

RESET!

Spirit·Mind·Body



Pay It Forward, With Love

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Matthew 25:35-40 NAB

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous^[a] will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'

Galatians 5:14 NAB

"For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

It is said that it is better to give than to receive. I agree.

Getting an unexpected gift is nice, too! But giving and receiving isn't about money, or wealth, or earthly possessions. It is about love. God uses us for His good purpose. Those moments when you feel compelled to do something for another is God's Holy Spirit speaking to us.

When I was a little girl, it was just me, my mom, and my sister. We were very poor, and there were times when we went to bed hungry. We snuggled up together, fully clothed in winter hats and coats and boots in my mom's bed in the dead of winter because we had no electricity or fuel to keep us warm. I watched the condensation clouds escape from our mouths as we fell asleep. I also remember my mom crying and pleading to God for something...anything...her children were cold and hungry, and she had no one to help her; she was alone. The next day came and still, nothing. That is, until later that evening.

There was a knock at the door. I don't remember exactly who was there, but what I remember is that this person brought us bags of food, milk, and money. What was even more amazing than that was the fact that they just felt compelled to go get those groceries and drop them off to us, just out of the blue.

As little as I was then, that was the first time I felt Jesus. It was then that I knew He was real, because He heard my mom's cries. He knew I was cold and hungry, and scared. He sent an angel to rescue us. Even though we went to bed cold that night, we didn't go to bed hungry. The very next day, my mom made a beeline to MetEd and paid the bill and had enough left to buy fuel.

I will *always* pay it forward. God tugs at my heart to do for others because it was done unto me. I will love my neighbor as I love myself, and I will love the Lord with all my heart and all my soul.

Mark 12:31 NAB

"...There is none other commandment greater than these."