



Lovely

Inside

April 2011

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

A watercolor-style illustration of a young woman with reddish-brown hair styled in braids. She has a gentle smile and is looking slightly to the right. She is holding a green book with a white floral pattern. A small white card with the word "Truth" written in a black, cursive font is placed on the book. The background features a floral pattern and a dark brown, lace-like cutout design on the right side.

Truth

Dear Sisters in Christ

We thank you so much for your interest in our little e-newsletter. So many women in Christ have found over the years that this narrow walk in Jesus, just isn't an easy thing to do.

Sometimes we find ourselves in a lonely place where it feels like we are the only ones in the world who are trying to follow Scriptures. Many sisters have been faced with severe trials that they never ever dreamed they would have to handle. Marriages suffering, friends and family members divorcing, children rebelling even after being raised up in the ways of the Lord, just to mention a few.

How are we to handle life when it seems almost impossible to go on?

It is our goal that *Lovely- Inside* will be an avenue for Christian sisters to share their struggles and encourage others by telling how the Lord has triumphed over impossible odds. We hope to give Biblical insights towards problems that Christian womanhood faces today.

Our goal is to encourage one another in Philippians 4:8

"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things."

Another Scripture which is a favorite is: Isaiah 52:7

"How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who announces peace, and brings good news of happiness, who announces salvation, and says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

May we encourage each other to speak and think on the "lovely" things God is doing in our lives.

~Pearables

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Sisterhood in Christ You Can't Leave Home Without It!

Do you have a really good friend in Christ? Someone who has your back and if you are thinking negatively about your husband or your children, or want to do some outrageous thing which God warns us not to do, they will say to you, "No you're not!" A person who will always encourage you to do what God's Word says to do? If you do, you are so very, very blessed.

If you have a group of sisters that will hold you accountable to God's Holy Word and Ways, then you have a miracle in your hands.

The Bible says in Proverbs 18:24

"A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother."

One of the sweetest stories that gives an example of this Scripture in action is the friendship between Naomi and Ruth.

In the Book of Ruth we are told a story about a non-Hebrew young woman who, because of a dedicated friendship with her mother-in-law, became the Great-grandmother of David, a man who was the apple of God's eye. Not only was this great-grandson to become very special in the eyes of God, but he would also become a King from whose line the promised Messiah, Jesus, would come from.

After being married for ten years, two sister-in-laws find themselves widows. We aren't told whether both brothers died together or not, or any details of what happened. Rather, the Bible concentrates on the relationship between the young women and their mother-in-law. One sister goes back to her family and her own gods, the Scriptures tell us, and the other, Ruth, clings to her mother-in-law.

However, Ruth says the



following to her: (Ruth 1)

15And she said, Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister in law."

16And Ruth said, Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:

17Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me."

Ruth chose to follow the One True God when she chose to go with Naomi back to her motherland.



What an example for each of us to follow. Ruth had already accepted Naomi's God as she talks in a very personal way about the Lord. In Ruth 1:17 she says, "The LORD do so to me and more also..."

In Ruth 2:11 we are also told more when she finds favor in the eyes of Boaz, soon to be her future husband. And Boaz answered and said unto her, "It hath fully been shewed me, all that thou hast done unto thy mother in law since the death of thine husband: and how thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people which thou knewest not heretofore."

12The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, **under whose wings thou have come to trust."**

When we have friends who are walking with God, we can trust that He will lead in the friendship, as both people are dedicated to walking in the Truth, rather than error. Iron sharpens iron!

Ask and You Shall Receive!

If you do not have a true friend in Christ, simply pray and ask our Heavenly Father and anticipate a miracle. God wants us

to have fellowship with one another.

There are so many lonely women in our churches, especially the larger ones, where it is difficult to meet other believers in the Lord. To find someone who is like-minded in the Word is a very special present from our Father. If you do not have a sister in Christ who will point you to the Word rather than the world, then pray and ask.

So many times we forget that God cares about the very number of how many hairs we have on our heads. He cares about every single thing that happens to us. So many times we have not because we ask not!

Jesus said, "From whence come wars and fightings among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?"

Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

It is surprising that the Lord is talking



about friendship here. He wants us to not make friends with the world. We must long and cling to in sisterly love, those who are also devoted to God.

There are many temptations and trials that face each woman in Christ in these last days.

Here's a story that was so very encouraging. A woman was having a very difficult time with her husband. They had been married for more than 25 years but because of trials with their children, monetary problems, and mostly bitterness that had sprung up between the couple, the woman was ready to call it quits with her husband.

While her husband was gone on a business trip she felt a very strong urge to call her friend up and invite her to come stay with her for a few days while her husband was gone.

It turned out that the younger woman had also gone through a very hard time with her own husband, but had come out stronger in the Lord because of it. She ministered truth to her older sister in Christ and told her that God didn't call us to divorce, but to remain faithful to her husband in her heart.

The older friend hadn't really expected her young friend to reprove her, but rather to sympathize with her and pat her on the back once she had told her all her woes and hardships that she had to put up with her man.

This was a true friend. Not someone who was a man pleaser (or friend pleaser) and worried about what her friend would think. This sister saw that the other woman was in *spiritual* trouble and gave her all the counseling from the Word of God that she knew.

It wasn't an "I'm OK, you're OK", philosophy as many of the world's relationships are based upon. No, it was based upon true love, which is loving one another enough to tell the truth. May each of us be so blessed as to find this in their friendships.

Proverbs 27:6

Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

Pray for the Lord to lead you and guide you in all areas of your life. Who we spend our time with will impact us in regards to who we will become like in the future.

-Maranatha!

Have an encouraging story? Please send to:

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