

Love UnVeiled Butterfly Devotion - February 2013

Butterfly Secrets – Power to fly and multiply

Last week my car broke down on a very busy highway in the dark at 5:30am. I was terrified. Roadside assistance told me it would be an hour before they could come to me. I didn't know if I would last an hour and I could hardly think what to do. I was calling on Jesus, praying Psalm 91 when I read "*Because you have loved Me, I will deliver you!*" "*Thank you Lord, please help me I am so scared. I don't know what's wrong, but I think I may have run out of gas (petrol for our UK and India Butterflies!). I know it's my fault and I don't deserve your help but please Lord, in your mercy would you deliver me. Help me because I am so afraid.*" At that moment I remembered a good friend lived nearby. Although it was so early I called and her husband answered. I explained the danger I was in and within 10 minutes he was at my car with a container of gasoline! He was also concerned about the danger of filling the tank on such a very busy road in the dark. But God in His grace held back the traffic long enough to fill the tank and in a matter of minutes I turned the key and the engine spluttered to life. I felt my friend was the Holy Spirit in disguise pouring living water into my empty tank! I drove away humbled and crying in thankfulness for God's loving kindness so undeserved. A song on the Christian radio was playing over and over "*Your love never fails, it never gives out, it never runs out on me*" What a lesson! In fact there were many lessons for me in this incident. One was the reminder that my strength and love often falters and fails and runs out. But, HIS love and strength will never run out! In His grace He allowed me to feel my weakness so I will return to Him in quietness and trust, to wait on His refreshment! (Isaiah 30:15).

We often drive the car of our life for miles without stopping to fill up our spiritual tank. Even taking quiet time in the word we think we are doing alright. We know the word and we can pull it out of our minds at any time to minister along our way or to get us through a difficulty. We keep going until suddenly we don't seem to have the same spiritual power any more, and we wonder why. We have run out of Holy Spirit power. Ministering to the broken hearted, requires pouring ourselves out for others. But in order to have something to pour out, we need time in His presence, enjoying His love. We need His Holy Spirit's refill with the water of life and the bread of heaven. Our Indian Butterflies call Isaiah 55:1-3 the Christian's "high protein diet!" "*Ho everyone who is thirsty, come to the waters...listen to Me and eat what is good and let your soul feast and delight itself in abundance, incline your ear and come to Me, Hear and your soul shall live*"

Jesus said in John 15:5 "*I am the true vine, and you are the branches. If you abide in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit. Without me you can do nothing.*" I have been challenged every night and morning in the last few weeks to meditate on this verse. It's a reminder that I will only bear fruit if I am living in Jesus every moment, and He is living in me. It is a real challenge to actively choose to spend quality time with Jesus and acknowledge His presence in me every moment. It's a surrender and a yielding process. It means acknowledging my dependency and need for Him. Everything I do should be out of submission to Him and led by Him. When I live this way, I live in peace and He leads me to His divine appointments, He lifts me out of impossible situations, He gives me strength to do the impossible, and He gives me rest and joy along the way. When I don't spend this time with Him, when I don't yield to His Holy Spirit filling, I very soon become a loud clanging symbol, easily stressed and quickly come to a grinding stuttering halt, just like my car!

I feel that every word of Jesus recorded in the New Testament is a gold nugget for kingdom living. When Jesus says something, I think we are wise to sit up and take note. His words in the gospels are God's voice sharing with us very on a very personal level, the deep intimate truths and secrets for living in His kingdom, in His love, His power and His victory.

In order to minister to others in His power, I believe we need to understand a secret kingdom nugget found in John 14:15-24 Here Jesus tells us of three powerful kingdom results when we love Him and obey His commandments:

1. v. 16 - He will fill us with His Holy Spirit - the Helper, the Spirit of Truth
2. v. 21 - Jesus will manifest / reveal Himself to us
3. v.23 - Jesus and His Father will make Their home with us!

That is just amazing to me. Jesus is revealing something incredible that happens when we pursue intimate relationship with Him. He responds by entering into a personal intimate relationship with us. If we love Jesus and obey His

commands we will be filled with His Helper, the HOLY SPIRIT, the Spirit of Truth. This means we will have His help inside us to discern truth in all our struggles, in our service for Him and every decision we have to make. Second, if we love and obey Him, Jesus will reveal Himself to us! I'm often asked if I have seen Jesus. Honestly, in deep worship I have seen Jesus. He has revealed Himself in character, in Spirit, in vision. Because we are all different, I believe He reveals Himself to each of us in different ways. He knows what we need. Certainly He has revealed Himself more intimately to me, the more I search for Him and grow in love for Him. You can experience that same relationship with Jesus, it is a promise for all of us who love Him and obey Him. Thirdly, He promises that Jesus and His Father will feel welcome to come and make their home in our hearts. Wow, not only Jesus, but His Father, our creator God will come and live in us! Now that is powerful! It seems to me this is evidence of His trust in us. He is looking for hearts where He can live and be welcomed into every room in our home. Are there any rooms remaining closed to Him today? He wants access there too:-)

You have the power of God living inside of you sister butterfly; the Holy Trinity; God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit! In John 14:12 Jesus says *he who believes in Me, the works I do he will do also and greater works than these he will do*; I believe this is totally possible if we believe the Spirit of God, God the Father and God the Son are all living inside us. His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness according to 2 Peter 1:3. We have divine power to do great works in Jesus Name. Do we believe it?

The power to bear fruit, the power to see lives transformed, the power to bring healing and set captives free from spiritual bondage and brokenness, this power lives in each and every believer who loves Jesus and obeys His commandments. So why are we not all experiencing His power working and living through us? In John 15 Jesus tells if we are living in the Vine we will love Him and obey His commandments and bear much fruit. If we are not living in the Vine we will not bear fruit. It's that simple. I believe the secret is in our relationship with Him and our obedience to Him.

Sisters, butterflies, we will only continue to see God working through us to affect and change lives around us if we live in moment by moment surrendered to His will in our decisions, choosing to feast on His living word, drink from His living water and live moment by moment in His presence. Programs, events and busyness will not bring transformation. Jesus Himself living through our broken yielded lives will bear fruit and bring truth, transformation and freedom to ourselves first and then to others.

Don't let your car run on empty or you may find yourself in the middle of a dangerous road just as I was.

But if you do find yourself in that place, or if you are already there - I have good news for you. "His love never fails, it never gives up, it never runs out on you" Call out to Jesus and He will be there to rescue you in a moment and bring you back to His resting place. He will cover you with His love, fill you with His Spirit and refresh you with His living water. He is always our God of compassion, grace and mercy. His love for you will never run out, even when your own love is depleted.

May the Lord Jesus Himself fill you with His love and His presence this week. May he refresh you and increase your faith. May He make a way in your busy schedule for you to spend special time with Him. He is waiting for you. He longs to spend time with you.

Sending you my love and His love which never runs out...

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Love UnVeiled