

Love Grows in the Light of the Son

**Love is patient, love is kind - No eyes of envy, true love is blind
Love is humble, it knows no pride - No selfish motive hidden inside
Love is gentle, makes no demands - Despite all wrong, true love still stands
Love is holy, love is pure - It lasts forever, it will endure**

**Love knows when to let go, Love knows when to say no
Love grows in the light of the Son, And love shows the world that
The Son of Love has come**

(Lyrics from the Song "Love" by Petra)

I would like to share a story about how God still performs miracles through love, grace, and mercy. It was a beautiful spring afternoon in 1989 in Clearwater, FL. I was honorably discharged from the USAF, started attending a local church, and was renewing my relationship with the Lord. I had just finished a round of golf and rushed to the church to attend the prayer meeting. Afterwards, a friend of my mother introduced me to a young lady who was a preschool teacher at the church private school. She (to me) was gorgeous, friendly, and we soon started dating. Everything was going well until about six weeks in I made a fatal mistake. She had a strong relationship with Christ and was raised very conservative when it came to male to female interaction. My mistake, I tried to kiss her goodnight one evening.

Now keep in mind I was not trying to "make out" with her, it was just a quick peck on the lips (or cheek in this case). Suddenly though the relationship went from "You're a wonderful guy" to "You're only after one thing!" Two weeks later we broke up but agreed that we would still be "friends." Why we agreed to these terms I will never know because that was definitely not the case. To sum up the experience, things got very, very, tense and disheartening. This was someone who became bitter and angry towards me (and the circumstances) everytime we saw each other, which was about 4-5 times a week because of church and other commitments. I am sure we were both praying over the whole situation, but there were a lot of things happening behind the scenes that I was not aware of.

Then I received the phone call. She was very angry towards me, was tired of people asking questions about us, and emphatically requested me to stay away from her or even talk to her. I apologized for all that happened and that I would honor her request. For two weeks (the hardest of my life) I avoided her, never went near her, or talked with her. Then, one night during a revival service at our church, I was standing in a group of people, talking and being friendly, and noticed someone behind my shoulder and turned to make conversation and there she was! I immediately apologized to her and walked to the back of the group to abide by her request. She was stunned by what took place.

Later that night she called to apologize. She was convicted about the circumstances that had happened between us. We talked for hours, worked out all our issues, and truly became friends again. It was a long hard three months of an emotional roller coaster for both of us, but prayer and God's grace got us through it. You see God was working in both our lives helping us to understand what true commitment was. Not just to each other, but to Jesus as well. Through our troubles His Word says, ***"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may dwell in me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*" (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)** The Lord helped us through all our weaknesses and we grew closer as friends, but the story doesn't end there.

What happened to that young, beautiful, Christian woman you ask? Well, a few months later, we agreed to date once more. In April of 1990 our church was setting up to perform our Easter drama and we had a garden of Gethsemane scene. One afternoon, after she got off work we went inside the church on stage to that scene and I proposed to her. We were married that same year and recently celebrated our 31st anniversary. We have three awesome grown sons, a beautiful daughter-in-law, and a precious granddaughter. Truly miracles happen and love grows in the light of the Son!

***"When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."* (Luke 21:28)**

Bro. Andrew