



## ***FEBRUARY Hug~in~a~Mug Vol. 82***

### ***LISTEN! HEAR!***

***“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment but has passed from death to life” (John 5:24).***

It is February, and Hallmark has created “the LOVE month,” with all its Valentine cards, glitter and gatherings, spun out over the years. But this morning my mind is given to the enormity of God’s LOVE, given to each and every one of us. He loved us so much; He loves us that much!

I have dwelt for some time on the ultimate JOY of it all, likely because I am enjoying my new and healthy heart. BUT even more so, that we love with our hearts, we listen and hear, and we share that love with others, our mouths to witness and our lives to mentor. And the privilege of singing it out loud.

The keyword here is *listen*, and that is a verb that commands action, you see. The chosen scripture reference in John 5 is Christ himself at the healing pool on the Sabbath. What great, Good News. The word *listen* appears 278 times in the Bible. The word *hear* appears 550 times! I love to listen and be moved to hear when the Spirit nudges me, guides me, alerts me, and reminds me: That all these things in a day come from the Father who loves me So Much... if I but *listen*.

My father was a traveling salesman, an icon in my life, and when he’d pack up and leave on Monday mornings he’d say: “Now you girls listen to your mother, I’ll be home on Friday.” But how many times in raising children have we said, “You kids just don’t listen.” And our scripture this *Hug* is: Here is what He has to say to us.

How blessed are we Listening, I believe, to the Holy Spirit, and it is such a privilege, when we hear Him. As we grow deeper in our faith, I believe we should recognize God’s voice through the agency of the Holy Spirit. What a blessing; what a love gift He gives us, to fulfill the promise that if we hear Him, He has sent us eternal life that we will pass from death to life again.

I had a rather relevant experience, just two weeks ago; a vivid reminder that I need to stay tuned to God’s voice in my everyday life. I had been in Bend all day; I teach in the morning, run errands midday, work out at the heart rehab center, and I had intentions to dine with a large group of friends at 6:30. But as I sat at BB&B, a voice told me, “I was really exhausted, best get on home;” At 6:32 I did and beat that red light north to home. I did listen to my body, and the Spirit’s “very real nudge.”

The next day, as I sat watching the sunrise local news, I was frozen for a moment, not amazed, but Eternally Grateful for my “hearing” skills; praise God! For at 6:36 that night there had been a horrific fatal accident involving four cars at that last red light north of town, Cooley & 97, backing up and snarling traffic for hours. *It is moments like this that bring us into full view and on bended knee: Gratitude for the faithfulness of a Father who loves us so much.*

SO, we servants have been called and equipped. IN HIS NAME,  
***Patricia Reck, Hug-in-a-Mug Author***