

How is your Lent going? Have you been faithful to what you wanted to do to draw closer to God? I have dropped the ball more than once!

But, the GOOD NEWS is: We are LOVED! Relentlessly, persistently, tirelessly, beyond all imagination! Beyond our human concept of what unconditional Love is! God loves ME! He loves YOU! As if we were the only ones He created! We are loved PERFECTLY and COMPLETELY! We don't deserve it and we can't earn it! No matter what our response or lack of response is!

Why am I not living like this is a true reality? Why do I fight His Love? Why do I get so busy, I ignore His Love? Why do I deny Him so much? Why can't I follow through with my Lenten promises? Why do I doubt His love and NOT TRUST Him with the decisions of my life?

Great Questions.

I think the answer is for me – I don't really believe it! I don't know how He can love me....I am His child and I treat Him so badly! I let Him down in countless ways. I think deep down I am sure that He will get tired of my broken promises and withdraw His unconditional Love!

The problem is that I compare God's love to the way I love! (How sad is that?) For example: as much as I love my children – and I would do anything for them –when my children ignore me, I can take it out on them by being silent, or pouty or even stay too busy so that I ignore them back! I don't want to react badly, but I do!!! I still love them, but I react in such a non-loving way! I kind of expect God to do the same!

It is hard to imagine the God of the Universe giving unconditional and total love to me! Isn't He busy enough with real world problems? There are so many people who are really suffering! He has so many other things to keep Him busy...how am I even on His radar? The Answer is simply: God is God and I am NOT! And HE LOVES ME!

This Lent – even when I fail in my promises to God, I have experienced so many ways God loves me and wants to be part of my life! I am blessed in so many ways! On days I truly know and believe that I am loved, I am rejuvenated! Joy filled! I have a deeper understanding of what perfect love is and even though I don't know how to love perfectly....I want to respond to His perfect Love for me! I want to be more merciful! I want to be more compassionate! I want to be more loving! I want to share this love with YOU and with my children who get too busy for me, and with the person who just cut me

off on the freeway---you get the picture?? I may not do this perfectly, so please forgive me! But I am going to keep on trying! Keep on praying! Keep on learning more about my God by reading scriptures, going to Mass and going to workshops, classes and reading spiritual books, etc. Practice makes perfect?? Just Keep on Loving! Get Up when I fall down! Go to confession over and over until I get it right!

This Lent I am opening myself up to His Loving Embrace! I am listening more! I am trying to see God in all things and in all people! I am asking that you look for the God in me! Every day I pray: Where do I see God? Where did I experience His goodness? Then I give Thanks! How Good God's love truly is!

I am LOVED! All the Time! Without Reservation! And so are you!

This is the simple TRUTH:

- God Loves you and me!
- God believes in you and me!
- He wants to fill us with his LIFE! (Through Jesus!)

The Question is: Will we let Him?

Here is my prayer: Merciful God, source of life and love, you know my weaknesses. Help me remove these walls of fear so that I may reach out with JOY to grasp YOUR hand and walk in your ways! May you guide my heart in the way of YOUR love and fill me with Christ-like patience and love. May you give me strength to walk in deep understanding of Your Amazing Love, so that I can love others in the same way! AMEN!