

OV devotions DAY EIGHT (Saturday - 6/16/18)

I have enjoyed taking this journey with you this week. Rick, thank you for this opportunity to be “on tour” with *One Voice* this week.

As I studied for each of these days, I took my own spiritual journey and recalled moments in my faith experience. I grew up in Gaffney, SC in the late 60s and early 70s during a time of racial challenges and opportunities. My father was a Baptist minister who taught me through his ministry and his life that all people are loved creations of God. He took a stand many times during these turbulent years in defense of what the Christian faith meant. There were instances of physical threats and harm to our family from the white community because of our views. But what troubled me most as a teenager were not the outside physical threats, but the attitude of members of our church. My dad, staying true to his faith, faced the most backlash from members of the church for his stand on race relations. This challenged my faith. But deep in my heart, I knew that the God who loved me was where I needed to place my trust. I knew that the God who loved me also loved the marginalized, the outcast, the unlovable and even the church members who challenged my dad. I learned early on that my focus was to love God with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love my neighbor as myself. It is the commandment given to us. Not always easy, but worth trying!

Love has made a way. Choose it.

Love has made a way. Walk in it.

Love has made a way. Share it.

Prayer: (taken from your song, *Many Gifts, One Spirit*)

Help us to learn to love each other,
showing ways to understand.

We are members of one family,
growing strong by joining hands.

Take our many ways of working,
Blend the colors of each soul
into the beauty of a rainbow,
Give us life, Lord, make us whole. Amen.

