



NightLight

A NEWSLETTER OF McLEAN MINISTRIES

"take heed...as to a light that shines in a dark place." II Peter 1:19

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Dear Friends,

Love is large and incredibly patient.

Love is gentle and consistently kind to all.

It refuses to be jealous when blessing comes to someone else.

*Love does not brag about one's achievements
nor inflate its own importance.*

*Love does not traffic in shame and disrespect,
nor selfishly seek its own honor.*

Love is not easily irritated or quick to take offense.

*Love joyfully celebrates honesty
and finds no delight in what is wrong.*

*Love is a safe place of shelter,
for it never stops believing the best for others.*

*Love never takes failure as defeat,
for it never gives up.*

Love never, not even once, fails.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (The Passion)



In the last several weeks, Clay and I have been going through his library, book by book, so I know his wishes about each one. We have finally finished - one shelf at a time - one box at a time - as I would carry them to his hospital bed in the living room! Whew!! Such an accomplishment! Clay has LOTS of books! Of course, I will keep quite a few, but most will soon have new homes. Clay was so pleased to have the time to get this done.

Along with his many books, he also has what he calls his treasure box that he keeps on the bottom shelf in the study. It's nothing special, only a cardboard box. What is special is what it contains. Throughout the years, the box itself has changed (to a bigger one) as his treasures have grown. It contains all kinds of things: special birthday and Father's Day cards, drawings from the kids and grandbabies when they were small, meaningful letters from close friends, photographs special to his heart, quotes and short articles that he's collected, and lyrics to songs that he wished he had written, among other treasures.

As we were going through a stack of papers on a bottom shelf, there were several items in it he wanted me to add to his treasure box. One of those items was the following lyrics to the song **Something That We Do** by Clint Black. He said that it was one of those songs that he wished he had written, about us. As I read out the words, he cried and I cried, wonderful happy tears flowing down our faces as we thanked God for our continuing wonderful life together.

God is much more a verb rather than a noun. He is the great I AM. He is Life itself. He is Love. He is Light. He is Grace. He is being, doing, living, loving, saving. He is continuously acting as Redeemer, as Guide, as our loving Father. He is a being verb. And like God, since we are made in His image, we also are doers. Doers of the living Word. These lyrics capture the heart of what love truly is: something that we DO. Not just words that we say, but words that we do. Not just something that we turn into a noun. Love is a being verb. Love is doing. Love is God. Love is loving God. Love is being loved by God. Love is loving others to God. Love is giving and receiving love. Love always leads to the Cross, where love came down to us. Christ crucified. Christ risen. Christ coming again. May our loves be verbs - active, something that we DO. May our lives be intentional actions of loving.

Christ is Risen!



Alleluia!

Something That We Do

by Clint Black

I remember well the day we wed
I can see that picture in my head
I still believe the words we said
Forever will ring true

Love is certain, love is kind
Love is yours and love is mine
But it isn't something that we find
It's something that we do

It's holding tight, lettin' go
It's flying high and lying low
Let your strongest feelings show
And your weakness, too

It's a little and a lot to ask
An endless and a welcome task
Love isn't something that we have
It's something that we do

We help to make each other all that we can be
But we can find our strength and inspiration independently
The way we work together is what sets our love apart
So closely that we can't tell where I end and where you start

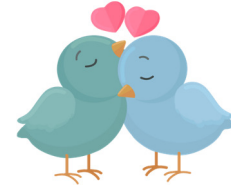
It gives me heart remembering how
We started with a simple vow
There's so much to look back on now
Still it feels brand-new

We're on a road that has no end
And each day we begin again
Love's not just something that we're in
It's something that we do

Love is wide, love is long
Love is deep and love is strong
Love is why I love this song
I hope you love it too?

I remember well the day we wed
I can see that picture in my head
Love isn't just those words, we said
It's something that we do

There's no request too big or small
We give ourselves, we give our all
Love isn't someplace that we fall
It's something that we do



Closing Thoughts...

As Clay's physical strength wains, his spiritual strength increases. The beauty of the Lord's presence is almost palpable at times. Clay grows even more peaceful as the days slip away towards his Homegoing. I am often in awe of this very intimate place between him and his Father. He grows more silent, yet full of light and shining glory. Through occasional bouts of discomfort and pain, Clay nevertheless radiates a holy sweetness. We await God's perfect timing for Clay's departure, living fully in each gift of the present moment. Yes! Love is something that we still DO.



Alleluia! Clay & Mary

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