

The following letter was written by Charlie Williams, Ministry to Men Director. After many requests for him to write a book about *Ministry to Men* and after several attempts to do just that, someone suggested he simply write letters sharing some of the truths God has been teaching him during the years.

We will be posting his letters on the Ministry to Men Web site. This letter was posted on October 25, 2010

Letter 15 Shadow Exodus 15: 2

Isn't it strange how many different ways God speaks to our hearts? One that really got my attention was when we had to put our dog Shadow to sleep.

After working with the vet for some time and trying a number of different treatments to cure him, it was determined that he would never have a normal life again, so the decision was made to have him put to sleep.

I knew how hard this would be for Tammy so I took him to the vet and had him put to sleep. That was not a fun thing in any way, shape or form.

The next morning as I was driving to a meeting and praying for my day God spoke to my heart about Shadow. He reminded me how the days I was home early in the morning sitting in my recliner reading and praying the first thing Shadow would do when he woke up was to run up the stairs and jump in my lap and let me know he cared for me. When I came home during the day no matter what time it was he met me at the door and greeted me with joy.

On the day I took him to the vet to be put to sleep, he did whatever I asked him to do on the way there, thru the final check up and even thru the final act.

Those thoughts showed me how much he loved me and even more than that, how much he trusted me. I could almost hear God speaking to me and my thoughts went to 'how do I approach God every morning when I wake up or during the day as I work thru my schedule or how about when there is a step of faith into an area where I don't want to go; do I trust Him; do I trust Him in the same way Shadow trusted me, even if that way meant me dying to self.

That few minutes I spent reliving that with God has really helped me to realize the importance that I began learning a long time ago that I need to practice the presence of God in every thing I do and I need to trust Him with all my heart, all my soul and all my mind. I thank God that He is so patient as He teaches me how to do that.

But the thing I'm most grateful for is that my love and faithfulness for God is not what our relationship is built on; it is His great love for me and His unending faithfulness to complete what He began.