



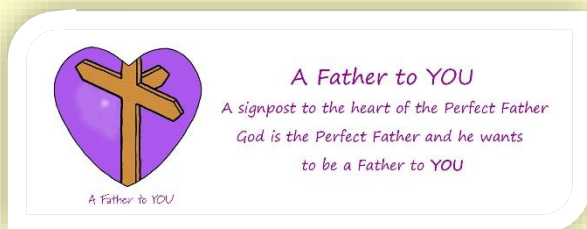
Rick & Sue McCoy

# The Love Letter

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## A WEBSITE WE RECOMMEND

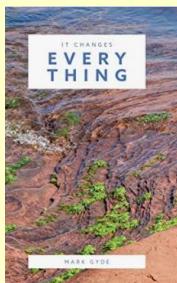
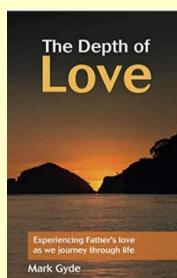
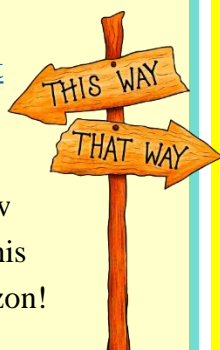
<https://www.afathertoyou.com>



We would like to highlight a website that has many resources to bless your heart. Our friend, Mark Gyde, who lives in the UK does a weekly Signpost that you can subscribe to or read at his website. He also has Musical videos, Snapshots of truth, and Weekly Webcasts with he and Barry Adams covering a variety of topics. All these items are archived on his website and are there for you to enjoy. We encourage you to check out all the free resources to feed your heart and spirit!

<https://www.afathertoyou.com/signpost>

Mark has also written several books which are rich with revelation of our Father's love and much more. We know your hearts will be blessed with all of his books which are all available on Amazon!



## THE WAY OF LOVE

Recently, Father spoke to my heart (Sue) saying, “My thoughts are not your thoughts nor are your ways My ways” Isa. 55:8-9. How often do we rely on our own thoughts and understanding and fail to believe or see the bigness of our Father's heart and ways? For many years of my Christian life, I saw the Bible as a textbook. I attempted to do all that it said but as a first-born perfectionist I struggled to live my life like Jesus! Now I realize the way to real life is about getting to know the Author, our Father and His loving heart! If Jesus is the Way, we can't get lost! If Jesus is the Truth, we cannot be deceived. If Jesus is the Life, real Life begins when we come home to our good Father and experience His loving ways! What would happen if we lived each day from hearts of love the way Jesus did – seeing, loving and valuing - the next person to cross our path?

We were created by love and for love, but often we didn't grow up with loving words and ways being shown to us. Jesus walked the earth loving people, not pointing out their sin or bad choices! There is a free TV series called **The Chosen** that I believe reveals the way Jesus walked among people valuing and loving each one. The encounters Jesus has with others touch their hearts and they are drawn to Him. My heart was touched when Jesus, a Jew, talks to a Samaritan women which was unheard of in their culture. Later Jesus mentions her past including her five husbands, but He looks into her eyes and she experiences only love! His loving way and look touches her heart and changes her life forever! She is no longer concerned about what others think but wants others to know Jesus who loves her just the way she is. **The way to real life with our good Father isn't through our head but encounters in our heart with His love.** It is the difference between knowing about God and experiencing Him loving you!

(You can watch the series on [thechosenApp.org](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=the+chosen+season+1) or on [https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=the+chosen+season+1](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=the+chosen+season+1))

Jesus said, “**I am the WAY, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father but by Me.**” John 14:6 We can focus on the truth without an equal focus on the way. Our heads can know what the Word says and quote it but that doesn't automatically change our daily lives. Jesus' way is the way of the heart. Most of us get our beliefs and ways of doing something by what we learned or saw our parents do. The problem with imitating our parents or other authority figures is that their ways may not line up with Father's ways.

He has been showing me how some of my ways are not like Him - whether I am not being gentle with myself/others or my tone of voice is less than loving! Ouch! How often do I decide what I am going to do rather than asking for His way of doing something? We can say, "That's the way I have always done it!" It's not just what we do, but the heart attitude behind the way we do something too! The Bible says, "**There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.**" **Prov. 14:12** Obviously, we can choose ways that are not life giving! Asking for His thoughts and His ways of doing things allows us to experience the abundant life Jesus came to give us. Father desires that each of us choose His way, but He will never force us.

### The Way Got Messed up in the Garden

God placed Adam and Eve in the beautiful Garden of Eden, filled with everything they needed. Each evening God came down and walked with them in the cool of the day! They experienced every good thing that God had created as well as sweet fellowship with Him daily! What more could they have wanted? They were told to care for and guard the garden. God also told them they could eat of every tree but one. They were told to not eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil or they would die. Did they not believe that God wanted only good for them? What caused them to question God's words or His loving heart for them?

We don't know how long Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of Eden, but at some point, rather than listening to and following God's ways, Eve listened to the serpent and began to question and add to what God had said. Eve took a bite of the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, and Adam who was right beside her ate it too! **They chose their own way and didn't follow God's words.** As much as God desires that we all choose His ways, He never planned for us to be robots who had to do what He said. Our free will is the greatest gift God gave us, yet it has gotten us into lots of trouble. Each of us make choices every day - to follow what God says or go our own way! Father will never usurp our free will, but His Word tells us what will happen if we choose our own way. "**Therefore, they shall eat the fruit of their own way.**" **Prov. 1:31** If we choose our own way, the fruit we will be eating may not be sweet or tasty!

Their choice resulted in some major consequences! Choosing their own way caused them to lose their heart connection and fellowship with their Father. When

God came down in the evening, they hid and were fearful instead of running to Him. They also lost the garden as their home and the freedom to live at home in relationship with God. Once they left the Garden, they lost their memory/ability to see God as only good. God had to send Adam and Eve out of the Garden lest they eat of the Tree of Life and forever be stuck in a life that was far from the good life He had always planned for them. I believe Father always planned to personally teach us His ways and how to discern good and evil rather than us deciding on our own what is good or evil.

### Wanting Our Own Way

How many times have we heard a young child or even an adult get upset when they don't get their own way? Our flesh often wants what we want and we want it now! It is easy to look at natural situations and not even consider what Father or Jesus would have us choose. Without God, we can be influenced by other people, TV ads, celebrities or simply by our fleshly wants. We can believe that some material thing will satisfy us. Many years ago, I heard a man of God say, "Material things will never satisfy the spiritual needs of our heart!" Only His love and ways will fill our hearts! In the world today we have many narcissists, people who are focused totally on themselves with everything being about what they want. Total focus on self means a person makes choices based on personal benefits without thinking about God or others. In **Genesis 6**, the LORD saw the wickedness on the earth was great. He saw the intent of the thoughts of man's heart were only evil and all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth! The word corrupted means ruined, marred, spoiled, decayed. Wow, that sounds like a lot of our world today! Man without God often chooses ways that are twisted and dark like our enemy. They don't believe God exists and make choices that are far from God's ways and thoughts!

The Bible says, "**Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he won't depart from it!**" **Prov. 22:6** Parents are meant to help their children learn natural tasks like how to brush their teeth, feed themselves and much more. But Proverbs has many verses sharing God's ways of teaching children to be kind to others, show love, forgive, and value other people that are different from them. Proverbs has many verses that show us how-to walk-in God's ways and the good results we will get when we live our lives His way. It's a book I often turn to and read a chapter to



to refresh my heart to His thoughts and ways.

### It's Not a Formula

I grew up in a Methodist church where I learned some Bible verses, but I was more conscious of what I needed to do. While I heard truth from God's Word, my heart thought I had to be a good girl and follow all the rules so that God would be pleased with me. Part of that thought pattern came from thinking I had to do something to merit my dad's love. So, once I was saved as a young girl, everything I saw in the Bible I felt I needed to do. I put a lot of pressure on myself! Religion focuses on what we need to do – pray, fast, give tithes, read the Bible and more. When Jesus walked the earth, the ones who missed Him were the most religious, the Pharisees and Sadducees. Jesus couldn't get them to stop focusing on what they had learned. They couldn't see the Living Word that was right in front of them! Jesus came to reveal His Father to everyone, but the logical, intellectual Pharisees couldn't handle Jesus demonstrating His love by healing a man on the Sabbath as they saw healing as work. They were so *focused on being right*, they had no room in their heads or hearts for the relationship Jesus was offering. When we think we know God or how to get what we need from Him, our spiritual life may be more of a formula to get what we want from God instead of a heart relationship.

It's not a recipe of knowing truth and training yourself to love well. No, it's the opposite! Rather than us trying hard to please God, Father wants us to know in our hearts that Jesus already did everything for us to receive His life of being loved! Our part is to *see the downward flow of His love* impacting every part of our lives. It's seeing the work as finished and now we learn to live and receive every good and perfect gift that is flowing down from the Father! He isn't trying to keep anything from us! Have you ever seen a

big waterfall? The only thing you must do to get the benefits of the waterfall is to simply stand under it and let it flow all over you! Our Father wants us to simply open our hearts and receive all the promises that He has spoken.

### His Way – a Heart Relationship

He never planned for mankind to ever try and live life on his own! He has always wanted to be our Father but most of mankind live as orphans, not knowing their loving Father. He has always desired for us to not only know we have a home but that we'd let Him father us and learn His ways. Only after we have experienced and encountered His gentle kind love will we hear the Bible spoken from His loving heart! *His way of love flows from a heart-to-heart relationship, not His heart to our heads.*

We have lost much of the positive benefits of loving attachments in our fast-paced society as well as Covid keeping us isolated. If you grew up in a home where performance was bigger than love, you may not have a clear image of what your true Father is like. We know how to do many tasks well, but our heart and inner self may feel alone and struggle to rest and be at peace. In Matthew 11:28-29, He tells us to come to Him, find rest for our souls and live in the unforced rhythms of grace. How? By being connected, yoked with Him. Two oxen share a yoke with one carrying most of the weight, our Father, and the second oxen being Jesus. He wants us to see ourselves attached to Jesus. If we are in Christ, then He's the one doing everything and not us! May we each learn that His way is good and He wants us to live resting in His love. I am asking Him to show me His thoughts and ways each day of my life!



## A Father's Blessing!

I bless you to let go of all pressure to perform and simply rest in His loving embrace. May you know this isn't about your head or outward feelings, but about receiving all that Jesus has already done for you. I bless your heart to be open to receive His gentle, tender love and trusting Him to lead you into good things. May you be humble like a little child letting Him father you, lead you, and teach you His thoughts and ways. I bless you to rest in the finished work of the cross and become a good receiver of all His promises. May your heart know that His ways and thoughts will bring life, love, and blessings from above. I bless you to read His word with your heart receiving revelation of His extravagant love for you and others!

