

Study Guide – “Help Wanted – Apply Within II”, *from 5-14-2017*

Warming Up - “What He died for, we should live for.”

Acts 1:8 tells us, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me...” Witnessing in our flesh is usually ineffective, regardless of how sincere we may be. That’s why so many witnessing programs don’t work. The only witnessing that works is if you are “being” a witness yourself, and if you have received power from God.

Since God wants us to be witnesses of Him in our lives, doesn’t it make sense that He willingly gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask? (Luke 2:11:13)

Have you asked God to let the Holy Spirit come upon you for the purpose of being a witness to a lost world? Shouldn’t we all be asking Him for this?

The Source and Power of Love

Pastor Bobby said, “God’s love pouring out through God’s people transforms hopeless, hurting humanity.”

Do you have a friend or loved one who is the focus of your desperate hope for their salvation? Are you disappointed that they have not responded to the gospel?

Can you find peace knowing that, “...hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us”? (Romans 5:5)

After doing all that you can, can you rest in the power of God’s love so that you can be hopeful about them? Does Romans 5:5 help you enter into this hope?

Pastor Bobby said, “The law will never ever change the human heart – only God’s love can do that.” Galatians 3:24 reads, “Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ.” The law can show a person that he or she is a violator of it – a sinner, but it cannot change the heart.

If the law could save, programs would be instituted to guarantee salvation to the masses. Salvation comes from realizing that God loves “even a sinner like me.”

Does understanding that “love” is the key to salvation change the way you approach a lost friend or acquaintance? How? Explain.

Love like a Mother Does towards Her Own

Pastor Bobby said, “God’s love and a mother’s love are independent of the object of its affection, which means that their love is not based on the recipient’s actions or lack thereof. A baby can’t do anything for its mom – She loves it because it came from her.” In John 10:3, Jesus tells us, “To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.” Isn’t it reassuring that God calls His own and leads them out of the lost world and into His gift of eternal life? 1 John 4:19 says, “We love Him because He first loved us.” What do you think of the truth that God loved us before we responded to His love? How does this change the way you think about being a child of God? Isn’t it like being the child of a mother who loved her child before he or she could do anything for the mother?

Giving and Love – “You feel more like God when you give than when you receive.”

Pastor Bobby often quotes John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that He **gave** His only begotten Son...” God gave to us because of His great love. How do we imitate God in giving to others?

What do you think of the following two hints about how to do imitate God’s love?

1. 1 John 4:10-11 “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”
2. Acts 20:35 “I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'”

Conclusion- “He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.” 1 John 4:8

Pastor Bobby made a powerful set of short statements when he said, “God HAS power. God HAS wisdom. God HAS mercy, but God **IS** love. If we are God’s children, shouldn’t loving our brothers and sisters in the Lord, and loving the unlovely, be how we show our personal relationship to Him?

Think of some practical ways we can demonstrate our love to others, as He demonstrated His love for us?

God’s sign says, “Help Wanted.” Maybe the first step is to “Apply” His love “Within” ourselves. What do you think?