



GRACE HAVEN

Biblical Renewal Ministries, Inc.

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By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples if you have love one to another
John 13:35

Pray with us that we would be faithful in fulfilling the role God has called us to here at Grace Haven.

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Lost and Found

Written by Christina Miller

Have you ever wondered who you are? Does it feel like your worth depends on what you do? Do you find yourself performing to be accepted by others? Do you ever feel lost and unnoticed?

Then maybe you can identify with Sally. She grew up in a Christian home. Her parents loved her, yet she was lonely, anxious, and depressed. She did her best to be good enough and do things perfect for everyone around her, but it felt like she could never quite measure up. If you saw her in church or at school she looked happy, but her smile covered up the tears inside. She wanted to be noticed, to know that she mattered, to know she wasn't alone. She just wanted to be accepted for who she was, not for what she did. Constantly trying to be a good girl living a perfect life to be accepted by Jesus and the people around her often left her feeling frustrated and overwhelmed. She could never relax because she was always trying to meet the expectations of others to be accepted. Without realizing it, she felt like Jesus was the same way - she felt like she had to earn His love and yet she could never quite do enough to feel fully loved by Him.

You see, she got her worth from what she did because in a world where love and acceptance were so often

based on her performances and what she had to offer, it seemed to her that love must be earned. And in striving to keep that earned love, she lost her identity. She didn't know she was a daughter of the King who loved her for who she was before she was even born. She didn't know that she didn't need to earn His love. Then one day someone noticed Sally. That day she was introduced to a Jesus she didn't know because someone noticed, accepted her for who she was, and cared about the tears behind her smile. Her heart was assured that she wasn't alone, that there was hope that she wouldn't always be this way, and she finally felt understood. She met a Jesus who loved her for who she was - simply His daughter! He showed her that there was nothing she could do to make Him love her more, and nothing she could do that would cause Him to love her less. She started to realize that what she did or didn't do didn't change His love for her; His work on the cross was

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enough! As she began to believe this, her heart could relax and she could enjoy the abundant life that she was meant to live. She no longer had to try so hard to live a perfect life; she could rest and live out of Jesus' perfect love for her. She learned that when you know the truth in your heart, it will set you free! Although there were slippery moments along her faith-journey when she forgot who she was, Jesus was always there to lovingly remind her if she would believe Him.

There are many Sallys around you and maybe you are one of them. You can live out of knowing who you are as a child of the King. Maybe Sally is your next door neighbor, maybe she sits beside you in the church pew, or maybe she eats lunch with you in the school cafeteria. How will you reach out to the hurting around you? How will you show Sally that you notice her, that you accept her for who she is, that you care? If you are Sally, will you be brave enough to allow yourself to be seen? Because in the end, all of our hearts long to be noticed and found. ☛

Lasting Relationships

God desires that all of us experience fulfillment in our relationships with others.

The first key to fulfillment in our relationship is communication. In marriage, a couple must be able to communicate in order to understand each other's needs. When both husband and wife get their needs met, then their relationship is going to be fulfilling. Everyone needs to feel valued and important. Lack of attention and communication can make your spouse feel you no longer care, which will cause them to withdraw and not be able to share their feelings. This will lead to an unhappy marriage and unresolved issues. Marriage

is about imperfect people doing their best to care for one another in love.

The next key to a lasting relationship is love. The scriptures tell us in 1 Peter 4:8, "And above all things have fervent love for one another, for love will cover a multitude of sins." This kind of love reaches out to others and is willing to forgive many faults to build lasting relationships. The only way we are able to release this type of love is to allow God to love through us. God's love has no strings, no expectations, no hidden agendas, no secrets. His love for us is abundant. "I love you," He says, "even if you let me down. I love you in spite of your failures."

Menno Yoder

