

## *Where is it now?*

It's winter, darkness comes early, here I am sitting in the corner of my bedroom and feeling very alone tonight. Loneliness still seems to find its way into my nights, even though after twelve years, I think I should be used to this. But I soon realize I'm not as I feel tears start to run down my face.

Where is it? I'm sitting here wondering where is all my love for him? What have I done with it? Is it still in my heart, is some of it gone, where have I put it? Maybe It's hidden deep in my memories of the beautiful days and nights we shared, or is it a feeling just fading and will it all fade away?

I think back to that first glance, as we crossed paths on the college campus and somehow that first glance connected us. That was the start of a new and exciting love, a very fresh and almost breathtaking love and I just wanted more and more of that feeling. It was no less of a feeling on that wedding day, looking at him and thinking about the rest of our lives together, where our love would continue to keep growing.

Love grows, right? I felt like it did grow, year after year, even stronger as we went through some very hard times, and when we faced each cancer diagnosis together. Now as I sit here in my room, alone, am I so sad because that love has slipped away, it's gone? He's not here, to tell him I love him, to hold him close, to kiss him, and show our love to each other, in each other's embrace.

I wonder if other widows think about this, if, like me, wonder where did I put that love, is it still tucked into the corners of my heart, or maybe it's gone, but just a memory of love now. It was Reba McEntire and other artists who sang the song "Love Isn't Love til You Give it Away" and I did give it away, to him, day after day, year after year I gave my love to him, as he gave his love to me.

Maybe I'll never really answer this question as I sit here tonight. Then a very beautiful thought came to me, that even brought more tears. I gave him all my love, every day, every year we had together. Why would I keep any of it, I wanted him to have it and feel it and know it up until that moment his last breath took him to heaven. I sent my love with him and kept the loving memories, maybe that is the answer I'm looking for? At least it's a beautiful warm thought to go to sleep with on a cold dark winter night. I miss you, my love. Goodnight.



Renee – winter 2025

I am reminded that there is no end to God's love and I love Him and the love He gives to me is also given, to be given away and love others freely. I need to continue to share His unending love with those around me. Giving that love away, as simple as a kind word and smile, some comfort shared, and prayers given. (John 13:34-35)