

# Shalom AZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption



## “Loving IS as Loving DOES”

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### Devotion and Discussion Questions

**Key Texts (TLV):** 1 John 4:13-18; 1 Jn. 4:10-12; 1 Jn. 2:5-6; Jn. 17:20-23; Matt. 25:46

There are some things you cannot really separate. You cannot separate a tree from the fruit it produces. You cannot separate a family resemblance from the traits that keep showing up in the children. And according to John, we cannot separate real faith in Yeshua from the love that is supposed to flow out of those who abide in Him. Loving is as loving does. Love is not simply something declared, felt, or spoken. Love reaches its goal when it is demonstrated.

John has already told us that God is love, but he is not talking about whatever the world wants to call love. The world is full of counterfeit love, often self-centered and self-serving. John defines love by pointing us to the Father sending His Son. *“This is love—not that we have loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atonement for our sins”* (1 Jn. 4:10). So the question is not, “Is this about belief or action?” The answer is yes. We believe in the Yeshua the Father sent, and that real belief brings us under the beautiful obligation to love as He has loved us.

#### **1. WE KNOW WE ABIDE IN HIM BECAUSE HE HAS GIVEN US HIS SPIRIT**

*“We know that we abide in Him and He in us by this—because He has given us of His Spirit”* (1 Jn. 4:13). John says we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. But this is not a vague claim where someone simply says, “I have the Spirit,” and that settles the matter. The Spirit points us toward the truth of God’s love revealed in the sending of the Son. He does not point us toward just any love, or just any Yeshua, or just any spiritual language. The Ruach points us to the Father’s love expressed tangibly in Messiah Yeshua, who came in the flesh and gave Himself as the atonement for our sins.

And the Spirit also produces the family trait of God in us. The fruit of the Spirit is love. That love is not merely a private feeling or a religious phrase; it is the love of God being made complete in us. It is the love that pours out. It is the love that says, “If God loved me in this way, then that’s how I should love others.” This is not playing religious games. If abide in Him, then His Spirit will continue forming His love in us and through us.

#### **2. WE ABIDE IN GOD BY CONFESSING THE SON AND TRUSTING THE FATHER’S LOVE**

*“We have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son as Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Yeshua is Ben-Elohim, God abides in him and he abides in God”* (1 Jn. 4:14-15). John comes back to his role as a witness. He says, “We have seen and testify.” In other words, we ourselves have experienced this, and we are bearing witness: the Father has sent His Son as Savior of the world. This is the starting point for understanding

love. Love is not defined first by our feelings toward God, but by God's action toward us. The Father sent the Son. The Son came in the flesh. Messiah Yeshua is Ben-Elohim, the Son of God, Savior of the world.

To confess Yeshua is not simply to believe that there was a historical person named Yeshua. It is to say the same word God says about Him. It is to confess that the man Yeshua is the Son of God, sent by the Father to atone for sin. And when we confess Him, we come to know and trust the love God has for us. *"God is love. Now whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him"* (1 Jn. 4:16). We can rely on God's love because we can rely on God. His love is steadfast, faithful, and revealed most fully in Yeshua.

### **3. PERFECTED LOVE GIVES US BOLDNESS AND DRIVES OUT FEAR**

*"In this way, love is made perfect among us, so that we should have boldness on the Day of Judgment. For just as He is, so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear"* (1 Jn. 4:17-18). Saying that "Love is made perfect" – means that love has reached its goal/is complete/has accomplished its purpose. Love is completed when the love God has poured into us is poured out through us. There is a beautiful "witness" in this passage: love is made perfect among us. It is not merely isolated in me as an individual. God abides in us, we abide in Him, and His love reaches its goal as we love one another. Love for God, love received by the self, and love expressed toward neighbor belong together. Where one part is missing, love remains incomplete and immature.

And when that love is being made complete among us, John says we have boldness on the Day of Judgment. Fear has to do with punishment, but perfect love drives fear out. This does not mean we pretend we never sin. John has already told us that if we say we have no sin, we lie. But we keep bringing our darkness into the light. We keep walking as Yeshua walked. *"Whoever claims to abide in Him must walk just as He walked"* (1 Jn. 2:6). As His love is formed in us, we do not have to live in self-condemnation or fear of judgment. We can walk in confidence, committed to the Yeshua way.

### **CONCLUSION**

John brings it all back to this simple, repeated truth: *"We love, because He first loved us"* (1 Jn. 4:19). It starts with Him. We do not love in order to earn salvation. We love because we have been loved, saved, made new, and are being made new. We are not saved by what we do, but what we do reveals whether the life of God is truly being formed in us. Love received is to become love demonstrated.

So today, the call is not simply to say, "Lord, Lord," while continuing to walk in self-centeredness. The call is to surrender the whole self to Him. Not to put Yeshua in a small portion of our hearts, but to surrender our hearts to Him... to come before the Father and say, "Form Your love in me and through me. I do not want to walk in fear, self-condemnation, or self-centered love. I want to walk in the way of Yeshua." If you have been playing games with God, today is the day to stop pretending and surrender. If you

have been afraid, today is the day to receive His love again. And if you have received His love, today is the day to let that love be made complete in the way you love others.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. John says, *"We know that we abide in Him and He in us... because He has given us of His Spirit"* (1 Jn. 4:13). How does the Spirit point us both to the truth about Yeshua and to the love we are called to live out?
2. Why is it important that John defines love by God sending His Son, rather than by human emotion, desire, or cultural definitions of love?
3. The devotional says, "Loving is as loving does." Where is God currently calling you to demonstrate love, not merely speak about it?
4. In your family, congregation, workplace, or friendships, what would it look like this week to love in a way that puts another person's good ahead of your own preference?
5. John says perfect love drives out fear. What fears tend to shape the way you relate to God, and how does the love revealed in Yeshua answer those fears?

### **CLOSING PRAYER:**

*Avinu Malkhenu*, Our Father, Our King, thank You for first loving us. Thank You for sending Your Son, Messiah Yeshua, as Savior of the world and as the atonement for our sins. Teach us to know and trust the love You have for us, not as an idea only, but as the truth that reshapes our whole lives.

Holy Spirit, form the love of God in us and through us. Make us people who do not merely speak love, but demonstrate it. Help us walk as Yeshua walked, surrendering ourselves fully to Him. Drive out fear by Your perfect love, and give us boldness, confidence, and faithfulness as we abide in You.

*B'Shem Yeshua*, In the name of Yeshua, amen.