

a sacrifice of love

"though i have all faith, so that i could remove mountains, but have not love, i am nothing." 1 cor 13:2

what do we do for those we love? we do all we can and then some. love suffers long. the famous love chapter; perhaps one of the greatest chapters ever penned by the Holy Spirit through paul. indeed, 1 john, chapter 4 tells us, "God is love." did Jesus not also say the two greatest commandments were to love?

maybe none really have the genuineness of their love tested until circumstances dictate they make their wants and needs subservient to the one they love. can the pain we feel be less than the pain we know a loved one is enduring? we would gladly transfer their suffering to ourselves were it possible. could our tears of torment be any greater were it our own suffering?

i have several friends even now who are going through trials with someone they love. they are fulfilling not only the genuineness of their own love but also the law of Christ. "bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." gal 6:2

it is a lesson i learned the night my mother died. she had just come home from a hospital stay and i was sleeping on the floor in her room so i could be there to assist her when needed, but my heart and attitude were not right. at one point i heard her calling again for assistance. as i grudgingly started to get up again i heard the Holy Spirit speak to my heart. "if

you don't do it in love, it doesn't mean anything." my mother passed that night from my hands into God's and i had my Lord's peace.

i have heard it said that if there was a gate to heaven and a question for saint peter to ask it would be, "did you learn to love?" i'm not talking as the world loves. scriptures tells us even the evil love their own. it's the self-sacrificing kind of love which Jesus gave to us while we were yet sinners. "let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself." phil 2:3

this love is not as theirs
it came from the Divine
whose glory still it wears
and print of Whose design

sacrificing for others involves opening one's heart and giving of oneself (unreservedly), extending a helping hand or empathizing with the needs and desires of others through the eyes of compassion and understanding. we are to imitate Christ in the example He set before us, demonstrating the genuineness His love revealed towards us. there is no higher calling; no higher gifting. and it is a gift... a gift of grace enabling us to be Christ like.

let us pray for all who are currently enduring such trials, be it testing of faith, an endurance of love or a sorrowful good bye. one day we may be needing their prayers as they now need ours. be christ-like today; love unabashedly.

