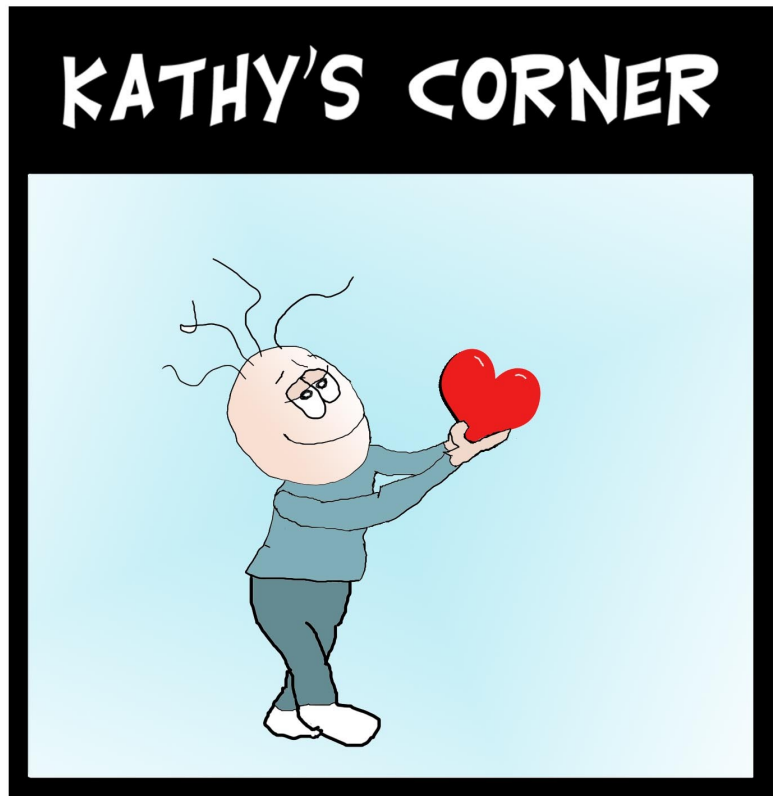


Devotion, Desire, Delivery

Devotion Jesus ministered out of devotion—devotion to both His Father and His creation. One definition for devotion according to Oxford Languages is *love, loyalty or enthusiasm for a person, activity or cause.* (We devote our time, energy, perhaps skills and finances, as well.) According to Webster, *The loyalty implies faithfulness that is steadfast in the face of any temptation to renounce, desert or betray.* This surely sounds like our Lord. Wouldn't we like to see the same in our world and local leaders who continue to betray those they are supposed to be serving! There was a desire to reconcile all back to God. What was desired was accomplished. What He desired He also delivered. What He delivered is in place in heaven, though we do not see the completion of it on earth at this time. **“For God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.”** (2 Corinthians 5:19 NLT) Since this gospel/good news of His kingdom has been given to us, perhaps we can help put it into its place on earth.



To love the Lord God with all our heart, mind, and soul is total devotion. To love our neighbor as our self is delivery. It is delivery of what the Holy Spirit takes of Jesus and gives to us. Jesus fulfilled both commandments, and only His Spirit in us can enable us to do the same. **“We know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.”** (from Romans 5:5 NLT) This is a love that flows in worship and reverence for God, and in delivery to others.

Elijah dealt with the false prophets who were devoted to their false god, Baal. Their god was unable to deliver anything that those prophets desired though they demonstrated much zeal in crying out and cutting themselves, giving their time and energy to a non-existent god. On the other hand, Elijah knew His God, and was totally devoted to Him and His goals. His God delivered powerfully!

Samuel was another true prophet of God. None of his words fell to the ground because his words were God's words. His God delivered. Throughout the Old Testament, we see many instances where God delivers people as individuals and as a nation. How many cleansings, healings, deliverances and restorations did Jesus serve/deliver in the New Testament and onward through His disciples?

Desire Jesus showed us God's heart. All through the Bible we see God's desires, but I am just going to highlight a few. He desired that all should come to repentance rather than perish. (from 2 Peter chapter 3). God desires that all should have eternal life, sending His Son to make this possible. Jesus desired that

we all be one, as He and the Father are one. He prayed for this in John 17:21. In fact many of His desires for us are revealed in His prayer to the Father in the same chapter.

We might also look at David—the man after God’s own heart. Much of his character, life and desires are exposed in the Psalms. One in particular that comes to mind is Psalm 27:4, “**The one thing I ask of the LORD—the thing I seek most—is to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, delighting in the LORD’s perfections and meditating in his Temple.**” (NLT) Remember, it is the sons that live in the house forever, not the servants. Relationship is critical.

Delivery It hasn’t been possible to separate devotion and delivery or service much in this article, but I will add a little here. Delivery in the sense of service can be compared to UPS, Amazon, USPS, etc. We desire the package to be complete/perfect, in good shape and on time. Think about it!—What a good God we love and serve! “**Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.**” (James 1:17 NLT) It’s good. It’s complete, and it’s on time!

One very good complete and perfect gift that the Father has given us is His Holy Spirit—to lead, to guide, to live inside us. Jesus said, “Howbeit **when he, the Spirit of truth, is come**, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. **He shall glorify me:** for he shall receive of mine, and shall show *it* unto you.” (John 16:13-14) Here we see that one act of the Holy Spirit is the glorification of Jesus. Today many claim to be under the influence and anointing of the Holy Spirit. Are their acts and manner of service (delivery) glorifying Christ?

Jesus’ life was short but eternally significant. He was full of grace and truth. He didn’t come to condemn, but to bring life.

Devotion, Desire, Delivery in us Paige mentioned that it took many years *for God to get the “Pharisee” out of Paul* before he could be used effectively for delivery of the good news of God’s kingdom to the gentiles. We too have mindsets and prejudices we must let go. We are to speak the truth in love. Oswald Chambers said, “**The men and women Our Lord sends out on His enterprises are the ordinary human stuff, plus the dominating devotion to Himself wrought by the Holy Ghost.**” Oswald Chambers again, “Do I want to be identified with His death, to be killed right out to all interest in sin, in worldliness, in self—to be so identified with Jesus that I am spoilt for everything else but Him?”

In the past I have had several hobbies that I enjoyed tremendously. I find that I have lost most of my taste for them. Now they seem like more of a task than a pleasure. Those hobbies sucked my time, energy, and money—all which belong to Him. They always have belonged to Him—I just didn’t recognize it before. It isn’t as though I have lost anything. I am the happiest I have ever been in my life. Why wouldn’t I want to devote my time, energy and resources to Jesus? Why wouldn’t I want to develop that relationship now, to really know and love the God I will spend eternity with? It isn’t a chore. It is a delight!