

*Embraced by
the Anointing of Love*

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

“None eye pitied thee...but thou wast cast out in the open field, to the lothing of thy person, in the day that thou wast born....And when I passed by thee, and saw thee polluted in thine own blood, I said unto thee...*Live!*” (Ezekiel 16:5-6).

Recently, a great servant of God went home to be with the Lord. Mother Teresa served people who are outcasts, the “offscouring” of the earth. The deplorable physical condition of those people could be compared to the wretched spiritual condition of God’s people, Israel. To this nation, viewed as loathsome untouchables, God pronounced through the prophet Ezekiel, “Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, *thy time was the time of love*” (Ezekiel 16:8).

When asked how she was able to continue day after day with such compassion, Mother Teresa’s reply was simple: “Each body I touch is

the body of Christ.” We have been called to reveal light in darkness, and we need a touch from heaven. Knowing the love of God and trying to manifest that love is one thing. But knowing God who *is* Love permits Him to operate freely in us. Remember, the hand that is heavy upon a soul convicted of sin is the same hand that gathers up the young lambs and embraces His redeemed ones (Song of Solomon 2:6).

As you ponder this message, stake a claim for His compassion and tender mercies. Ask God for His anointing, His special presence, so you can go where He leads with full assurance of hope to the end (Hebrews 6:10-11).

Chapter One

DO YOU KNOW
WHO LOVES YOU?

Have you ever wondered what eternal security means? God gives unto us eternal life, and no one can pluck us out of God's hands (John 10:28). Scripture says that the Lord upholds us if we fall (Psalm 145:14); that though we fall, we are not utterly cast down (Psalm 37:24); and that "he that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life" (1 John 5:12).

But—! (Here's the "but.") It is my conviction that the knowledge of eternal security can produce a false profession. Let me repeat that: A person who holds to the knowledge of eternal security can have a false profession if he does not understand how to be certain that he has eternal security.

The apostle John used the word "love" forty-six times in his first epistle! He said, "We know that we passed from death unto life, because we

love the brethren" (1 John 3:14a). He said, "We *know* it." In other words, if I love the brethren with God's love, I will know for certain that I am saved and eternally secure.

Yet, one of the most insidious counterfeits in the world today is human love in the Church of Jesus Christ. Human love ends up in division, perversion, gossip, and slander. It ends up in negative reaction and in rendering evil for evil.

God's love always ends up at the Cross of Calvary. Furthermore, God's love always takes us through the Cross by the Holy Spirit. He anoints us and sheds abroad His love in our hearts, strengthening us by it (Romans 5:5-6).

Are You 'Pitiful'?

"Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous" (1 Peter 3:8). We are to love one another as brethren, as God's people should love, and to be "pitiful" (Greek: *eusplagchnos*). That means we are to have good, healthy emotions.

So here is the mandate: Love as brethren, have God's love, have good emotions, and be courteous. "Not rendering [infection for infection, or penetration of] evil for evil, or railing for

railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing" (1 Peter 3:9).

Then God says in verse 10, "For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile." If you would have good days and find life in the future, then refrain your tongue from evil and speak no guile.

From Bad to Worse

"We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren..." but, "He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren" (1 John 3:14-16).

Now, are you ready for this? There are Christians who are faithful church-goers, yet they hate people. They would never confess that, but it's true. Some deliberately try to cause trouble while others may only be angry with another person. But the Bible says that if you are simply angry with a brother, it is as though you killed

him (Matthew 5:21-22). Instead of hating, rendering evil for evil and railing for railing, we are called to inherit a blessing when people hurt us.

A Very Special Love

“He that hath my commandments [of love], and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him and will manifest myself to him” (John 14:21). The Lord is saying, “Listen! He who knows the commandments of love and keeps them by grace through faith is a person who loves me, and the Father specially loves him. I will love him and manifest myself to him. I will make myself known to him intimately, personally, and in a unique way.” This is the Word of God regarding this subject of love.

It is so important that we do not hold one thing against anyone. We may disagree, but we shouldn't have a single thing in our hearts against anyone. Instead, we have God's love.

“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.” It continues:

“In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begot-

ten Son into the world, that we might live through him." And, "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (1 John 4:7-10).

Why did God spend so much time on this subject? He said, "This is love, not that you love Me, but that I have loved you, and sent My Son to be a Mercy Seat for your sins."

I wouldn't do anything to hurt my wife, my children, their spouses, or my grandchildren. By the grace of God, I wouldn't purposely do anything to hurt men and women of God because of one thing: *I do not want to hurt love*. I wouldn't say or do anything knowingly or willingly—though I fail—that would hurt God's love.

Chapter Two

CALVARY: THE MEASURE OF GOD'S LOVE

Consider this: *God sent His Son*. Can you picture the wounded hands and wounded feet? The Father sent His Son who went willingly to a cross. When He cried out from that cross, "Father, forgive them," the Lord was teaching us that His love is not human love. His love is not natural. His love cannot be measured by anything we have done for Him or by what we have said to Him.

Calvary is the measure of God's love. His love is measured by the Cross. His love is measured by mercy. His love is measured by grace. His love is measured by His sacrifice. "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren" (1 John 3:16). Because of God's love, there should be no pettiness among us.

In 2 Corinthians 4:2, Paul was saying, "I

have not spoken deceitfully, but openly, and I have manifested the truth.”

Then he said, “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts,” that we might see the light of the glory of the knowledge of God in the face of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 4:6).

Precious Treasure in Vessels of Clay

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us” (2 Corinthians 4:7). The treasure we have is what God is, and God is love. His love is in earthen vessels, and we have this treasure within every Blood-bought Christian.

It isn’t any wonder that the apostle Paul said in Galatians 1:15-16, “It pleased God, who separated [sanctified] me from my mother’s womb, and called me by his grace, to reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen....”

He said, “Here I was on the road of Damascus, responsible for the death of Christians, and it pleased God to sanctify me! Here I had chosen to kill Christians, fight the Church, blaspheme, and bring injury to them. Yet, Almighty God beautifully and gloriously “revealed his Son in

me." By that, Paul meant "God revealed His love in me."

That is why Paul, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" (Acts 9:6). We have this treasure in an earthen vessel.

Oh, as you begin to dwell on this treasure, consider everything it has accomplished. I was thinking of a man I met on visitation. He was an arrogant alcoholic. As I stood before him, God brought a tremendous love into my heart toward him. I simply wept, so broken, and I said, "God loves you, sir." He accepted Jesus Christ and became a great Christian and a fantastic soul winner.

The treasure of love went from the visitor into a man's heart, and the Holy Spirit shed that love abroad. The love of God became a treasure in his heart. The anointing of love broke the yoke.

Breaking the Vessel

A dear friend wrote to me recently. She said that after walking with the Lord through years of personal trials and heartache, she has been diagnosed with an especially virulent cancer. She said, "I'm doing everything I can to stay healthy,

but there is one thing I have going for me throughout the day and throughout the night. In my heart I say over and over, 'God loves me! God loves me! God loves me!' And I know that He does." This woman has a treasure in her earthen vessel.

The Word of God says, "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed. Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be [revealed] in our mortal flesh" (2 Corinthians 4:8-11). So death works in Spirit-filled Christians, that life may be given to those who do not have God's love.

There's such a difference between God's love and human love. Human love is regulated by circumstances, but God's love uses circumstances to reveal who we are. He uses marriages and friendships. He even uses our failure, though He doesn't cause it. He uses failure to reveal who we are—whether we are easily irritated, reactionary, negative, or careless with our confession. At times, God will test us to see if the

wrong kinds of words come out of our mouths. When we fail to refrain our tongue from evil and from speaking guile, we reveal the flesh instead of the treasure.

Broken by a Plan

God will ordain circumstances to reveal the treasure. Those circumstances are designed to deliver us to the Cross of Calvary; and as we are delivered to that Cross, *out comes the Treasure!* Out comes the One who died for the sins of the whole world. Out comes the love of God, pouring through the Holy Spirit. Out comes a love that loves us until the end (John 13:1).

When that love comes out and God uses us to love others, then we know we have passed from death unto life. We know it's true because we love the brethren. We do not render evil for evil. We do not render railing for railing: but, contrariwise, blessing. We were called to inherit a blessing, and the blessing comes through a manifestation of God's love.

Chapter Three

THE IMPORTANCE OF A MANIFESTATION

The manifestation of God's love destroys every stronghold the devil has. A manifestation simply means to make visible God's nature; to make apparent; to demonstrate by reality. The manifestation of God's love destroys resentment, bitterness, and hate. How can that happen?

According to 1 Corinthians 13, love suffers long and is kind. It envieth not. It vaunteth not itself. It is not puffed up. It does not behave itself unseemly. And think of this: *Love seeks not its own*. It is not easily provoked and thinks no evil but always rejoices in the truth. Not only that, love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. *God's* love never fails.

This is how we know we're saved: We know we are saved when we have a godly love, one

for another, that goes beyond sin, beyond failure, beyond hate, and beyond resentment.

When Love Is Hurt

One of the most devastating things parents can go through is this: after they have been faithful to rear up their children in love the best they knew how, to feel that their children don't love them. That must be the most difficult thing in the world. The *greatest* thing is to have a family that does love you.

Sadly, many married people know that God's love is not in their marriage. Because there is no Cross in the relationship, one partner will begin to "seek his own." But our Father sent His only Son to a rugged cross so we could know His love. It takes having the Cross in your life to suffer long and to be kind. It takes the Cross to believe all things, to refrain from thinking evil, and to bear all things.

Love hopes all things. If you have hope, it means you don't look inward or backward, but forward and upward. Hope.

And then, love endures all things. No one can endure all things. No one, that is, unless Jesus Christ is filling him with the Holy Spirit. By the grace of God, if the love of God fills us,

then we will believe the best, think no evil, bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, and we will endure all things. That is a supernatural manifestation of God in action, and we begin to reveal God's nature through an anointing.

From Revelation to Manifestation

It is so important for everyone to have a *revelation* of Jesus Christ's love. It comes as we are being delivered. One of the greatest ways to help your self-image is to shut out every distraction and let God give you a revelation of the pain, the agony, and the suffering that Jesus Christ endured for you. God wants to reveal His love in you because you are very special, and God has set apart His people for Himself (Psalm 4:3).

To have a revelation of God's love inside of you is the sweetest, most wonderful thing. It is as though *anything* can happen now—Anything! You are secure in the love that is in you because you have a revelation of Calvary working within. Therefore, the first thing we need is a revelation.

The second thing we need is *inspiration*, where God takes something simple and breathes upon it. God can breathe upon a smile or upon a handshake when it's done in the love of God. In-

spiration means that when I read something from the Scriptures, I have no familiarity with truth at all. The Word is real. It is precious. It is relevant. It is permanent. It is God. This is inspiration (2 Timothy 3:16).

The next thing that is so beautiful is *illumination*. When God illuminates us, He shines His light in our heart. When He illuminates His truth, the truth becomes our reality, along with understanding so we may actually experience it (2 Peter 1:19-21).

After this, there is *meditation*. In 1 Timothy 4:15, Paul urged Timothy to meditate on the things he was taught and to give himself wholly to them. The Greek word for “meditate,” *mele-tao*, means to take thought for, attend to, care for, exercise, and practice. In application, it means to go over a specific truth or category repeatedly and to enjoy it until it controls your feelings. Meditation can be reflecting silently or rehearsing verbally God’s Word in God’s way.

I want you to think of the promises for those who meditate on the Word of God. “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly....But his delight is in [doctrine, the Word] of the LORD; and in [God’s] law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a

tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither"—he will be healthy—"and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper" (Psalm 1:1-3).

Joshua would not allow this Word, this doctrine, to depart out of his mouth but that he would meditate therein day and night and plan to do all that was commanded (Joshua 1:8). Meditation is wonderful when it is done in the Word of God.

Following meditation we have *application*. The Word of God says in Psalm 90:12, "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom"—so that we may apply our hearts unto instructions and our ears to hear words of knowledge (Proverbs 23:12).

Finally—in this process of God where He demonstrates His love to me, in me, through me, and out of me—we come to the *manifestation*. It means that we are to let all of 'Who God is' come forth in the anointing and go through us and be revealed by us. What kind of Christianity do we have when we do not manifest it?

Establish Your Focus

Do not take an event and focus on it. Rather than focusing on the past or on the details of life,

focus on Christ and receive an anointing for the event you are facing. So much counseling is spent focusing upon events. Sometimes that is important and understandable. But rather than focusing on events, let's focus on the love of God and the life of God. Focus on His grace, His power, and His purity. If our hearts are fixed, and we are focused on Him, then we will experience a manifestation of God's anointing of love.

CONCLUSION

It is only when we fix our gaze on the Savior that we can understand the depth of His love for us personally. From revelation to manifestation, if we have this process operating in us, we will see good days! But, without a personal revelation of God's love as the motivating premise for our behavior, we will never have the right kind of love for the brethren or for the lost.

God wants us to take our focus away from people, events, and self. Our focus is to be fixed on Christ, and He wants to see the purity of His love manifested through us. Knowing love is one thing; the key is in the manifestation. And although a Christian will never lose the anointing he received at salvation, he may lose the manifestation of the anointing in the midst of personal problems.

Our heavenly Father desires that we would have a revelation of the love that sent Jesus to a rugged cross. Then, through inspiration, illumina-

nation, and meditation, we will apply the light of truth so we can again manifest Christ as we are embraced by an anointing of love.