

Saturday, April 3, 2010

## Losing Everything

*We love because He first loved us.* 1 John 4:19

I have been thinking about a lot of things that I could write for this devotion. I was thinking about writing about my sister Jennifer, writing about how I met my boyfriend, and writing about how I have been treated in school, but it came to me today when I unexpectedly met with a friend at school. While I was reading in the fire side lounge, my friend who we will call Steve for this devotion, saw me through the window and waited till I saw him. As I saw him out of the corner of my eye, I waved and smiled since I don't see him as much as I would like to. He then came in and sat with me, and we started talking. We talked about everything-- how he has been, what is his job status and how is he doing with his family issues.

Every time I see Steve or hear his voice, I think of the word *love*, especially because his birthday is on Valentine's Day. Now he's not my boyfriend or someone romantic to me; he is one of my very best friends. With almost every thing he was saying to me about his life, I felt a little part inside of me die. He has had so many things happen to him, the loss of a father, the verbal abuse of a mother, the loss of jobs and now a disease, that I feel for him even more than I already did. I try to pray for him every night and check up on him whenever I can.

Before Steve's dad died, he was a very enthusiastic and upbeat person. He had a lot of love in him and used to tell everyone that he knew really well that he loved them. He kept in touch with so many people and was so happy to see everyone wherever he went. Now that his dad has died, he has lost all connections from his friends, hardly talks to anyone and goes through life everyday as a routine, and he knows something is missing. I am not sure of this, but I am assuming that he is missing what he had before --love and compassion, being wanted by a father and parent and a longing for life.

Now I am not writing this for you all to say, "Aww, Stephanie is such a good friend and so warm-hearted." I am writing this so you all can feel the love and support that he needs and desires. People that lose what they qualify as everything, or do lose everything, need our help and understanding. They need us to love them just as God loves us.

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, Please help people like Steve. Help them to relearn how to love and accept and help them to teach others how to love. Help us to love others who do not have what we have and who are in need. In Your Name, Amen.

---Stephanie Foote