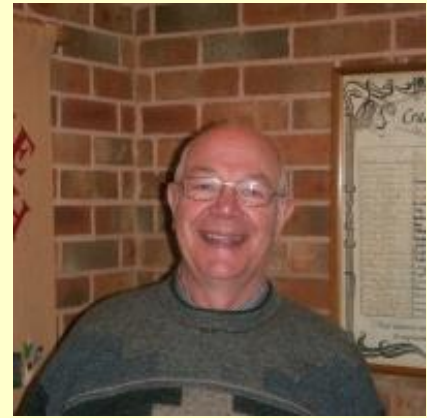


# Reverently Yours

**John Moorley**

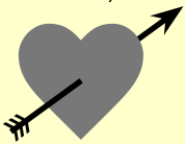
**(Methodist Local Preacher) writes:**



Dear Friends

*In the month that celebrates Valentine's day I thought I would begin with a story:*

On February 14th a young man went into a confectioner's shop to buy 3 boxes of chocolate: small, medium, and large. When the proprietor asked him about the three boxes, he said, "Well, I'm going over to a new girlfriend's house for supper. Then we're going out. If she only lets me hold her hand, then I'll give her the small box. If she lets me kiss her on the cheek, then I'll give her the medium box. But if things really warm up, I'll give her the big box." He made his purchase and left.



That evening as he sat down at dinner with his girlfriend's family and they paused to say grace, he asked if he could say the prayer before the meal. He began to pray, and he prayed an earnest, intense prayer that lasted for almost five minutes. When he finished his girlfriend whispered, "You never told me you were such a religious person." He replied, "And you never told me your Dad was a confectioner!"



We often find ourselves praying in difficult circumstances but neglect to pray at other times. It's a good thing to pray – whatever the circumstances!

From the Gospels we see that Jesus prayed a lot. His disciples watched Him, and they said, "Lord, teach us how to pray." The one thing about His life that was so fascinating that they wanted to imitate Him was His prayer life. We don't read of them saying, "Teach us how to do miracles, or to teach, or to love people." So, He gave them the Lord's Prayer as a pattern for praying.

Have you stopped to realise that prayer is the language of love. It is how we say, "I love you, Lord!" to Jesus. It is how we say sorry to God when we get it wrong. It is a two-way conversation as we learn to listen in the silence and allow him to speak love and peace into every circumstance of our life.

Prayer is also the way we cultivate the love He wants us to share in our everyday lives as we pray for those who have needs, are sick or troubled in other ways. But don't just pray for others in isolation. If you are talking to someone with a need tell them you'll be praying for them and if it seems right, and it's possible, ask them if they would like you to pray with them there and then.

You will be surprised how many folk appreciate being prayed for. And it's a good thing to pray – whatever the circumstances! - After all prayer is the language of love.

John