

Verse of the Month Devotional

June

*Greater love has no one than this:
to lay down one's life for one's friends.
John Fifteen Thirteen*

Thoughts on the verse:

True freedom and the greatest love seem to go hand in hand: In order to find our life, Jesus says we must first lose it. To lay down your life for another is the greatest sacrifice of all. So how can we be "free" if we are giving up our life? Only when we can find it in Him. There is no greater contentment than to be completely submitted to the plan and purpose of God in your life. When you know you are in the will of God, you know you are doing the will of God, and you know He holds you in the palm of His hand. That's where death loses its sting and we experience the fullness of the life He designed for us. It can seem a high price to pay, difficult to surrender and even seem impossible to live, but the truth is, once you let go and let God be in control, you can experience the ultimate sense of freedom and peace and love and joy, all in Him, and far beyond anything you could ever ask or think.

Prayer:

Father, help us to have eyes to see and ears to hear how we can lay down our lives just like You, God, even when we were so unworthy, undeserving and ignorant, You STILL made a way for us, just because You love us. Help us to remember that the greatest love is just that: laying down our lives for each other, just like you did. Show us anything that is coming between us and give us the strength to acknowledge it and lay it at your feet. Thank you for the gifts of freedom and love, if we will only listen and obey Your Word.

Action:

Think about what areas of your life you have "stuff" that you may need to lay down. What is keeping you from getting closer to God, and what is keeping you from laying your life down? What are you holding on to in your life that letting go of could bring true freedom? Write it all out below and pray for wisdom on how to give it up, let go, and lay it down...

Notes: