

LIVING YOUR STRENGTHS WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DEW WITH IT?



By
Gina G. Parker

In a world gone mad, love has everything to do with it. The Scriptures encourage us to “love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12:31, NIV). So, what does this kind of love look like? Saint Augustine described it well, “It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has the eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like.”

A life devoid of loving others is empty and meaningless, but a life devoted to loving others is fulfilling. For me, it is the reason I work and live – to love God and love others. My career is multi-faceted: an attorney, the founder of Dental Creations – a dental manufacturing company, and in recent years an author. But there is a common thread in all these endeavors, which is to love others.

As a lawyer, I coach my team to view the practice as a legal hospital and encourage them to be compassionate to all who entered the doors. Normally, when people need a lawyer, it involves a major life decision, and many times their lives are in turmoil. Therefore, compassion frames how I practice law and was the segue for starting a dental manufacturing company.

What on earth do law and dentistry have to do with each other? My criminal clients who were convicted of felonies could not find jobs, but to change the trajectory of their lives meant they needed a job, transportation, and a good

support system. This was a few decades ago when the idea of second chances was not as popular as it is today, therefore, jobs for those convicted of crimes were few.

One day while on a swimming outing on the Brazos River in Waco, Texas, the inventor of Wonderfill asked about getting a patent for her new product idea. Patent law is not my legal specialty, but becoming an investor was of interest, and helping my clients find employment through a new business adventure was a strong motivation that ultimately gave birth to Dental Creations. My family and I set out to serve our customers with products that saved time and to serve our community through giving back by helping others find employment.

As a victim of childhood sexual abuse and date rape, I understood the shame that many women experienced as a result of abuse. Also, as an attorney, I witnessed the devastation that poverty and abuse caused in the lives of women. Thus, another part of the vision of Dental Creations was to provide financial support through the employment of battered women. Moreover, we also wanted to support women who found themselves alone and pregnant without resources. It is so easy to say to a woman, “Keep your baby,” but to be part of the solution requires engagement in the lives of these women. Therefore, we provide a portion of our online sales to the Waco Crisis Pregnancy Center. It’s our way of saying you’re not forgotten, and God loves you. It took years to

fulfill this part of the vision, but when we started giving a monthly corporate donation, God blessed us and increased our sales.

A third part of the vision for our company was to support international missions. I had made many visits to Hungary and other countries on mission trips which also included humanitarian efforts. Eventually, the pastors we supported became more involved with Christian programming for a Hungarian television station and were provided with the opportunity to purchase this station. Our family was able to make a substantial donation to help make this dream become a reality for them. To God be the glory, this station reaches 5 million homes with the gospel of Jesus Christ. For every soul that is touched, we are honored to be a small part.

In recent years, I began to write to encourage women that they could be a victor and not remain a victim. My first book, *The 828 Journey*, is based on Romans 8:28: "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." This verse is an anchor for the battle-worn soul when the heart-wrenching question that lingers during times of trial is this: Do all things really work for good? Amid shattered dreams, shame, and heartbreak, the voice of pain cries, why is this happening to me?

Where do you take your pain in the face of tragedy? Like Tamar, who was sexually abused, where do you take your shame? Like Job, how do you endure disease? Like the mothers of the faith—Sarah, Rebekah, Leah, and Rachel—where do you take your unanswered prayers and disappointments? Throughout the chapters of this book, these questions are thoughtfully considered from the perspective of life as a journey.

Satan's strategy is to wound your soul and destroy your trust in God. He wins the battle for your soul when you lose your way on the 828 Journey because of trials. To finish your journey and to keep the devil from devouring you, it is important to understand the cosmic battle of good versus evil and the consequences of living in a fallen world; to understand the plan of God, a personal relationship with each believer; and to embrace Jesus, the wounded healer. On your 828 Journey, you can move from the voice of pain to a testimony of trust, as you declare to Satan, the enemy of your soul, "I trust in the Lord!" My prayer is that the message of *The 828 Journey* empowers women to finish their journey victoriously.

My most recent book, due to be released this summer, is titled *Hush Little Baby, Don't Say a Word*. It is about the power of silence while we wait on God to work on our behalf.

Whether I serve as an attorney, businesswoman, or author of books, each presents the opportunity to love others and to walk with them on their journey. I have often asked myself, "If my life is upside down, what would I want from others?" The scripture provided guidance and shaped my professional life – "Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Matthew 7:12, NIV). Or it could be said by DeWers, "DeW unto others as you would have them DeW unto you."

It's what we Texans call being a bubba which is a person that is a true friend, does the right thing for the right reasons, and shows kindness to friends and strangers alike. At Dental Creations, we have a slogan, "Let us be your bubba." A little bit country, but a whole lot of love right from deep in the heart of Texas.

Mother Teresa said, "I am a little pencil in the hand of a writing God Who is sending a love letter to the world." Write your love letter to the world.

For more information, visit dentalcreationsltd.com. To purchase the book, visit ginagparker.com or Amazon.

About the author:

Gina Parker is a successful businesswoman, attorney, author, and speaker. She graduated from Baylor University with a Bachelor of Business Administration (1983) and Baylor School of Law (1986). She has been in private law practice since 1991. In 2020, she ran statewide for judge of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, where she lost by a narrow margin. In 2001, Ms. Parker founded Dental Creations, a manufacturing company, while continuing her law practice. The company was founded with the vision to support missions, help women in crisis, and give second chances to criminal defendants through employment.

*Gina was the National Eagle Forum Chairman for Judicial Reform and is a past recipient of the National Outstanding Eagle Award for Texas for her contribution to support of the United States Constitution. Gina served as pastor of Hands of Hope Revival Center for four years before she embarked upon her campaign for judge. Gina served on the Texas Advisory Board of American Family Radio and has written editorials for the American Family Association. She is the author of *The 828 Journey*, and her second book, *Hush Little Baby, Don't Say a Word*, is due to be released Summer 2023. Visit <https://www.ginagparker.com>.*