



“THE POWER OF LOVE!!!”

I) LOVE’S LIFE!

- His life becomes our love! - John 15:9-17

(Image, Example, Imitate the love of Jesus Christ!)

- Abiding love - 1 John 3:23-24- *And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment. Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.*

- True love - 1 John 2:3-6- *Now by this we know that we know Him if we keep His commandments. He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.*

- Let’s define Biblical “love” - There are four different Greek words for our English word love:

i) Storge - This love has its basis in one’s nature, a natural affection or obligation. It is a natural movement of the soul for husband, wife, child, or dog. It is quiet, abiding feeling within a person that rests on something close to them and that they feel good about.

ii) Eros - This love is erotic love. Eros is a love of passion, an overmastering passion that seizes and absorbs itself into the mind. It is a love that is an emotional involvement based on body chemistry. The basic idea of this eros is self-satisfaction. Though “eros” is directed towards another, it actual has self in mind. For example, “I love you because you make me happy.” The foundation of this type of love is some characteristic in the other person which pleases you. If the characteristic would cease to exist, the reason of the love would be gone, the result, “I don’t love you anymore.” “Eros” looks for what it can receive. If it does give, it gives in order to receive. If it fails to get what it wants or expects, bitterness or resentment could develop. The philosophy of “eros” is that being loved depends on being attractive in some way to another person. Because of this dependency, “eros” would be considered a conditional type of love.

iii) **Phileo** - is a companionable love. This love speaks of affection, fondness, or liking. Kenneth Wuest, the Greek Scholar, says, "It is a love that is called out of one's heart as a response to the pleasure one takes in a person or object. "Phileo" is a love that responds to kindness, appreciation, or love. It involves giving as well as receiving; but when it is greatly strained, it can collapse in a crisis. This love is called out of one's heart by qualities in another.
(Josh McDowell story.)

iv) **Agape** - Is called out of one's heart by the preciousness of the object loved. It is a love of esteem, of evaluation. It has the idea of prizing. It is the noblest word for love in the Greek language. Agape is not kindled by the merit or worth of its object, but it originates in its own God-given nature. God is love. Agape delights in giving. This love keeps on loving even when the loved one is unresponsive, unkind, unlovable, and unworthy. Agape desires only the good of the one loved. It is a consuming passion for the well-being of others. Agape love is used approximately three hundred and twenty times in the New Testament.
(Young boy with elderly neighbor.)

II) LOVE'S OBEDIENCE! (Five Love keys)

#1- **Love is Discipleship!** - John 13:34-35 - *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.*"
(Learn to love.)

#2 - **Love is Sincere!** - Romans 12:9-14 - *Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.* (Live to love. Love is full of ACTION!)

#3 - **Love is Abounding!** - 1 Thess 3:12-13 - *And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.* (Give love top priority, take it to the mountaintop!)

#4 - **Love is Fervent!** - 1 Peter 1:22-23 - *Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever* (Don't quit on love!)

#5 – Love your Wife! – Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

III) LOVE’S VOICE! (Sloppy Agape!)

- **Song of Solomon 4:1-7-** *Behold, you are fair, my love! Behold, you are fair! You have dove's eyes behind your veil. Your hair is like a flock of goats, going down from Mount Gilead. Your teeth are like a flock of shorn sheep, which have come up from the washing, every one of which bears twins, and none is barren among them. Your lips are like a strand of scarlet, and your mouth is lovely. Your temples behind your veil are like a piece of pomegranate. Your neck is like the tower of David, built for an armory, on which hang a thousand bucklers, all shields of mighty men. Your two breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle, which feed among the lilies. Until the day breaks and the shadows flee away, I will go my way to the mountain of myrrh and to the hill of frankincense. You are all fair, my love, and there is no spot in you.*

IV) LOVE’S ENDURANCE!

~ **Let’s read 1 Corinthians Ch. 13** (Let’s work out daily with verses 4-8, love’s exercise program!)

(v4-8a) TRUE LOVE IN ACTION!

- **“Love suffers long”** – To be long-spirited, i.e., forbearing or patient.
- **“Love is kind”** – The word used here denotes to be good-natured, gentle, tender, affectionate, to show oneself useful, courteous, i.e., to act benevolently.
- **“Love does not envy”** – A feeling of resentment and jealousy toward another person because of his possessions or good qualities.
- **“Love does not parade itself”** – The idea is that of boasting, bragging vaunting. This spirit proceeds from the idea of “superiority” over others; and relates to feeling of contempt or disregard for them.
- **“Love is not puffed up”** – This word means to blow, to puff, to paint, to inflate with pride, and vanity, and self-esteem.
- **“Love does not behave rudely”** – To act unseemly or unbecoming. To speak in a condescending or crude manner, to be discourteous.
- **“Love does not seek its own”** – True love is not selfish, self-centered, or self-absorbed. We are to love others, to seek their welfare with self-denial, to respond with personal sacrifice and toil.
- **“Love is not provoked”** - To be quickly stirred to anger, to have a short temper.

- **“Love thinks no evil”** – **That is, to have a continual belief that the motives and heart of another is for the good.** Meaning, that your love is not malicious or desires to find fault in others, but your thoughts and speech will dwell upon the good. (Philippians 4:8)

- **“Love does not rejoice in iniquity”** – Love does not rejoice in sinful practices of our world, nor do we take delight when a fellow believer falls into sin. Christians find pleasure in hearing others accused of sin, and in having it proved that they committed it. **But true love will pray for repentance, reconciliation, and restoration.**

- **“Love rejoices in the truth”** – **Love rejoices in virtue, godliness, righteousness, and goodness.** It does not rejoice in the "vices," but in the "virtues" of others. Love rejoices when others "do well."

- **“Love bears all things”** - The Greek word for “bears” are *stegei*, which means to "cover," "hide," "conceal," not to make known. **This means that love is disposed to hide or conceal the faults and imperfections of others, not to publicize them.**

- **“Love believes all things”** – **This love has a disposition to believe that brothers and sisters in Christ are actuated by good motives,** and that they intend no injury; and that there is a willingness to suppose, as far as can be, that what is done is done consistently with friendship, good feeling, and virtue.

- **“Love hopes all things”** – **God’s love is an optimistic, not pessimistic.** We have hope for today in Christ, hope for change by the power of the Holy Spirit, and hope for eternity as we look forward to heaven.

- **“Love endures all things”** – This Holy Spirit produced love bears up under any stress or strain. **It sustains us and does not complain.** This love endures all persecutions at the hand of man and will keep on loving no matter the event.

- **“LOVE NEVER FAILS!”** - **“Fails” is ekpipsei in Greek, meaning to drop away; to be driven out of one's course; figuratively, to lose, to become inefficient. In other words, God’s love through us never fails or falters, but will have its powerful effect upon everyone and every situation.**

~ **Let’s power up GREATNESS from 1 Corinthians 13:13** – **And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is _____**

LOVE!!!