

"What do you want Me to do for you? Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see. Mark 10:51 NIV

Wow! Have I jumped in with both feet! I barely had a clue what I was about to get myself into . . . when I purchased *The Love Dare – Day by Day* as a Christmas present . . . for my husband.

Of course, with it being a *couples'* devotional, I was going to read it, too. And I was prepared to discover a few things that would improve married life . . . the way that **I** thought it should be improved!

I had no idea that from the first page, (actually from the intro), I was going to 'get it' full force. "Ahem – are you listening, Pam? I want to do some wonderful works through this book and I am going to do a great deal of them by growing **you**." I could almost HEAR God saying that out loud!

Okay, so there are some adjustments that I could use – in my marriage and in any relationship. I'll even be the first to say that my attitude stinks sometimes, with a capital S. And, if there is anyone that is self-centered, that would be me! (I'm not happy to have to admit this.) And, if there has ever been a human being that deserves a medal, it would be my sweet husband. (Sometimes the truth hurts.)

What I have learned, though, and desire to share most – is the amazing way I have been asked to look at what we call the *love chapter* in 1 Corinthians. You all know the verses, probably most by heart. However, I want you to look at this bit of Scripture in a totally new light

**Insert your name** in every place that the word 'love' or the word 'it' is used, just in verses 4-7. (If you *can*, take the time to do that now.)

Is that convicting, or what?!

Now, *almost* every time I think about saying something to my spouse, I hear the 'Pam' translation. I don't even have to go past the first line! 'Pam is patient, Pam is kind . . .'. If I don't discern anything else, that in itself, will enhance my marriage. (Remember, I am a *work in progress* or I wouldn't have been asked to participate in this exercise.)

I am excited because I know that there is much, much more in the devotions that will change me, grow me, improve my attitude and reflect the LOVE of Jesus.

I am glad that God wants to 'carve' away all of those components in me that do not look like Him. And I am assured that He will do it in a loving, merciful way that won't leave scars. . . .unlike the ones I left when Jesus went to the cross to pay for my sins. . . .

*Father-God, thanks for the huge reminder that marriage **can** be all that You designed it to be IF we do it YOUR way. Thank You for giving me another chance at following Your pattern and loving the way that You love. Please continue to chisel away at my spiritual imperfections. Mold me like the Master Potter that You are. And may the end result be a shining reflection of Jesus for all to see. Amen.*

**Power Verses:**

Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Phil. 1:6

The One who calls you is faithful and He will do it. 1 Thess. 5:24

All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. 2 Cor. 5:18

My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. James 1:19b-20

May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. 1 Thess. 3:12

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:2

***The Love Dare – Day by Day* is authored by the pastors that created *The Love Dare* and the movie *Fireproof*, Stephen and Alex Kendrick, (If you are married and have not had the chance to see this movie, RUN to the nearest Blockbuster and rent it. It will be more than worth your monetary handout.)**