

A close-up photograph of two hands, palms up, holding a small bouquet of five white daisies with yellow centers. The hands are positioned symmetrically, with the fingers slightly curled. The daisies are arranged in a vertical line, with the largest one at the top. The background is dark and out of focus. The entire image is framed by a thin yellow border.

**Love Gives**

# LOVE GIVES

By Meade Macguire

*"God so loved . . . that He gave."* Love is the giving instinct, and we can conceive of the measure of God's love by the infinite value of His gift. So it is in our relations with one another. HE WHO LOVES HIMSELF MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE, GIVES TO OTHERS ONLY THAT OF WHICH HE HAS LITTLE NEED. Love may be expressed by giving a present or giving some service.

Parents who love their children are always eager to give them something or to do something for them, with no thought of receiving anything in return except affection. AND CHILDREN WHO ARE NOT CONTROLLED BY SELF-LOVE, BUT TRULY APPRECIATE AND LOVE THEIR PARENTS,

CONSTANTLY STUDY WHAT THEY CAN GIVE THEM OR DO FOR THEM. We are thrilled when a dear friend gives us a present or does some kind service for us, primarily because it is an expression of love, and nothing else is so thrilling as love.

It is not difficult to recognize this principle in our relations with one another, and we may recognize it in God's relation to us. We say He constantly gives to us and does for us because He loves us. But do we recognize the application of this principle in our relation to God? Does He rejoice day by day because of our love expressed in sacrificial gifts and service?

These thoughts were suggested to me recently when a young lady gave me a draft

*[almost like a cheque]* for \$1,000 to put in the mission treasury. She is one of many nurses working in a large institution. Naturally, the size of the gift from this reserved, humble, modest-appearing girl aroused my curiosity as to her resources. I inquired if this was money that she had earned. She assured me that it was.

*"But,"* I said, *"I do not see how you could do it. I have talked with many nurses who have had steady work with good wages for years, yet they said it was a difficult problem to keep out of debt."* Then she told me that she had been reared to be thrifty and to bind about her personal wants. She told me of long, trying months of illness, with resources exhausted and prayers apparently unheard. Still she prayed on

and trusted on, and then the Lord turned the tide and she has a good position with fair wages. I learned that she was giving several hundred dollars more to the cause. AND I COULD NOT HELP FEELING THAT THE LORD JESUS MUST BE THRILLED BY THE LOVE WHICH GIVES SO FREELY TO HIM.

This girl might have felt justified in buying herself a car, a radio, and many other things, and so have used the money. She might have been content to give a dime or a dollar in Sabbath school, thinking she was doing as well as others. BUT TRUE, DEEP, SINCERE LOVE DOES NOT DECIDE ITS INVESTMENTS ON THE BASIS OF WHAT OTHERS DO. WHERE THE AFFECTIONS ARE, THE GIFTS MUST GO.

When the poor widow gave her two mites, it thrilled the heart of Jesus; and when Mary poured the fragrant ointment on His head, His heart was glad.

May it be that much of our giving is done from a mere sense of duty? I would rather have a child give me a penny because he loved me, than to have a millionaire give me ten thousand pennies from a sense of duty. *"God loveth a cheerful giver;"* for HE WHO LOVES GIVES EAGERLY, JOYFULLY, GENEROUSLY.

The gift of this Christian nurse touched my heart, and created a longing to make my dear Saviour happy by a love which can be expressed only in sacrificial giving and

service. *"God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son."*

LOVE GIVES.

*[Emphasis added]*

*www. lightindarkness. site*

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