

Dear Henry,

I love you so much and I hope your trials are going well for you. Soon we'll be together - hard to believe. But, as you said, the year went so fast and even though it was a hard year for me - I know I benefited from it in a way I never would have otherwise. I never felt better prepared for marriage to you than now. My desire for you is even stronger now than before, but it's a different sort of desire - I desire you, not only for selfish reasons (like my satisfaction and my gain from knowing you), but I desire you ~~as because~~ your happiness. I really know I will be happy, as long as you are. I know that sounds naive and you might think that'll change but I honestly mean it and feel that way. Nothing make me happier, than to get a letter from you saying you had a great day - knowing you're content puts me at peace. Like your day at the lake and going out at night sounds like fun and I'm glad you're happy and having a good time. I want so much to please you and do things for you. I'm really praying about how I should be as your wife - I want to be such a good wife for you that you never wonder if you should have married me or not. You're my babe, Henry I'm lookin forward to giving you a lot of lovin'. I know the Lord has changed me in the way I think about our relationship. I know He must be the center. I can see a lot of ways I was wrong and it was only His grace keeping us together. I've been very selfish and self-controlled and I'm so thankful to Him that

you're so understating - loving. Sometimes I can't believe you want to marry me - but I'm so happy you do and we are and we'll be so happy together - I know it.

One big thing He taught me was yielding (not that I have already attained - He continues to teach) yielding to Him. It was so hard for me to let you go, at first, for selfish reasons - I thought I'd lose you forever (I never thought it would turn out like this.) But I had no choice, but to yield to His will and then when I did (thru His power) it was so beautiful - the peace I had about it, knowing it was in His hands. And it not only applies to that, but also to my moving to Chicago. I know He wants me there, I'm sure I'll get a job and I know I'll be content there with you - I feel such a peace about the whole thing. People say to

me, 'aren't you going out there before Aug. to see the place and know what you're getting into?', but I know I'll like it there. It makes it more exciting anyway. I want to always yield to whatever He wants for me.

Psalm 138 has been my psalm for this year - I turn to it often esp. the 8th verse 'The Lord will accomplish what concerns me: It's proven! I know it's true cause it happens to me. No need to worry and be anxious - He does accomplish His will for me as I let Him. And notice how after part (a) of verse 8, comes part (b). A ~~some~~ coincidence? no. 'His lovingkindness is everlasting'. As we wait on Him, He is loving + He gives us His best.

I have perfect timing in our marriage. I'm so ready for you esp. after being apart from you. I'm glad for your wisdom - that you waited for awhile to ask me. The Lord was in it. I want to spend the rest of my days loving you. So look out!

I ran early this morning - I got up at 5:40 and ran till 6:30 - around the park & farmhouse and around here. It was great - no cars on the road - the sun was just coming up ~~and~~ ^{as} I started and the trees and all were dewey. The birds were singing so sweet. I felt so good, ready to start the day. I even felt like running again after work but I didn't have time to. I worked in the garden a little after supper. I just have a little more digging to do, but it's at the weedy spot at the end of the garden - so you have to pull the weeds and dig. Also, I'm in the process of ~~the~~ weeding the strawberry patch. But I like working out there. I love seeing all the plants coming up in neat little rows. No there's nothin' like growing your own vegetables. It's so healthy & earthy.

Tonight I talked with Rosey for awhile. She's so neat to talk to. She has another lump on her neck which is getting really big. She's a little down about it. But I think she's really trusting God about it.

Also Jim Katz had a stroke on Mon. (R) sided paralysis and he can't talk.

Well Hen, soon I'll see you. Don't worry about our
imitations - it's teaching me patience. I know they'll
be done on time. (You're about will come through (and the
Lord). He gets the credit + glory for how smoothly
everything is going for us.

Come to me soon Babe
Val