

Elizabeth Ching – Devotional Leader

Because Love;

therefore love

The Need

From hearing people share in CCF, I've noticed a very common theme among Christians: people feel distant from God during times of stress, tragedy, and struggle. Their feelings of happiness are fleeting.

It breaks my heart, because that shouldn't be the case. There is joy in the gospel – a joy that exists separate from whatever negative thing is affecting our lives. As long as you are convicted that God's love is constant, should the joy that you draw from this truth not also be constant?

I have been blessed with this conviction. That is where my "unusual" joy comes from, and I want to share it where there is need.

The Truth

I want to cultivate a conviction of God's love within the members of CCF. I believe this is the solid rock upon which our faith can stand strong. We know he loves us, but we may not fully understand the full weight of it. God's love is constant and unchanging; when we can grasp this, we will realize two things: confidence and respect for ourselves as children of God, and an unconquerable joy.

John 3:16 (NIV)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

To God, our lives were worth His. Therefore, from God's love, we find our worth. Eternal life is life shared with God – a sinner you may be, but God wants you in his presence forever. I want us to be able to see ourselves as God sees us: imperfect, but so so precious.

Psalms 21:6-7 (NIV)

Surely you have granted him unending blessings
and made him glad with the joy of your presence.
For the king trusts in the LORD;

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through the unfailing love of the Most High
he will not be shaken.

All good things in life are blessings from God, and each blessing is an outward expression of his Love for us. And his love is unfailing. When we come to realize the full weight of this, that is when our faith will be unshakable.

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The Realization

Sometimes it's hard to recognize our own qualities and tell ourselves we're worth something. But it's easy to see the qualities other people possess and it's much easier to tell them. When we encourage each other, we are loving them. We believe that we love because God first loved us; therefore whenever we love, we are loving through God.

This vision is relevant for everybody, but it will particularly find its focus in Women's Ministry. For Women's I'd like to do a cyclic weekly program:

Week 1: Building the relationship we have with ourselves (loving ourselves)

Week 2: Building the relationship we have with our sisters (loving each other)

Week 3: Building the relationship we have with God (seeing God's love through scripture)

Repeat.

Women's will be a space for us to love.

CCF will be a space for us to love.

The world is a space for us to fill with love.

My vision is about loving yourself because God loves you
and then extending that love beyond yourself to the rest of his beloved.

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therefore love.