

“Bring Your Heart to Life”

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□ The Dream

□ The Promise

- Romans 5:5—“God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.”
- Christian Wiman: “In any true love—a mother’s for her child, a husband’s for his wife, a friend’s for a friend—there is an excess energy that always wants to be in motion. Moreover, it seems to move not simply from one person to another but through them, toward something else. . . . This is why we can be so baffled and overwhelmed by such love (and I don’t mean merely when we fall in love; in fact, I’m talking more of other, more durable relationships): it wants to be more than it is; it cries out inside of us to make it more than it is. And what it is crying out for, finally, is its essence and origin: God. Love, which awakens our souls and to which we cling like the splendid mortal creatures that we are, asks us to let it go, to let it be more than it is if it is *only* us. To manage this highest form of loving does not mean that we will be showered with earthly delights or somehow be spared awful human suffering. But for as long as we can live in this sacred space of receiving and releasing, and can learn to speak and be love’s fluency, then the greater love that is God brings a continuous and enlarging air into our existence.” (*My Bright Abyss: Meditation of a Modern Believer* 23-24)
- Spence Reece: “All I know now / is the more he loved me the more I loved the world.” (23)
- Philip Yancey: “When she enters a room Susan assumes that, bidden or not, God is already present. ‘We love because he first loved us,’ she says, quoting John, ‘and I picture God pouring his pitcher into me so that I can pour out to others, and then be replenished with God’s love. I enter with a smile, feeling privileged to share the sacred ground on which someone clings to life. If I forget that God goes ahead of me, and think instead that I am *bringing* God into the room, I can have an air of smugness. I feel pressure to say the right thing, try to impress the patient and staff—in short, I take myself too seriously. I need the constant reminder that God precedes me in that room, and that the person in the bed has a story I can learn from.” (*Vanishing Grace: What Ever Happened to the Good News?* 66-67)
- “What is a saint? I like Reynolds Price’s definition: someone who, however flawed, ‘leads us by example, almost never by words, to imagine the hardest thing of all: the seamless love of God for all creation, including ourselves.’” (Yancey 71)
- Duncan Hamilton: “Amid the myriad moral dilemmas in Weih sien, [Eric] Liddell’s forbearance was remarkable. No one could ever recall a single act of envy, pettiness, hubris, or self-aggrandizement from him. He bad-mouthed nobody. He

didn't bicker. He lived daily by the most unselfish credo, which was to help others practically and emotionally. Liddell became the camp's conscience without ever being pious, sanctimonious, or judgmental. He forced his religion on no one. He didn't expect others to share his beliefs, let alone live up to them. . . . 'You came away from his meetings as if you'd been given a dose of goodness,' said a member of the camp congregation. 'Everyone regarded him as a friend,' said another, giving voice to that unanimous verdict." (*For the Glory: The Untold and Inspiring Story of Eric Liddell, Hero of Chariots of Fire* 8-9)

□ **The Strategy**

- #1—Ask to be filled (in the morning).
 - Ellen White: "Our heavenly Father waits to bestow upon us the fullness of His blessing. It is our privilege to drink largely at the fountain of boundless love." (*Steps to Christ* 94)
 - Romans 5:8—"But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners Christ died for us."
 - Picture the cross in your mind, kneel there, ask to be filled with God's love.
 - www.steps-to-personal-revival.info
- #2—Ask to be unfilled (through the day).
 - Next Steps on your Connect Card

"Ask to be filled—and then unfilled"