

Illustrated Message – Love Walk

Actors;

Harry and Sally – A married couple  
Trevor, Brenda, Edith – Members of the church  
Radio Bible Preacher  
Gabriel – Angel

Description of Harry – Harry is a dedicated Christian; active in his church with the gifts of the Spirit in operation in his life; he does regular missions work in the hard to reach countries; he's a generous giver to God's church. However, he lacks the personal love walk.

Description of Sally – Harry's wife is a godly loving woman dedicated to home, family, work and church.

Description of Trevor, Brenda and Edith – Trevor and Edith are younger church goers; Brenda is more seasoned and older in ministry.

Description of Radio Bible Preacher – An old school, aged Bible preacher

SCENE

A CHURCH SERVICE WITH DYNAMIC WORSHIP; THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ARE IN OPERATION; THERE ARE TONGUES AND INTERPRETATIONS. HARRY IS BRINGING TO A CLOSE THE INTERPRETATION OF THE TOUNGES HE JUST SPOKE IN.

Harry

...love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind. I say to you, love your neighbour as yourself and lay down your life for your brother! For in doing so, you fulfill my commandments, thus says the Lord!

Brenda

(Saying to Trevor and Edith)

Love your neighbour as yourself! Oh my goodness! His words are like a noisy gong, clanging cymbals!

Edith

Oh, don't be so hard on him. This is the same man that prayed that the huge mountain of debt that the church was carrying, and within an hour all the debt was paid for! I was there!

Trevor

Yes, and besides that, I was with him on the last missions trip and he was very willing to die for Jesus when the indigenous people threatened to martyr him, tying him to a tree and almost set him on fire had the authorities not stepped in and saved him. I saw it with my own eyes! And besides, he gave up all his money to the poor on that trip!

Brenda

Well, that may be true, but I counsel his wife, children and co-workers in the church on a regular basis and trust me, he's lacking the love walk here. That's why he sounds like a gong show today. I can't listen to him knowing what his family, friends and co-workers have to go through, to live and work with him!

Trevor

Brenda I think you're divulging too much information on Harry, remember God knows his heart, and He sees and knows our own personal love walk too.

SCENE

HARRY IS SITTING IN HIS CAR, SMILING AND WAVING AT PEOPLE GOING BY, BUT INSIDE HE'S BOILING MAD AND IMPATIENT HAVING TO WAIT SO LONG FOR HIS WIFE TO GET OUT OF CHURCH. SALLY GETS IN THE CAR.

Harry

(Angry and shouting)

What took you so long? I'm going to be late for the church business men's meeting!

Sally

Well Harry, I had to make sure the payments were in place for our kids Bible College which starts in a month. It may not seem important to you Harry, but our children's Christian education is number one.

Harry

Bible education! Our kids need to get a trade, get a college or university education first! Anything they want to know about the Bible, I can teach them at home, like I've always done!

Sally

Yes, teaching is one thing, but living the life is another. I'm tired of your impatient, proud, unkind, rude behaviour towards your family, co-workers, and brothers and sisters in the Lord. You might want to practice what you're prophesying and preaching about ... the love walk.

#### SCENE

ARRIVING AT THEIR HOME, SALLY IS DROPPED OFF. HE DRIVES BY THE PIECE OF PROPERTY THAT HE HAS ENVIED FOR YEARS WANTING TO BUY, BUT TO NO AVAIL. THE OWNER OF THAT PROPERTY IS A CHRISTIAN FROM HIS CHURCH. HE SEES THAT A TREE FROM THE STREET HAS FALLEN ON THE PROPERTY'S HOUSE, COMPLETELY DEMOLISHING THE ROOF.

Harry

(Thinking to himself)

Well, it must be the judgement of God. How many times have I offered to buy that property off of him, but because it's a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation home, he just has to keep it in the family! Oh well, I knew that tree was going to come down, it was full of termites unbeknown to him. Good thing I took care of my trees getting those bugs out. I've wanted to use that property for the Lord's work for years! Maybe now he'll be willing to sell and I'll get it even cheaper.

(He has a long pause)

Boy I resent being married and having to be accountable to a family. I know I could do much more for the Lord.

(Speaking out loud remembering what his wife said)

'You might want to practice what you're prophesying and preaching.' I can't believe she even said that!

HE CONTINUES TO DRIVE OUT OF TOWN AND TURNS ON THE RADIO. AN OLD SCHOOL PREACHER IS ON THE BIBLE HOUR SHOW.

Preacher

*"Love, bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known."*

Harry

(Repeating on cue with the Preacher)

And now abide faith, hope, love these three; but the greatest of these is love.

THE RADIO PROGRAM CUTS TO MUSIC AND HARRY TURNS IT UP LOUD TRYING TO DROWN OUT WHAT HE JUST HEARD AND DOESN'T HEAR THE TRAIN WHISTLE BLOWING AS HE CROSSES THE TRACKS AND IS KILLED.

HE FINDS HIMSELF IN A HALLWAY WITH ELEVATORS AT THE END WITH NO STAIRWAY EXITS. HE STARTS WALKING TOWARDS THEM TALKING TO HIMSELF. LOOKING DOWN AT HIMSELF AND CHECKING TO SEE IF HE'S BROKEN BONES OR IS BRUISED. HE SEES NOTHING.

Harry

How did I not hear that train coming? Unbelievable that I made it out of that crash without a scratch on me!

THE ELEVATOR OPENS AND HE GETS IN.

Gabriel  
Hello Harry

Harry

Do I know you? There aren't even any exits in the hallways here. Main level please. I don't even know where I'm at.

Gabriel

No, we haven't met, but I know who you are. I know your name. My name is Gabriel. There are no exits and there is no main level. I'm here to take you to heaven to the judgement seat of Christ where you'll be judged and to see if your name is in the Book of Life.

Harry

Book of Life! Heaven! I want to go home to my wife, kids, family, church and work, please! Main level!

Gabriel

You died in that train crash Harry. You're not going back to your wife, kids, family, church or work. You're going to the judgment seat of Christ. We're here.

ELEVATOR DOOR OPENS

Gabriel

Harry, this is Michael, another angel. He'll take you through those doors to see Jesus Christ.

Harry

(Under his breath) Now abide faith, hope and love, but the greatest of these is love.

AFTER BEING JUDGED AND WITH A VERY DISTURBED LOOK ON HIS FACE HARRY IS NOW RETURNING TO THE ELEVATOR WITH MICHAEL TO BE TURNED OVER TO GABRIEL.

THE SCENE THEN CUTS BACK TO THE CAR WRECK WITH HARRY SLUMPED OVER THE STEERING WHEEL DEAD, WITH THE RADIO STILL ON AND THE PREACHER READING I JOHN 3:7-24.

Preacher

*"Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, **nor** is he who does not love his brother. For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous. Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death. Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him."*

(This is a fiction script based upon the Bible scriptures – August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015)

### Bible verses

I Corinthians 13:1-13; "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

John 13:34; "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another."

John 15:13; "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."

John 13:35 "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

I John 3 and 4

### **Review of the Illustrated Message**

Love. It is the key word throughout the Bible, Old and New Testaments. It's supremely important and we all try to do our best to love, don't we? And yet do we really know what the Apostle Paul was talking about? Is it possible that if we continue to habitually, knowingly and willingly sin and **not** love our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ we 'may' not see heaven as our home? We left this message open at the end as it doesn't say if Harry's sentence was heaven or hell. It's worthy that each person judge his heart according to the Bible verses at the end of this message.

We eagerly desire the spiritual gifts and ministry gifts as Paul talks about in I Corinthians 12 & 14, but sandwiched in between is chapter 13 calling love, the 'greatest gift'. We can apparently have all the manifestations of the Spirit in our life, but Paul says if we don't 'have love';

- vs.1 I have become a **sounding brass** or a **clanging cymbal**;
- vs. 2 I am **nothing**;
- vs. 3 it profits me **nothing**."

This is what Harry's character portrayed. It showed his lack of love, he was not kind, he envied, he paraded himself and was puffed up, he was rude, sought his own, he was provoked, he did evil, he rejoiced in iniquity and didn't rejoice in the truth ... all of this, apparently being a Christian.



The Apostle John, also known as John the Beloved who wrote 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> John, has some very strong words concerning those who say they know Christ, yet don't walk in love. I'd like to highlight just a few descriptive words that he uses in chapters 3 and 4. If we do not love as Christ showed us;

- we sin and are of the devil
- we are not born of God
- we've neither seen Him or known Him
- we abide in death
- we're a murderer
- we're a liar

We find the word 'abide' in I John a lot, referring to abiding in Christ. It's a verb which means; *"to accept or act in accordance with (a rule, decision or recommendation)."* Synonyms are; *comply with, obey, observe, follow, keep to, hold to, conform to, adhere to, stick to, stand by, uphold, heed, accept, go along with, acknowledge, respect*".

But ... there is hope. I John 1:8-9 says; "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**" Confession of our sins will be forgiven when we ask Jesus to forgive us. We can live a life pleasing to God, full of love, by the power of the Holy Spirit abiding in us, conforming us to the image of Jesus Christ.

In many stories in the Gospels to whomever Jesus forgave or healed, he said, 'go and sin no more'. As we read meditate on these Bible verses in I Corinthians 13 and I John, let's allow the Holy Spirit to shed light on our sins and our lack of love ... and go and sin no more.

