

Love is patient, love is kind.
It does not envy, it does not boast,
it is not proud. It does not dishonor
others, it is not self-seeking,
it is not easily angered,
it keeps no record of wrongs.

1 Corinthians 13:4-5



455 South Church Street
Winston Salem, NC 27101

www.OnWingsLikeADove.com

Office Hours:
Tuesday-Thursday
10 am-2 pm

or by appointment 336-829-5060
sandra@onwingslikeadove.com

Ladies Bible Study

Each Tuesday
At On Wings Office
From 12:30-2:00

We are studying
12 Daring Women of the Bible
Lisa Harper and Friends

In this twelve-session video
Bible study, some of today's
best-loved Christian authors
and speakers look at the
spiritual lessons learned from
twelve daring women in the
Bible and what they mean for
you today

Come Join Us!



A Newsletter from On Wings Like A Dove Ministry February 2025 Vol. 21 Issue 2

Trusting God When All Else Fails

Here is something I read in a book by Carter Conlon entitled *Unshakable*. "If you want to preach to the people that they can get to the other side of the storm, you have to go through the storm first. You have to be the first partner of faith, reaching a point where all you have left is faith. So rather than constantly looking for a way out of our trials, we must learn to walk through them in the strength of God. It is often in these places of great darkness that we come to know Him the most intimately".

Personally, I have known this statement to be true. Before I could relate and minister to the loved ones of prodigals I had to know their pain by experiencing it. So God allowed our family to walk through 20 plus years of struggle with our son's addiction and time spent in and out of jail and prison.

Over the years our family has experienced family tragedies and health issues as well. Having walked with families estranged from their children and or grandchildren I have found myself experiencing these same feelings of grief and heartache with an understanding heart as I have or am experiencing it in my own life. It is like I read once that our Heavenly Father is acquainted with our infirmities. He knows our hearts, our grief, our pain because He has experienced all things Himself.

In the past I remember saying to my Dad, "Why does everything have to be such a tragedy"? He really had no answer to that, but I know that each struggle has taught me to lean on God with all I have within me. I also know that God allows suffering in our lives to draw us to a place of knowing Him intimately.

My life verses are found in Philippians 3:10-14. Verse 10 says, "That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death" NAS.

Suffering begets kindness and prompts us to reach out to others who are struggling. Who are you reaching out to minister to today in spite of your own place of suffering? I have found it is healing for me as I do and gives me purpose and helps me not dwell on myself causing me to be self-centered and despondent.

Charles Stanley wrote: "Oftentimes God will allow trials in our lives that are so imposing that we think He has either abandoned us or made a mistake. But God makes no mistakes. He allows affliction in our lives to push us ahead, strengthen us and cause us to grow. These obstacles allow Him to demonstrate His faithfulness and the incredible capacity He has given us to rise about adversity".

Press on dear friends trusting God for the outcome. He loves you with an everlasting love and the test will come, just be determined to pass them. He will see you through one step at a time.



~ Sandra

Kathy's Korner



CHAVER

A few years ago, I learned that the Hebrew word for friend is Chaver. Chaver can refer to a casual friend, but it is also used for the friend who you especially connect to, the friend that “gets” you, a close friend. The friendship of chaver is pictured as a chain link, binding people together in unity and strength.

The Bible speaks much to the value of friendships. A prime example is seen with David and Jonathan in 1 Samuel. David and Jonathan committed to each other for life, as well as the lives of their descendants. They sacrificed for each other, watched out for one another, provided for and supported each other. They were there for each other on the good, prosperous days and on the uncertain, death looming, hard days. Theirs was a dependable, deep and abiding friendship.

With a close friend you can share your deepest secrets, fears, concerns and joys, and receive wise advice and counsel. Studies have been done documenting the increased joy in life as we age and being in contact and relationships with friends. I often experience this at our Tuesday Bible Study at On Wings Like a Dove. It's a time when we study God's Word, grow in our knowledge and understanding of God and it's a time when we laugh heartily and shed tears of sorrow. It's a place to be genuine with people who “get” you.

I have a good friend with whom I share my thoughts, plans, hopes, sorrows and life. Years ago I told her she was my “Chaver”. When she wrote me back, the letters got mixed up, and I became her “Chevre”...her goat cheese. Call it what you want, it's a blessing having a friend to share life with.

Jesus calls us His friends in John 15:15. What an honor and delight to be friends with Jesus. He is always available to talk to and to listen, He gives the wisest counsel through His Word and prayer, He is dependable and faithful and He watches out for us and for those we love. The song by Joseph Scriven is true, “What a friend we have in Jesus”!

Valentine's Day is fast approaching. It's a good day to think about those we love, including our faithful, sure and good friends, our Chavers!



Prayer Thoughts

The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.”
Proverbs 18:21

We sometimes say “they're just words” as if they're weightless, harmless things. But think about words that have shaped your own story: that encouragement that kept you going, that criticism that still stings, that “I love you” that changed everything. Our words carry weight—to build up or tear down, to bring life or death.

This isn't just about speaking positively. It's about understanding that every word we speak plants something in someone's heart—including our own. When we speak hope into despair, peace into chaos, love into loneliness, we're not just making noise. We're creating spaces where God's grace can grow.

Think of Jesus—how He spoke life into death, worth into shame, hope into despair. Our words might not raise the dead, but they can revive a broken spirit, restore a shattered confidence, rekindle a fading faith. Every conversation is an opportunity to be His voice in someone's story.

Today, choose words that bring life. Someone in your world might need them more than you know.

Ask Yourself

When have you seen careless words cause damage?

How can you show God's compassion through what you say?

Taken from Our Daily Verse, December 30, 2024



On Wings Like a Dove

Ladies Tea

Guest Speaker - Cynthia Moore

FEBRUARY

SATURDAY | **22** | 10:00AM TO NOON

Calvary Baptist Church
Chambers Room
134 S. Peace Haven Road
Winston-Salem

RSVP 336-829-5060 by 2-13



“I love you, Lord, my strength.”

Psalm 18:1

When was the last time you said "I love you" to God? Not in a memorized prayer or familiar song, but in that sacred space where your heart speaks its truest words? David - who knew both palace halls and desert caves, who tasted victory and persecution - stripped away every title and triumph to say these simple words.

In Psalm 18, he's standing in the aftermath of survival. Years of running, fighting, and hiding are behind him. He's witnessed God's power shake mountains and part heavens. Yet his first words aren't about the miracles or the victories. They pour out like a love song: "I love you." Then, in the same heartbeat, "my strength" - as if he's finally naming the source of every victory, every moment of courage, every step of perseverance.

Maybe David discovered what we all need to know - that loving God isn't just devotion, it's the foundation of all strength. That when love for God becomes our first response, we find a power that circumstances can't touch. No wonder David didn't just survive his battles - he turned them into worship.

Ask Yourself: When do I find it hardest to make loving God my first response?

In what situations do I need to let my love for God be stronger than my fears or doubts?

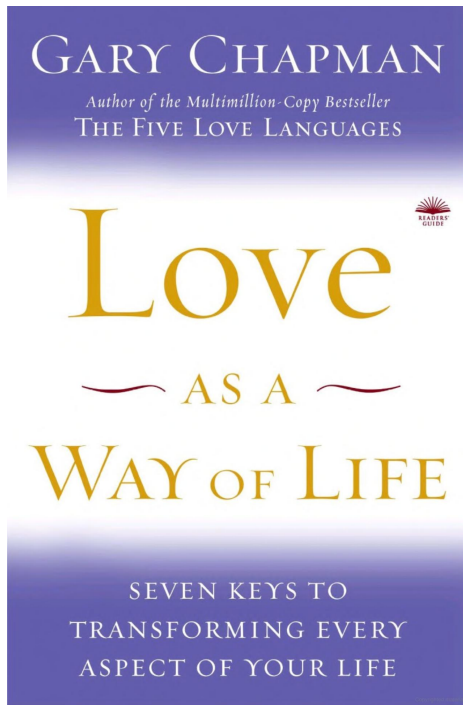
Dear Father, Sometimes I make loving You so complicated. Today, I just want to pause and say what my heart longs to speak: I love You. Not for Your miracles, though they amaze me. Not for Your protection, though You've kept me safe. But simply because You are You.

Thank You for being my strength when I feel weak, my song when words fail. Help me to make loving You my first response in every situation, knowing that in Your love, I find all the strength I need. In Jesus' name, Amen.

“To fall in love with God is the greatest romance; to seek Him the greatest adventure; to find Him, the greatest human achievement.”

Augustine of Hippo

We were privileged to have Dr. Gary Chapman, the author of twenty-seven books speak at our Volunteer Celebration Dinner in November 2024. He highlighted his book, "Love As A Way of Life", and offered it to our attendees. I have heard many say how it has impacted their lives as they have read it. Dr. Chapman is such a wise man who has much to offer on the matter of love.



He expounds on the seven secrets to love which are:

- Kindness
- Patience
- Forgiveness
- Courtesy
- Humility
- Generosity
- Honesty

This is excellent material and we are highly recommending that you purchase your copy and apply the truths found within.

Our world would be transformed if we took to heart the seven secrets in this book. Why not begin with taking the keys mentioned beginning with yourself and then let it impact your own sphere of influence.

Let's face it, oftentimes the hardest place to be kind, patient, or forgiving is with our own families.

Most of the world knows about Dr. Chapman's best selling book, *The Five Love Languages*. What an eye opener it is to discover not only your own love language but that of your family and friends. Loving them in their own love language is life changing in all those relationships. I believe as you read *Love as a Way of Life* it will also affect you with the power to love others unconditionally as you interact with others. There are real life stories, self-assessments, and practical exercises within the pages that will pave the way for you to live out authentic love.

Love SUFFERS LONG AND IS KIND; LOVE DOES NOT ENVY;
LOVE DOES NOT PARADE ITSELF, IS NOT PUFFED UP;
DOES NOT BEHAVE RUDELY, DOES NOT SEEK ITS OWN,
IS NOT PROVOKED, THINKS NO EVIL; DOES NOT REJOICE IN
INIQUITY, BUT REJOICES IN THE TRUTH; BEARS ALL THINGS,
BELIEVES ALL THINGS, HOPES ALL THINGS,
ENDURES ALL THINGS.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-7