

## Loving Like Light

Hello Friends,

You all have had a devastating and emotional season in recent weeks. Losing a loved one to spiritual warfare and dealing with child marriages in Sierra Leon and lives lost to monsoon floods in India. And here, close to home, battling attacks from the enemy on our families' relationships and mental and physical health.

@Anthony Nelson shared a couple of devotions ago, how do we stand against spiritual attacks from the enemy intentionally aimed at us and our loved ones?

He shared the verse in Ephesians 6:13, "Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground."

And last week, @Britan Cosand reminded us of the importance of sanctification as a lifelong journey to become more like Christ. A journey that involves God's action through the Holy Spirit and our response to actively pursue holiness.

Listening to @Anthony Nelson and @Britan Cosand, helped me realize that something incredible happens: "LOVE HAPPENS" when I put on the full armor of God to stand my ground and protect the ones "I LOVE."

Then, the journey of sanctification brings me closer to the one who "LOVES ME," Our Father wants to protect the brightness in LOVE that he creates in us against the enemy who is trying to use the frigidity of this world to darken the spirit of God's holiness in us.

Matthew 5:44-45 says, "But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes the sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous."

We tend to want to avoid those who hurt us, to return hate with hate. And often, the world will label us as cowards or weak if we behave otherwise.

But Jesus says: "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" He is asking us to love like light. Think about light. Light shines on everything - the beautiful flowerbed and the pile of trash beside it. It does not judge or discriminate. It simply illuminates. In the same way, we are called to radiate love, regardless of who stands in its path.

And that is so hard... LOVE is so hard. Love may cost our pride, it may hurt our ego, and it calls us to sacrifice, to show compassion instead of animosity. Love calls us to pray for those who cause us harm, not wishing them ill but hoping for a change of heart.

As you mourn the loss of a friend, deal with devastation or injustice, or mend an emotional hurt, Jesus invites you to practice this kind of love.

Put on the full armor of God to protect and stand your ground.

Sanctify in holiness and conform to the image of Christ.

So, you can Love Like Light, LOVE LIKE JESUS!