

Eternity Daily Bible Study

The Importance Of Love

Number: 05

Verses: 1 Thessalonians 3;12, 4:9; 2 Thessalonians 1:3

Topic: God Personally Teaches Us How To Love One Another

Date: 22nd July 2011

If loving one another is absolutely essential to our spiritual growth (as we have seen in the prior bible studies) and yet such love is so other-centered and sacrificial that it is totally impossible for the natural man – then how do we acquire it?

You cannot go and buy two gallons of love at Costco and you do not get love through bible study plus self-effort (many have tried and failed). And you don't become loving by being "extra good", for the works of the Law do not create unselfish love.

The correct answer is that:

- a) Love comes from God who is love and
- b) The God who is love, teaches those who are born of God how to love.

1 John 4:7 *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God, and everyone who loves has been born of God, and knows God.*

This is well illustrated by the spiritual growth in the lives of the Thessalonian Christians:

(1 Thessalonians 3:12) *And may the Lord make you to increase and abound in love toward one another and toward all men, as indeed we also do toward you,*

(2 Thessalonians 1:3) *We are obligated to give thanks to God always for you, brothers, and rightfully so, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all increases towards one another,*

(1 Thessalonians 4:9) *Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for me to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another.*

In 1 Thessalonians 3:12 Paul prays that their love may increase and abound, in 2 Thessalonians 1:3 we find this has happened and their love is increasing, both individually and as a whole group! The "secret sauce" is revealed in 1 Thessalonians 4:9 - God Himself was personally teaching them to love one another, and to such an extent that Paul had no need to write any instructions to them about loving one another!

God the Holy Spirit is your personal anointing, the instructor Who abides deep in your conscience, who reveals to you the paths of righteousness and love and the things accompanying Christ. Indeed the Holy Spirit reveals the things "that eyes has not seen":

1 Corinthians 2:9-12 *But as it is written, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard," nor has it entered into the heart of man, "the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." (10) But God has revealed them to us by His Spirit; ...(12)so that we might know the things that are freely given to us by God.*

Indeed the things of the Old Covenant were written in a book but the things pertaining to the New Covenant are written on our hearts by the Holy Spirit:

Hebrews 8:10-11 *"For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My Laws into their mind and write them in their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. (11) And they shall not each man teach his neighbor, and each man his brother, saying, Know the Lord, for all shall know Me, from the least to the greatest.*

God is our personal spiritual coach, who guides us into all truth!

John 16:13-15 *However, when He, the Spirit of Truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth. For He shall not speak of Himself, but whatever He hears, He shall speak. And He will announce to you things to come. (14) He will glorify Me, for He will receive of Mine and will announce it to you. (15) All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and will announce it to you.*

The Spirit of Truth will take the things of Christ and speak and announce them to us. The Holy Spirit will do this in order to glorify Jesus Christ! All the things of the Father are Christ's and they are, in turn, revealed to us personally through the Holy Spirit. Here are some more verses along the same line:

1 John 2:20 *But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.*

1 John 2:27 *But the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as His anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true and no lie, and as He has taught you, abide in Him.*

John 6:45 *It is written in the Prophets, "And they shall all be taught of God." Therefore everyone who hears and learns from the Father comes to Me.*

Isaiah 28:26 *For his God instructs him to do right; his God teaches him.*

Now the Holy Spirit is given to fill each of us with the love of God (Ephesians 3:19), pouring it out into our hearts (Romans 5:5). So it makes sense that one of the main tasks of the Holy Spirit, would be to teach us how to obey Christ's New Commandment, that is the commandment to love one another as He has loved us!

(1 Thessalonians 4:9) *Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for me to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another.*

The Holy Spirit is the free gift and blessing of the Abrahamic Covenant (Galatians 3:14) and this blessing is given that we might fulfill the Law and live a life of love.

1 Peter 1:22 *Purifying your souls in the obedience of the truth through the Spirit to unfeigned love of the brothers, love one another fervently out of a pure heart,*

The life of love which is created within us by God, is made manifest in answer to our prayers. In fact Paul often prays that people would grow in love, because it works (as it

did with the Thessalonians)! One of Paul's greatest prayers for the saints to grow in love is in Ephesians 3:14-21

Ephesians 3:14-21 *For this cause I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, (15) of 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 by His Spirit in the inner man; (17) that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, (18) may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth and length and depth and height, (19) and to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge, that you might be filled with all the fullness of God. (20) Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, (21) to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, forever. Amen.*

You do not need a psychologist to teach you how to love your spouse – instead you just need to listen to the still small voice of God and pray something like this: “Lord, please instruct me each day in how to love my wife/husband with Your love, I thank You Lord that you will answer this prayer.”

The Bible tells us that if we ask something that is God's will, then we will receive it. And what is more in God's will than desiring to obey the command to love one another as Christ has loved us?

1 John 5:14-15 *And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. (15) And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him.*

God will give us the power to overcome our fears and love the brethren:

2 Timothy 1:7 *For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*

1 John 4:18 *There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear has torment. He who fears has not been perfected in love.*

One of our great fears is that we will be “burned” through lack of discernment, that is we will be unwise in love and end up being tricked, or even be used and abused. God can also help us in that area:

Philippians 1:9-11 *And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in full knowledge and in all perception; (10) that you may distinguish between things that differ, that you may be sincere and without offense until the day of Jesus Christ, (11) being filled with the fruits of righteousness through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.*

So we can pray that we may love boldly and fervently, yet also wisely and righteously, without being tricked into any sort of harm or compromise.

God will freely give you the ability to love others, for nothing is impossible with God!

Blessings,

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