

## Lay Down Your Lovies

By Laura Shaw

One morning, my 9-year old daughter caught me in the middle of my quiet time when she woke up. She laid down her lovie and crawled onto my lap with open arms. The way our snuggle was positioned, I could feel her heart beating against my chest. She nestled there perfectly content and quiet for at least 5 minutes. Then as she let go and looked straight into my eyes with the purest love I had seen in awhile from her, she leaned close in and gave me an Eskimo kiss, then looked at me again, then a butterfly kiss. She went back to the clench hug and said, "I love you, Mommy." It was several moments I know I will never forget.

About a half hour later, my 7-year old daughter came down the stairs and found me in the same position (still trying to finish my "quiet" time). She hopped up on my lap with about 7 stuffed Webkinz lovie in her arms and hugged me. I said, "Sweetie, why don't you put your stuff down, so Mommy can give you a real hug." She said, "That's ok, I'm all warm and comfy." We had our bulky snuggle time for a few minutes, she got down, gave me a quick, wet smack on the cheek and said, "Love you, Mom," as she went on her merry way to begin her day.

This tangible experience became a spiritual example for me. When I go to my Heavenly Father, do I lay all my "stuff" at His feet so that my whole heart and mind can cling to Him? OR do I hold on to the things that make me feel warm and comfy inside, halfway embracing our relationship? Both of these scenarios are in contact with Him, both illustrations communicate my love for Him, but the first is deeper and fuller and will produce the fruit of the Spirit in the ripest and richest way.

*"Love the Lord your God with **ALL** your heart and with **ALL** your soul  
and with **ALL** your mind and with **ALL** your strength."Mark 12:30*

The idea of this sounds beautiful, but how can it work practically? When I look at any verse of worship or devotion to the Lord, I try to put hands and feet on it to help me out. Let's sort through the following Love The Lords:

- **WITH ALL MY HEART** ~~~ My heart is what gives life to my body. It is the place where the things I love to do, the people I love, the situations in my day and the passions I have are turned into emotion.
- **WITH ALL MY SOUL** ~~~ My soul is the whole me, that which identifies me and makes me feel whole.
- **WITH ALL MY MIND** ~~~ My mind is where the main battle occurs, where the choices are decided, where the output of what is in the heart and soul is processed.

- *WITH ALL MY STRENGTH* ~~~ My strength is my efforts, and it is a direct result of what comes out of the mind.

To have the fullest abiding relationship with the Lord, we must lay down our lovelies and fully cling to Him. Is there anything or anyone we love more than Him? Is there anything or anyone we love as much as Him? Is there anything or anyone that distracts us from fully loving Him? Lay it down. He wants every part of us...there's nothing He desires for us to keep to ourselves---NOTHING. Let's love the Lord of all with all of our alls today, ya'all!

*"For in Him we live and move and have our being."ACTS 17:28a*