

Fuel Bible Study

The Forgotten Way: Week 6 – Love, Joy and Peace; Being Love in the Darkness

The Fifth Declaration

“Love, joy, and peace are the manifestation of your true identity and the Father’s realm, on earth as in heaven through the power of the Holy Spirit.”

I. Forgotten Way Schedule

- a. **November 16: Love, Joy, and Peace**
- b. November 23: No Session – Evening before Thanksgiving
- c. November 30: Our Declaration

II. Tonight

- a. 6:00 – 6:15: Sign in and nametags
- b. 6:15 – 6:30: Review and teaching
- c. 6:30: Dismiss into groups
- d. 6:35 – 7:30 Answer questions in small groups
(If your group finishes questions early go around and have each person share briefly 1 thing that has impacted them from the night’s study and 1 prayer request they would like others to be praying for them)
- e. 7:30 – Back to the sanctuary
- f. 7:35 – 7:40 Closing prayer and dismissal

III. Meditation 15 – Without Love All is Nothing

***Big Picture:** The evidence of you is love. Love God, Love yourself, **and then** love people in that same way. There is no greater proof to the world that Jesus is who he says he is than the supernatural love of his children expressed unconditionally to all. There is no greater purpose you can aspire to and no greater good you can do in this world than to manifest the true love of Jesus to it.*

Questions from meditation 15

1. Consider this quote by Bill Vanderbush about Agape love, and then share your thoughts on it.

“True love, on the other hand, is supernatural, shown only by the sons and daughters of God... But how can we love with this kind of love? Only by



*first seeing how we are loved. Through a revelation of the Father's love, you will find the extraordinary power to love as He loves. Our problem is that many **are** loving the way they think the Father loves – with a baseball bat and threats of punishment. How can we love others the way Jesus and Paul taught us if we think the Father loves us in a much harsher way?"*

2. When you travel the world or hang out with people who aren't Christians, do you see them as less loving and judgmental than the average Christian, or are they about the same? Why do you think most people (including Christians) openly describe Christians as sometimes being the most judgmental segment of our society?
3. Have you ever considered Paul's teaching that true love or the lack thereof is ultimately the only definitive quality in anyone's life? Does this ring true for you, or does it bring up resistance?
4. How well do you think you love, as Paul defines love? Can you imagine holding no record of wrong as your primary way of being in the world? What would it be like?

IV. **Meditation 16: Being love in the darkness**

Big Picture: *You are the daughter/son of the Father and until you truly see who you are, you will always struggle in vain to be who you think you should be and do what you think you should do. And when you do see who you are, you will also see others in that same light; Stop condemning yourself and accept that you are accepted and loved – When you truly love yourself in this way it will enable you to love others in the same way. As you stop condemning yourself you will stop condemning others. You will **truly** love them the way Christ does; Look at others and see Jesus, interact with others and treat them like they are Jesus*

Questions from Meditation 16

1. Make a short list of people who you think are sinners. What you do to them is what you do to Jesus, He said. Now imagine loving them as if they were Jesus. How does doing so make you feel?
2. Many Christians think of themselves as failures and can't receive love from the Father. Do you have trouble accepting or embracing the Father's incredible love for you who feel, like most of us, the least among all, because of your failures? Why?
3. In what tangible way can you demonstrate the extravagant love of your Father to a person who you think of as a sinner? Christ is in you and you in Him, so rather than telling them about Jesus, how could you be Jesus to them?

V. **Meditation 17: Forgiveness – Let all your troubles fall away**

Big Picture: *The term we use for letting go is forgiveness. To For-Give. And the best way to forgive is to let go before it becomes a problem. And by letting go, we are talking of letting go of the grievance itself, meaning to not record the record of that wrong in our minds to start with.*

Questions from Meditation 17

1. In the story of the husband and wife, which character did you more identify with and why?



2. If you believed you could set yourself free or bring a greater revelation of freedom by forgiving an enemy, what would you say to that person to let them know they were no longer bound by your judgment?
3. Imagine for a moment what your relationships would be like if you practiced active forgiveness and recorded no wrong in your mind. Would you find yourself at peace from the storms in life? Could you, like Jesus, sleep in the boat while the storm rages

VI. Meditation 18 – Giving is receiving

Big Picture: *Giving wholeheartedly without preconditions and expectations is more blessed than receiving; We are built with the desire to receive but the need to give; When we give to others we are really giving to ourselves; give grace, give love, give of your material possessions.. give, give, and give – it is the way of the Kingdom. Though you seemingly deplete yourself and your resources you end up living a life of abundance. This is how the last becomes first.*

Questions from Meditation 18

1. When was the last time you gave someone something, not because of who they were or what you might expect in return, but only for the sake of giving?
2. If Jesus asks us to give without expecting anything in return, does He give without any condition as well? Or does He require your allegiance in return for His gift to you?
3. Explain how forgiveness and giving selflessly are two sides of the same coin

VII. Meditation 19 – Enemies and Friends

Big Picture: *Dealing with fear as the root cause of our issues; Whether from within or outside, fear is the true enemy; Releasing people of your expectations of them releases you from their ability to harm you. This goes for yourself as well.*

Questions from Meditation 19

1. Have you ever been the recipient of a love that expects absolutely nothing in return? From whom and how did you experience this love?
2. Have you ever given true love to someone close without any expectation of return? Write down their name. Can you continue to love them in this way?
3. Imagine someone you are or have been romantically involved with. What kind of suffering do you experience when they disappoint your expectations of them? How could you be free from that suffering without them changing?
4. Do you live up to all the expectations you place on yourself? If you only love those who meet your expectations of them, how can you love yourself?

