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--Soul Peace.5 - -

Soul Treasures

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Katie lives on the left side of a double house. She is gifted in growing plants. She landscapes the edge of her side of the building with flowers and lavishes care on them. Perennials and annuals alike respond to her touch.

Across a tiny strip of yard, there is another double house. A young family has moved in with a toddler daughter and an infant son. The Mother and Father keep their small grassy yard neatly mowed. Their green yard seems to extend the beauty of Katie's yard.

The little girl loves to toddle across the yard and sit on the ground with Katie as she cares for her plants. Katie welcomes, celebrates, and enjoys the little girl the way she is. They don't always have to talk; just being together is enough. As she watches Katie work, the toddler learns how to care for plants.

At the end of the work that seems like play, they enjoy a snack in Katie's living room. The high ceilings and tall windows decked with growing green plants bring the beauty of the outdoors inside, and make the time like a party.

On the opposite wall of Katie's double house lives another family. The young girl's are elementary school age. The grass around their side of the house has long ago turned to mud. There was garbage here and there. The house is in need of paint and repair.

Katie welcomes, celebrates, and enjoys the girl's in this house, as well. She is always available to talk when they walk by. She comes to their door with fresh baked cookies. Katie's character continues to be an oasis of beauty in the midst of this family's barren atmosphere and destitute landscape.

Katie is not only gifted in growing plants, she is also gifted in nourishing the soul of human beings. The girls on both sides of her were able to experience the miracle of being seen and appreciated for who they were. They did not have to do anything to be enjoyed. There was no hidden agenda. Katie was a soul treasure for those girls.

Connecting the soul (the intellect, will, and emotion) with Biblical Truth and psychological knowledge.
Integrating the soul with body and spirit for peace in all areas of life - -business,
Personal, marriage, family, and relationships.

"Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of Hosts."

Zechariah 4:6

For those of us who have had a Katie in our lives, we can continue that celebration. We can surround ourselves with things that remind us of that person's way of nourishing. In this true story of Katie, the treasured person could have plants and pictures of gardens everywhere. And we can pass the soul treasure on to others by praying that God will help us see and enjoy others as they really are.

What if we aren't sure if we had some one who emotionally nourished us? We need to ask God to show us if there was someone. It may be a family member, a neighbor, a sales person, or a church person. We might not even know their name. But we remember being seen and heard.

However, many of us have not had a Katie to really see us as a person, and enjoy us. What do we do? We can go farther back in our own history to the One who created us. Remember, God Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth is love alone. Before He created the world, He knew us, and created us to love us, and to be able to receive His love. That is our purpose. He originated the agape love that sees and enjoys us as we really are. God is the original soul treasure. And He will be our soul treasure, if we ask Him.

Why then do we not feel loved? There are many reasons. But let's look at just two.

We expect God to behave toward us as did our parents and adult authority figures when we were little. If they were not able to be emotionally nourishing, we may expect God to act the same toward us. We may believe he hates us, or simply can't be bothered with us.

Also, our reaction to authority figures as children would be our reaction to God. So even though God is always present with us, we may withdraw, hold our heart, not trust, and even hate, Him. We can believe we are too bad for God to acknowledge. It may be very scary to think of a relationship with Him. It may be harder to believe what He says about us is true.

Our love relationship with God Almighty is the most important to work on. He really has done all the work on His side. Through the Lord Jesus' death and resurrection, the way to God is totally finished in Jesus. He has removed all shame and fear.

Now it is over to us to live in this. We want to receive His love that is surrounding us all the time. That way, we can begin to nourish ourselves, Him, and others.

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Editor's Note: The Mission Statement of Dr. Mardee Alff, Psy.D is as follows:

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