

True Godly Love

1 Corinthians 13:8 (NASB 2020) Love never fails...

1 Corinthians 13:8 (AMP) Love never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end].

Ephesians 3:16-19 (NASB 2020) that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner self, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled to all the fullness of God.

Both letters are addressed to the Church, so we must not forget about the corporate appeal as well as the personal one.

Electricity Illustration -- Imagine a house that has been beautifully designed and fully wired for electricity, but only a few lights are turned on. The power company is supplying far more power than the house is using, but most rooms remain dark, cold, and unused. The problem isn't the power source. The problem is access and surrender.

I. By the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 3:16 (NASB 2020) that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner self,

Romans 5:5 (NASB 2020) ...hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Paul prays that believers would be "strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner self." The house doesn't generate its own electricity—it receives it from an external source. In the same way, believers do not produce spiritual strength; the Holy Spirit supplies it. Until the power flows inward, nothing changes outward.

II. Christ moves in—He is not a visitor

A. Ephesians 3:17 (NASB 2020) so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith;

Dwell: 2730. κατοικέω katoikeō; from 2596 and 3611; to live, inhabit, to settle:-- dwell

John 14:23 (NASB 2020) "If anyone loves Me, he will follow My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our dwelling with him.

1 Corinthians 6:19 (NASB 2020) Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

The more we put our trust in Christ, through faith, the more He fills our hearts! If God is filling your heart, Pure Love is in your heart!

B. Ephesians 3:17 (NASB 2020) and that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

Paul says believers are "rooted and grounded in love." A house may look impressive, but without a solid foundation, it will crack under pressure. **God's love is not décor—it is the foundation.** When storms come, what holds the house together is not emotion or intellect, but love that remains steadfast.

John 15:9 (NASB 2020) Just as the Father has loved Me, I also have loved you; remain in My love.

Love is the environment believers live in, not merely a feeling they experience.

John 13:35 (NASB 2020) By this all people will know that you are My disciples: if you have love for one another."

Romans 8:37-39 (NASB 2020) But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

III. Experiencing more than you can measure

A. Ephesians 3:18-19 (NASB 2020) may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and height and depth, and to know the Love of Christ which surpasses knowledge...

When we are fully yielded to God's love, we will begin to understand the fullness of (the Love of Christ)! It means every room is illuminated, warmed, alive, with no dark corners, no locked doors, and no unused power.

- No rejection -- John 6:37 (NASB 2020) Everything that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I certainly will not cast out.

- **No Fear --1 John 4:18 (NASB 2020)** There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.
- **No Condemnation -- Romans 8:1 (NASB 2020)** Therefore there is now no condemnation at all for those who are in Christ Jesus.

This is what we can expect from Christ: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (NASB 2020) Love is patient, love is kind, it is not jealous; love does not brag, it is not arrogant. It does not act disgracefully, it does not seek its own benefit; it is not provoked, does not keep an account of a wrong suffered, it does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; it keeps every confidence, it believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails;

B. Ephesians 3:18-19 (NASB 2020) ...and to know the Love of Christ which surpasses knowledge...

1 Corinthians 2:12-14 (NASB 2020) We also speak these things, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. But a natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Galatians 5:22 (NASB 2020) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

1 John 4:16 (NASB 2020) We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him.

IV. Full of God

Ephesians 3:19 (NASB 2020) that you may be filled to all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:19 (AMP)... that you may be filled [through all your being] unto all the fullness of God [may have the richest measure of the divine Presence, and become a body wholly filled and flooded with God Himself]!

The result is a life fully lit and fully lived for Him.

Colossians 2:10 (AMP) And you are in Him, made full and having come to fullness of life [in Christ you too are filled with the Godhead—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—and reach full spiritual stature]. And He is the Head of all rule and authority [of every angelic principality and power].

John 1:16 (AMP)For out of His fullness (abundance) we have all received [all had a share and we were all supplied with] one grace after another and spiritual blessing upon spiritual blessing and even favor upon favor and gift [heaped] upon gift.

2 Peter 1:3-4 (NASB 2020) for His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. Through these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature.