Samaritan. (Lk. 10) There it is showing "love". Bible love is spelled H-E-L-P-I-N-G others. Jews despised Samaritans for racial reasons and he probably would not have helped that Samaritan or members of his family. The Samaritan may not have done it because he ***felt like it*** or ***wanted*** to do it. He did it because it was right. It was what God wanted him to.

My mother was not a Christian but she had what America, especially Christians, need to do today. When I was 5 or 6 she said,

"Bobby, treat people the way you want them to treat you"; and in no uncertain terms she let me know that included the black people who lived near us.

Be Joyful

Philippians 4:4; 1:14 "Rejoice in the Lord always." / "Because of my chains, most of my brothers in the Lord have been encouraged." / Psalm 118:24 "This is the day the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad and in it."

The Bible commands us to rejoice so it is a choice we make. Get up every day quoting a verse like Psalm 118. Put a smile on your face If you have to put a coat Hanger in your mouth. God wants us to be happy because He loves us and because of our influence as Christians.

A little boy watched a preacher nailing barbed wire to a fence for an hour. When the preacher asked him why, he said, "I want to see what a preacher says when he hits his thumb." The world is watching us to see how we handle troubles. Paul wrote this when he was in jail. Miserable Church members are miserable witnesses for the Lord.

Do What You Think is Right

"This is love for God; to obey His commands; and they are not a burden to us." (1 John5:2) "You are my friends if you do what I command you." (Jesus in John 15:14)

This is a matter of growth. We learn what is right in questionable situations by learning our Bibles and going to Church. A Missionary once told us about a little boy who came to church naked. He told him to go home and put on some clothes. He did, and came back with a necklace on. That little fellow had a long way to go and so do we.

My fellow foresters took me to a steak house when I left my job to go to seminary. I thought about it and I drank beer with my steak, what I had always done with them. Some Christians might see me as a hypocrite, or even unsaved. I did it because that was always what I did and I didn't want them to think I felt like I was better than them. Later, I felt it was not right for me. I did not beat myself up over it. It was more of a mistake than a sin. **I have told my girls, "Do what you think is right and even if you are wrong God will bless you."**

Expect Opposition

1 Peter 5:8 "Be on guard; look out! Your enemy the devil is like a roaring (hungry) lion prowling around to find someone to pounce on." / Ephesians 6:10-20 "Defend yourself against the devil's strategies. We are not fighting with human enemies, but with forces, authorities, rulers of darkness and spiritual hosts of wickedness in the spirit world."

There is one good thing about the devil. He is persistent. He is powerful and wise and even took on Jesus. He has strategies and plans designed just for us. He is an invisible spirit being who gets inside our minds and convinces us to do things we should not do. He got David, at every man's weak point – a beautiful seductive woman and at his strong point - love for his soldiers. (2 Samuel 11-12). The only way to keep him from spoiling your marriage; soiling your character and destroying precious things in your life is to pray daily; rededicate your life daily; and walk with God daily. David Jeremiah said:

Trying to win battles with Satan, without praying, is like parachuting into an Islamic terrorist camp, wrapped in an American flag, singing, "God bless America."