

THE LOVE OF GOD

Steve Williams May 2020

As I have mentioned before, the love of God is not the first word of the gospel, but having received the life of God, His love is to be enjoyed and appreciated. We need to constantly remind ourselves of the depth of it towards us. It is truly wonderful and will be the inspiration to worship and thanksgiving. Let's go to the scriptures and let God speak to us

Romans 5:8

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us”

Perhaps at times we are not aware of the love of God. There are times in our lives when things seem to be going badly, perhaps in our families, workplaces, or finances. Maybe we are struggling with illness and depression, and are looking for the love of God. Well, look to the cross which is the great demonstration of the love of God. While we were far off sinners, Christ died for us. But more, look to Christ living in you and His powerful presence. Think of it, God wanted to live in us and spend His time and His life with us. Looking back I wish I had spent more time with my children when they were young, but God has chosen to live with us day by day minute by minute. He is a constant presence, and He dwells in us because he wants to spend His time with us. This is wonderful, and I hope this truth is already inspiring you. He has fused His spirit with ours and wants to spend eternity with us. Furthermore He has promised never to leave or forsake you.

Revelation 1:5

“And from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead and the ruler of the kings of the earth To Him who loves us and freed us from our sins by His blood”

Here then is another demonstration of His love. We have been released from a huge debt we could not pay. He has taken away our sins once and for all

1st John 3:1

“See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us that we should be called children of God and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us because it did not know Him”

Here another demonstration of His love in that He has called us His children. We are part of His family line His heritage

Romans 5:5

And hope does not disappoint us because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us”

God is not just loving us from heaven, our relationship with Him is such that His love is poured out in our hearts. His love is local, not long distance. When we pray we don't hope that the prayer will reach heaven and be heard by God, but when we pray we are praying to a God who is so near to us He lives in our hearts. We are in Him and He is in us. God does not live in dirty places, first He had to clean the house before He moved in. He took away our dirty heart and gave us a new one and poured His love there.

Romans 8; 35:39

“³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”³⁷ Yet in all these things **we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth,**

nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God's agape love is so safe, and wonderful, and reliable we must receive it and enjoy it. God is saying "I will love you". Our response is to say "I will love you too". As I have said, many times, when Jesus explains what is the first and great commandment it is the subject of a commandment. It's centred primarily in the will and not the emotions. It comes through in the wedding ceremony "Will you love him/her etc."

2 Cor 5:14-15

¹⁴ For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; ¹⁵ and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again"

The love of God is the inspiration for how we live the Christian life, it will inspire us and motivate us every time. We can spend a lot of time trying to demonstrate our love for God in all sorts of ways, including service in the church, but we must get things the right way around. We need to be a recipient and reflector of who God is to us. We need to receive before we can produce. The love of God controls us, so we must be aware of the fact that God loves us if this is to work out. We are not robots in God's hands, but we are to be inspired by what we know and wells up in us, to respond to His love.

1.Cor 13:4-8

Will knowing this love cause us to sin more NO, see what Paul says

"⁴ Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not [b]puffed up; ⁵ does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, [c]thinks no evil; ⁶ does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.⁸ Love never fails"

All our efforts to be patient and kind and not be rude etc. fail every time. We can't produce this. Love is not a verb in this passage, it's not about doing.

Love is a noun, (a person or a place etc.). In this passage. Paul is saying if we don't possess the noun (Jesus) we are like a noisy gong. Once we possess Him, He starts to motivate us and cause us to be patient etc... You can work on patience all you like, but it won't produce patience. You can count to 10 for all you are worth in trying to be like Jesus, but you will fail every time. We start working on the "fruits" of the spirit but it's the "fruit" of the Spirit the Bible speaks of. It's only when we possess agape love which is Jesus Himself. He is patient and kind and all those other virtues. Only the Spirit can bear fruit, he alone owns the fruit, He alone possesses the attributes which you cannot copy. They are to be received.

Eph 3: 14:19

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees to the Father ¹⁵of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷ that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height— ¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Paul is explaining what it means to be being filled with the Spirit and the key he says is "to know the love of God" Our focus must be on the love of Christ so that we might be "filled with all the fullness of God" That's what causes us to be inspired and motivated. That children's chorus becomes more meaningful when we consider these things.

**Jesus, Love Is Very Wonderful,
Jesus, Love Is Very Wonderful,
Jesus, Love Is Very Wonderful,
Oh, Wonderful Love!**

**So High, You Can't Get Over It,
So Low, You Can't Get Under It,
So Wide, You Can't Get Around It,
Oh, Wonderful Love!**

The love we show must be a spilling over of the agape love of God and nothing less.

Romans 15:30

“Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me”

Paul is wanting prayer and he says let the love of the Spirit be your inspiration. The Holy Spirit loves us as does the Father and Jesus. The whole trinity loves us, how wonderful, who could be against us.

Gal 5:13

³ For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

We are to serve one another “through love” that is the love of God which is transmitted to us and overflows to others.

Finally let us bask and enjoy and receive the love of God so we may be Inspired to worship and serve and be like Jesus.

