

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

The Greatest of These

And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is Love.

I Corinthians 13:13

About 8 yrs ago my life hit rock bottom. Living as a single mother, trying to support myself and my daughter, I was going through an emotional roller coaster ride. I was in and out of court on a regular basis going through a messy divorce, working full time, never seeing enough of my daughter, and struggling with my faith. Everything I had believed in as a child and young adult seemed to be torn to pieces. Nothing made sense, and it seemed like I was a miserable failure. I felt like I had let God down. I had not lived up to what He expected. And I despaired of ever being useful again. I cried daily and asked God how could He possibly use me again after I had such a messed up life? How could I possibly be a witness to anyone when I was getting a divorce? I didn't know how my life could move on. I felt like I was in the bottom of a deep, dark cave with no light and no way out.

But God never deserted me. He provided me with a wonderful circle of Christian friends who loved me and supported me beyond belief. As I sat in one of their homes during a Bible study, I broke down in front of everyone and finally told them what I was struggling with. Those beautiful friends sat there and cried with me and helped to bear my burdens. They encouraged me, they hugged me, they prayed with me, and they never gave up on me. They helped me to see that God would always use me and that He was always there for me even when I felt like I was utterly alone. Though they probably don't realize the impact of that night, I will never forget the love of those people. It changed the course of my life.

It is important for us to be there for people who are hurting - to reach out and love and cry and encourage. It is easy for hurting people to hide, but we need to be on the look-out. Really listen. Everybody around is hurting in some way. We just need to let them know they are loved. You never know when it might change their lives forever, just knowing that someone cared.

Prayer: Dear Lord, Thank You for providing such loving and supportive friends when I need it. Help me to return the favor and give my love to someone else in their time of need.

In Your Name, Amen.

--Christy Dendis