yes, truth—is love’s delight! 7 Love puts up with anything and everything that comes along; it trusts, hopes, and endures no matter what. 8 Love will never become obsolete.”

Please take time to just ponder each attribute of love and think about each one. I am sure there are some you may be stronger in than others, but let’s look to grow together as we are challenged by His Word. I encourage you to be honest with yourself so that God can really deal with your heart. He loves when we humbly look to Him for help and for growth.

I am really looking forward to sharing with you each day and I thank you for joining me here! Please feel free to share how the Lord is challenging you and growing His love in your heart. I would love to hear from you on the blog below! On Monday I will begin sharing about patience. God bless you!