

sit down and relax for a moment from your busy schedule. maybe have a cup of coffee or just relax and take a moment to realize that there is no pit so deep than He is not deeper still. God has freely confessed "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." jer 29:11 this was written by a man often referred to as "the weeping prophet". are you weeping? weep no longer.

yes, even when we or life has dug that deepest pit, it is not so deep that He cannot reach down and lift us up. it is not only that He can, but that He is willing to. if we could just grasp how much He loves each one of us. we are most precious in His sight. certainly He hates the sin in the person but not the person. He hates the sin because of the separation it builds between.

He is holy and holy He remains. He cannot go from good to better or worse. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." heb 13:8 that means that His mercy cannot change either. even as He was willing to give up His life, He is waiting to receive us and wash us clean. clean so there remains no separation between. even one drop of His blood is enough to coat our sins completely. cover us enough that we are allowed admittance to the Presence behind the the veil. the veil has been split and an opening made.

what do we have to give in return? not to earn this grace for it is freely given that none may boast. it is a gift of love from the loved to the lover. yet,

even as king david proclaimed as he was seeking land to build a house for the lord, "No, but I will surely buy it from you for a price; nor will I offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God with that which costs me nothing." 2 sam 24:24

unfortunately, often that which is gotten too easily is esteemed lightly. even our Lord proclaimed "Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little." luke 7:47 we all need to realize how much has been forgiven; even the life that has always sought to do right. until one grasps how far they have fallen from God's beginning creation, they may feel they are a good person. and yet the word tells us "No one is good but One, that is, God." luke 18:19

so the question remains, what can we give in return? every grateful soul wants to have an offering for our Lord. when visitors appear before royalty, they always bring a gift. and He is king of kings and Lord of lords. what is precious in His sight? certainly it would be souls.

i have someone that is precious in my life. someone yet unsaved. i'm sure we all have someone like that. someone we want to know will be there with us in the afterlife. a dear cousin was aware of the situation and knew of a book that might help them believe. she not only sowed it joyfully but insisted of covering it's expense herself. when i tried to reimburse her, she refused it. like king david, she was not willing to give that which costs her nothing.

a small thing? perhaps. but God not not weigh the gift but the giver. remember the widow who gave just a mite in the offering? it was more than all those who brought an abundance. it is our heart and intentions that determine their worth.

well do i remember the night i was caring for my mother. it was to be her last night but i didn't know that. even though i was doing everything a dutiful daughter should, inside i was feeling the weight of the years of care. it was then God spoke to my heart. "if you don't do it in love, it doesn't mean anything." then my attitude changed. the enemy was not able to burden me with years of sorrow and regret. my mother died in the arms of a daughter who loved her much. one honored to serve and be there at her departure.

"just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."  
matt 20:28 He is our example in all things. we must come to serve; not only our Lord, but our fellow man. will you let your life be your gift to Him? "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake." matt 5:11 no matter what the cost may be or the injuries and insults endured, may His love be all others receive from us. that is a gift worthy of giving.

linda