



"Imperfections are not inadequacies; they are reminders that we're all in this together."

BRENÉ BROWN

**EMBRACING
IMPERFECTIONS: PURPOSELY
IMPERFECT
(JER.18:4, 6)**

**FOUNDATIONAL
SCRIPTURES**

LK. 9:23, 24

MAT. 7:1-5

2COR.12:9, 10

1COR. 15:10

PHP. 3:13, 14

SUMMATION OF FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURES

[LK.9:23,24] > WE HAVE TO DENY OURSELVES & OUR PROCLIVITY TO PREJUDGE, ACCENTUATE OR EVEN INSINUATE OUR OPINIONS/ATTEMPTS TO CONTROL WHAT WE DON'T UNDERSTAND OR ALLOWING PAST HX (OURS & OTHERS) TO DICTATE CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES WHILE *STILL CALLING UPON GOD TO HELP US TO EXERCISING WISDOM* ... CONSIDERING ESPECIALLY EVERY INTERACTION IN THE LIGHT OF THEIR PARTICULAR NEED ...

BEING MINDFUL & TAKING AT HEART [MAT.7:1-5] WHERE WE ARE ENCOURAGED TO JUDGE NOT LEST WE BE JUDGED WITH THE SAME MEASURE ... TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THAT AS [1COR.15:10] STATES ... BUT FOR THE GRACE OF GOD, WE ARE WHO WE ARE & ARE ALL IN THIS THING TOGETHER ... WORKING OUT OUR OWN SOUL SALVATION IN FEAR & TREMBLING [PHP.2:2] ...

AND THAT AT THIS TIME, MEANING EVEN AT THIS VERY MOMENT, IF IT APPEARS THAT WE'VE GOT IT ALL TOGETHER ... FRIEND ... TRUTH IS [PHP.3:13,14] I'VE YET TO HAVE APPREHENDED ... BUT THIS ONE THING I WILL DO ... I AM FORGETTING THOSE THINGS THAT ARE BEHIND ME ... AND I'M PRESSING DAILY TOWARDS THE MARK FOR THE PRIZE OF THE HIGH CALLING OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS .. HAVING A PERSISTENT URGENCY TO SERVE HIM!

AND THEREFORE THROUGH THIS STUDY TOGETHER WE HAVE (OR WILL HAVE) PRAYERFULLY GAIN(ED) UNDERSTANDING ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS TO EMBRACE IMPERFECTIONS IN A MORE HOLISTIC SENSE ... WE'VE BEEN CHALLENGED TO LOOK INWARDLY TO CONSIDER WHERE OUR OWN ISSUES STEM FROM ...

DEFINITIONS

TO EMBRACE ...

- 1. TO HOLD (A PERSON/PLACE/THING) CLOSELY IN ONE'S ARMS, ESPECIALLY AS A SIGN OF AFFECTION. (I.E., HOLDING CLOSE TO *HEART*)**
- 2. TO ACCEPT / SUPPORT A BELIEF / THEORY / CHANGE WILLINGLY & ENTHUSIASTICALLY.**

PROVERBS 17:22, WHICH STATES, "A JOYFUL *HEART* IS GOOD MEDICINE, BUT A BROKEN SPIRIT DRIES UP THE BONES."

RMS. 12:2 > ENCOURAGES TRANSFORMATION BY CHANGING YOUR THINKING TO ALIGN WITH GOD'S WILL. ISA. 43:19 > REMINDS US THAT GOD IS DOING A NEW THING AND TO NOT DWELL ON THE PAST.

LORD PLEASE FIX MY HEART ...)

DEFINITIONS (CONT.)

EMBRACE -

3. BIBLICALLY TO EMBRACE MEANS TO ENCLOSE THE GREAT THINGS OF GOD IN YOUR ARMS / HEART. GOD HAS A BOUNDLESS / ENDLESS SUPPLY OF / CAPACITY FOR LOVE (LORD PLEASE INCREASE MY CAPACITY TO LOVE).

PHP 1:9,10 (TPT) -

I CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR YOUR LOVE TO GROW AND INCREASE BEYOND MEASURE, BRINGING YOU INTO THE RICH REVELATION OF SPIRITUAL INSIGHT IN ALL THINGS. [10] THIS WILL ENABLE YOU TO CHOOSE THE MOST EXCELLENT WAY OF ALL—BECOMING PURE AND WITHOUT OFFENSE UNTIL THE UNVEILING OF CHRIST.

DEFINITIONS (CONT.)

IMPERFECTION (FROM THE LATIN IMPERFECTUS (MNG. INCOMPLETE)

A FAULT/FLAW, BLEMISH/ERROR, UNDESIRABLE FEATURE/PROBLEM; THE STATE OF BEING FAULTY OR INCOMPLETE.

PHP. 1:6 (GW) - ASSURES US THAT 'GOD' WHO BEGAN THIS GOOD WORK IN YOU (US) WILL CARRY 'IT' THROUGH TO COMPLETION ON THE DAY OF CHRIST JESUS.

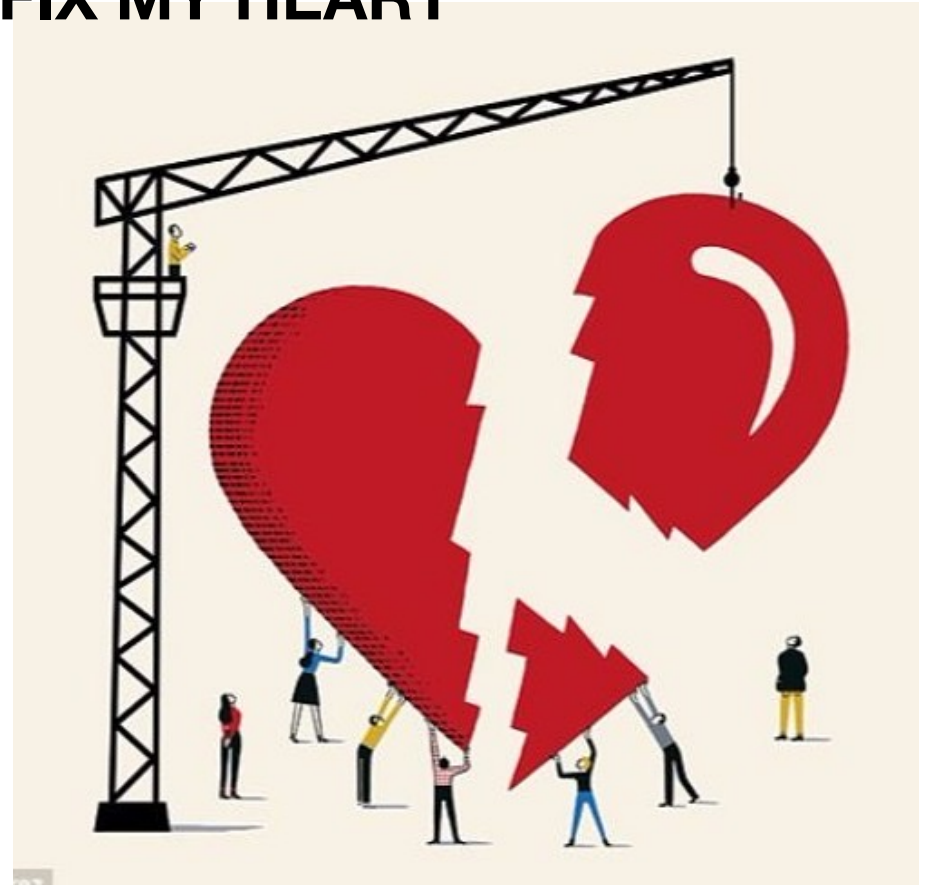
THIS IS AN EMPHATIC STATEMENT EXPRESSED CLEARLY & CONCISELY W/O QUESTION OR DOUBT!

RMS.3:23 - ALL HAVE SINNED & COME SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD.

PHP. 4:6, 7 (KJV) - BE CAREFUL FOR NOTHING; BUT IN EVERY THING BY PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION WITH THANKSGIVING LET YOUR REQUESTS BE MADE KNOWN UNTO GOD. V7 AND THE PEACE OF GOD, WHICH PASSETH ALL UNDERSTANDING, SHALL KEEP YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS THROUGH CHRIST JESUS.

EMBRACING IMPERFECTIONS: LORD PLEASE FIX MY HEART

- **JEREMIAH 17:9,10 KJVS**
- **THE HEART IS DECEITFUL
ABOVE ALL THINGS, AND
DESPERATELY WICKED: WHO
CAN KNOW IT? [10] I THE
LORD SEARCH THE HEART, I
TRY THE REINS, EVEN TO
GIVE EVERY MAN
ACCORDING TO HIS WAYS,
AND ACCORDING TO THE
FRUIT OF HIS DOINGS.**



DR. LES PARROTT

#1 New York Times bestselling author

LOVE LIKE THAT

5 Relationship Secrets from Jesus

IN HIS BOOK "LOVE LIKE THAT" ...

- ... DR. LES PARROTT, PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY AT NW UNIVERSITY (SEATTLE, WA), A NAZARENE MINISTER, AND AUTHOR OF SEVERAL CHRISTIAN SELF-HELP BOOKS, POSE THE QUESTION(S) ...
- **CAN WE REALLY LOVE LIKE JESUS?** STATING "AFTER ALL, HE RAISED THE BAR OF LOVE TO EXTRAORDINARY HEIGHTS". **LOVE YOUR ENEMIES? WALK THE EXTRA MILE? TURN THE OTHER CHEEK? SERIOUSLY?** "THIS IS LOVE BEYOND REASON, **ISN'T IT?**"

EMBRACING IMPERFECTIONS ...

ABOUT THE HEART (THE BIBLE HAS OVER 700 REFERENCES TO THE HEART) ...

- **JER. 17:9 > ... DECEITFULLY & DESPERATELY WICKED**
- **PRV. 15:13 > A HAPPY HEART MAKES THE FACE CHEERFUL, BUT HEARTACHE CRUSHES THE SPIRIT**
- **PRV. 27:19 > AS WATER REFLECTS THE FACE, SO ONE'S LIFE REFLECTS THE HEART**
- **PRV. 4:23 > GUARD OUR HEARTS WITH ALL DILIGENCE, FOR OUT OF IT FLOWS THE ISSUES OF LIFE**
- **PSA. 51:10 > CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART & RENEW A RIGHT SPIRIT WITHIN ME.**

**AN EXCERPT FROM LOVE LIKE THAT
BY DR. LES PARROTT**

"... THE HEART, AS IT TURNS OUT, IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR REASONING. UNTIL THE 1990's SCIENTIST ASSUMED THAT ONLY THE BRAIN SENT INFORMATION TO THE HEART, BUT NOW WE KNOW THAT IT WORKS BOTH WAYS.

THE HEART PHYSICALLY COMMUNICATES WITH THE BRAIN THROUGH A COMPLEX NERVOUS SYSTEM OF NEURONS, NEUROTRANSMITTERS, PROTEINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT CELLS ...

... THE PULSE CREATED BY THE HEART IS ACTUALLY LIKE A "BLOOD PRESSURE WAVE" THAT REACHES & ENERGIZES EVERY CELL OF THE BRAIN, INFLUENCING EMOTIONS & OTHER ACTIVITIES SUCH AS ATTENTION, PERCEPTION, MEMORY, AND PROBLEM-SOLVING."

CONT. 

"LOVE LIKE THAT" EXCERPT (CONT.)

"THIS IS WHY EXPRESSIONS SUCH AS "MY HEART ACHES," "OPEN YOUR HEART," OR "MY HEART GOES OUT TO YOU"*** ARE OFTEN MORE THAN SYMBOLIC. THEY MAKE A DEEPER CONNECTION THAN OUR RATIONAL THINKING. THEY RESONATE MORE DEEPLY THAN OUR THOUGHTS. ([NOTE> PRV.18:20, 21]

CONT. ➡

DEATH AND LIFE
ARE IN THE **power**
OF THE TONGUE

and those who love it
will eat its fruit

Proverbs 18:20-21

"LOVE LIKE THAT" EXCERPT (CONT.)

INTELLIGENCE ALONE, WITHOUT INVOLVEMENT OF THE HEART, CAN BE DANGEROUS. WE RUN THE RISK OF BECOMING "HEARTLESS" OR HAVING A *HEART OF STONE* ... WITHOUT THE HEART, WE LACK UNDERSTANDING. WITHOUT THE HEART, WE LACK THE CAPACITY TO LOVE LIKE JESUS."



Stone Soup

Heat some water in a pot,
Add a stone you've scrubbed a lot.

Sprinkle pepper, salt and herbs,
Let it boil undisturbed.

Drop in carrots, onions too,
Let the soup heat through and through.

Stir in milk to make it sweet,
Add potatoes for a treat.

Toss in ham bones. Let it stew,
Let it bubble. Let it brew.

Taste the soup and when it's done,
Share "Stone Soup" with everyone!



IMPERFECTIONS = FLAWS

POINTS OF AGREEMENT ...

- **WE LIVE IN A FLAWED WORLD (BUT ARE WE A PRODUCT OF OUR ENVIRONMENT?) 1COR.15:33; RMS.12:2**
- **WE ARE CONSTANTLY INUNDATED WITH NEGATIVITY, I.E., CURRENT EVENTS) (ARE OUR HEARTS UNAFFECTED?) PRV.4:23 & PHP.4:7**
- **WE ALL HAVE A PAST (BUT HAVE WE CUT OUR HEART TIES TO OUR PAST?) PHP.3:13, 14**
- **HEARTACHE & HEARTBREAK ARE DIFFICULT TO RELEASE (BUT WHO IS BOUND -- YOU OR THEM?) MAT.16:19**

COL. 3:1- 3 (GW)

[1] SINCE YOU WERE BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE WITH CHRIST, FOCUS ON THE THINGS THAT ARE ABOVE-WHERE CHRIST HOLDS THE HIGHEST POSITION. [2] KEEP YOUR MIND ON THINGS ABOVE, NOT ON WORLDLY THINGS. [3] YOU HAVE DIED, AND YOUR LIFE IS HIDDEN WITH CHRIST IN GOD.

COL. 3:5 - 11 (GW)

[5] THEREFORE, PUT TO DEATH WHATEVER IS WORLDLY IN YOU: YOUR SEXUAL SIN, PERVERSION, PASSION, LUST, AND GREED (WHICH IS THE SAME THING AS WORSHIPING WEALTH). [6] IT IS BECAUSE OF THESE SINS THAT GOD'S ANGER COMES ON THOSE WHO REFUSE TO OBEY HIM. [7] YOU USED TO LIVE THAT KIND OF SINFUL LIFE. [8] ALSO GET RID OF YOUR ANGER, HOT TEMPER, HATRED, CURSING, OBSCENE LANGUAGE, AND ALL SIMILAR SINS. [9] DON'T LIE TO EACH OTHER. YOU'VE GOTTEN RID OF THE PERSON YOU USED TO BE AND THE LIFE YOU USED TO LIVE, [10] AND YOU'VE BECOME A NEW PERSON. THIS NEW PERSON IS CONTINUALLY RENEWED IN KNOWLEDGE TO BE LIKE ITS CREATOR. [11] WHERE THIS HAPPENS, THERE IS NO GREEK OR JEW, CIRCUMCISED OR UNCIRCUMCISED, BARBARIAN, UNCIVILIZED PERSON, SLAVE, OR FREE PERSON. INSTEAD, CHRIST IS EVERYTHING AND IN EVERYTHING.

COL. 3:12 - 14 (GW) ❤️🔥

[12] AS HOLY PEOPLE WHOM GOD HAS CHOSEN AND LOVED, BE SYMPATHETIC, KIND, HUMBLE, GENTLE, AND PATIENT. [13] PUT UP WITH EACH OTHER, AND FORGIVE EACH OTHER IF ANYONE HAS A COMPLAINT. FORGIVE AS THE LORD FORGAVE YOU. [14] ABOVE ALL, BE LOVING. THIS TIES EVERYTHING TOGETHER PERFECTLY.

COL. 3:15 - 17 (GW)

[15] ALSO, LET CHRIST'S PEACE CONTROL YOU. GOD HAS CALLED YOU INTO THIS PEACE BY BRINGING YOU INTO ONE BODY. BE THANKFUL. [16] LET CHRIST'S WORD WITH ALL ITS WISDOM AND RICHNESS LIVE IN YOU. USE PSALMS, HYMNS, AND SPIRITUAL SONGS TO TEACH AND INSTRUCT YOURSELVES ABOUT GOD'S KINDNESS. SING TO GOD IN YOUR HEARTS. [17] EVERYTHING YOU SAY OR DO SHOULD BE DONE IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS, GIVING THANKS TO GOD THE FATHER THROUGH HIM.

COL. 3:23 - 25 (GW) ❤️🔥

[23] WHATEVER YOU DO, DO IT WHOLEHEARTEDLY AS THOUGH YOU WERE WORKING FOR YOUR REAL MASTER AND NOT MERELY FOR HUMANS. [24] YOU KNOW THAT YOUR REAL MASTER WILL GIVE YOU AN INHERITANCE AS YOUR REWARD. IT IS CHRIST, YOUR REAL MASTER, WHOM YOU ARE SERVING. [25] THE PERSON WHO DOES WRONG WILL BE PAID BACK FOR THE WRONG HE HAS DONE. GOD DOES NOT PLAY FAVORITES.

EMBRACING IMPERFECTIONS MEANS

...

TO ACCEPT & BE SUPPORTIVE OF OTHERS, FLAWS & ALL, WITH A JOYFUL HEART; KNOWING THAT HE WHO "INTENTIONALLY" BEGAN A GOOD WORK WITHIN US IS ABLE TO BRING THOSE SAME GOOD WORKS, DESIGNED & DESIGNATED FOR "KINGDOM PURPOSE" OUT OF US IN DUE SEASON, TO THE HONOR & GLORY OF JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.



LIFE TAUGHT YOU
HOW TO FIGHT.
*May love teach you
how to live."*

DR. THEMA BRYANT

TEACHING OBJECTIVE

PROVIDE OR ENHANCE
COMMUNICATION TOOLS THAT
GENERATE / ENCOURAGE AN
ATMOSPHERE WITHIN THIS BODY
OF CHRIST, WHEREBY
BELIEVERS EFFECTIVELY &
GENUINELY EVALUATE
INTERPERSONAL
RELATIONSHIP'S, AND
AUTHENTICALLY EMPLOY
SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT AND / OR
RECALIBRATE THE SAME, AS
NEEDED, IN LOVE 🧡

