

April 7, 2019

The Greatest Gift is Love: Love Gives

Through this series on God's love, we have been reminded of how powerful His love is and without it, we have nothing. Love never fails. Love is eternal and impacts eternity lasting forever. That is why it is a choice and not a feeling because feelings come and go. Once we accept the love of God, we are His forever! He will never leave us or forsake us. If we allow His love to flow through us, we will break every bondage and walk in victory for our self and others.

Rom 8:37-39 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors **through Him who loved us**, and nothing can separate us from His love (paraphrased).

God's love is to help us develop the character of Christ through the fruit of the Holy Spirit manifesting in us. God first loved us, right where we are at. He didn't wait for us to change, but He gave us His love to help us change. Once we become like Christ, we cover one another in His love, never letting go.

Our Father loves it when we come together and enter into **expressive corporate worship**. How cool is it to know there is something we can do that brings tremendous pleasure to God. Jesus said if we love Him, we will keep His commandments. Our obedience is a test of our love for Him. **Ps 150** *Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!*

Perhaps the most difficult aspect of His love is His rebuking, chastening and scourging. This will happen when we are prideful, disobedient and lukewarm. God does this to bring us to repentance, not for our salvation, but to purify our heart because everything flows through our heart. Once our hearts harden (towards God or people), we will not manifest the promises of God and become a dysfunctional Christian.

Love Gives!

John 3:16-17 *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten (brought into existence) Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

When the love of God invades our heart, we become givers of our time, talent and treasures to help others.

Matt 20:26-28 *Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. 27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave — 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to **give His life** a ransom for many."*

A giving heart is a serving heart. This is why we serve on a team at church; our love causes us to serve one another.

John 10:27-28 *My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I **give them eternal life**, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.*

Jesus gives us eternal life and He will never let us go. Likewise, **we never let go of one another!** Hold on!

Rom 8:11 *But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also **give life to your mortal bodies** through His Spirit who dwells in you.*

The Holy Spirit gives life to our bodies. This is not only eternal life, but physical health here and now.

Unconditional-sacrificial love is not an option; it is mandatory for all who say they love God. The only way this is possible is through the Holy Spirit pouring out the love of God into our hearts and we allow it to flow through us.

Rom 5:5 *Now hope does not disappoint, because the **love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us**. No matter what we are going through we have hope because our Daddy God loves us!!!!*

The most powerful words we can speak are the Words of God especially in a declarative manner. When we speak out loud and declare the Word of God, we are releasing His power into our atmosphere and it changes us and the world around us. God's Word will not return void. Declare your unconditional-sacrificial love and release the power of God's love! The best way to change someone else is to change our self.

**see hand out sheet "My Declaration of Unconditional-Sacrificial Love: 1 Cor 13:4-8"