

Well, I felt like the last time I was with you, perhaps I burdened you with the BIBLICAL commandment that we love one another ☺

I felt like I needed to take a step back because God NEVER requires what He does not enable. If we could do any of what we find in our Bible, then we don't need the Sacrifice of Christ.

His strength is made perfect – perfected – in our weakness.  
His strength is made weak – limited – in our strength.

God is not impressed by our ability to 'keep the rules.'  
What He expects of us is so beyond us that it can only happen if we YEILD ourselves to Him.

Lets look at the verse in 1 Cor we have not looked at:

- 1Cor. 13:1 If I speak with the tongues of men (speak multiple languages for the Gospel's sake) and of angels (speak the languages of heaven), but the root motivation for that is not love, all my words are just noise, loud and annoying!
- 1Cor. 13:2 If I have *the gift of prophecy*, (so I can see into and declare the future) and know all mysteries and all knowledge (earned through study or given by God); and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but love is not the motivation for the operation of those gifts, I am NOTHING – NOBODY, I DON'T EXIST.
- 1Cor. 13:3 And if I give all my possessions to feed *the poor* (Everything I have worked, earned, been given, or inherited), and if I surrender my body to be burned (as a martyr), but I am not operating in unconditional love that expects NOTHING in return - it means ZERO, nothing to God, no account is kept or recorded.
- 1Cor. 13:4 Love is patient (Always), love is kind (*Always*) and is not jealous (Ever); love does not brag and is not arrogant,
- 1Cor. 13:5 does not act unbecomingly (Ever); it does not seek its own, is not provoked (CAN'T be provoked!), does not take into account a wrong *suffered*, (anybody have a list?)
- 1Cor. 13:6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness (any word or action that is not based on the Righteousness of God), but rejoices with the truth;
- 1Cor. 13:7 Love bears all things (always gets under the burden), believes all things (always looks for the best in others), hopes all things (expects a good outcome), endures all things (continues to love no matter what).
- 1Cor. 13:8 Love never fails;

How you doin with that? Me – Not too good!

So we need the HELP OF the GOD who LOVES! He does not fill the Bible with stuff that condemns us to failure. This is a book on how to change, overcome, rise, become LIKE Him!

We have talked about the WHY of LOVE, and the WHAT of LOVE.

■ Today, lets talk about the HOW of Love! How do I do that?

■ First of all – You can't give what you don't have! Some of you have made an idol out of YOUR DEAL – YOUR SIN – YOUR PAST – YOUR ISSUE. It is so big in YOUR life that you have made yourself unlovable!

“Go to Home Depot, get some lumber – build a bridge – get over it!”

You just flat out need to get over yourself!

Do you understand just how THIN the ice is you have built your past on if You think it is bigger than the Cross? God died on the Cross for the earth but that wasn't enough for your thing?

■ You have to let the blood of Jesus be enough!

God forgives you so you have to forgive yourself and allow yourself to be forgiven.

If you do not feel loved by God every minute of every day you don't yet FULLY know who He is!! And you can't give to others what does not live in you!

Hurting people hurt people. You reproduce what you are. Your negative self-image creates a negative atmosphere around you. It draws other negative people into your life. Your words are negative. Negative stuff happens to you. Because you have cut yourself off from the source of life and blessing by NOT RECEIVING what God gave and Jesus Paid for.

You need to listen to these messages – 100 times if you need to until you GET IT!!

■ CHANGE IS A PROCESS – LETS TALK ABOUT THE CHANGE PROCESS

What brings change in us?

■ 2Cor. 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass (MIRROR) the glory of the Lord, are **changed** into the same image from **glory to glory**, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord.

■ 1) We are changed in His presence. Changed spending time with Him. Time on His lap. Time at His feet.

■ Psa. 91:1 He that dwelleth (camps, stays, remains, lives) in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

- The secret is yours, not His. You have to find the secret way in that YOUR HEART connects with! Worship? Prayer? Quiet? Scripture? What opens Your heart to His heart?

If you are afraid of Him – you won't spend any more time with Him that you are forced to!

- 1John 4:18 There is no fear in **love**. But perfect **love** drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in **love**.

- Sin in the Old Testament – is about Broken Law – punishment.
- Sin in the New Testament is about Broken Relationship – fellowship!

Got to fix NUMBER ONE! He builds a bridge to you – but you have to cross it.

- Heb. 4:16 Let us therefore come **boldly** unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

- There is no condition on that verse! Agape Love has no condition for acceptance on God's part!!

- 2) GET IT (LOVE) Directly FROM GOD.

- Gal. 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Martin Luther said "It would have been enough to mention only the single fruit of love, for love embraces all the fruit of the Spirit."

- This verse could read, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love; which produces joy & peace, it acts with patience and kindness, it manifest in goodness and faithfulness, it is marked by gentleness and self-control."

- **(NO LAW AGAINST)**

- 2Tim. 1:7 For **God** hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of **love**, and of a sound mind.

- Rom. 5:5 ...because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

The Spirit is the ONE who lives in us. He is the transmitter – we are the conductors.

- Vines have to stay attached to **BEAR** fruit! WE CANNOT PRODUCE IT!  
You have to draw it out – cultivate it – care for it – WEED IT – and start giving it out.

- John 15:4 **Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.**

■ John 15:5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

■ Remain – abide – stay – dwell – continue – MEANINGFUL TIME!

■ Not going to be full of love doing Drive through with God.

Gifts are given. Every farmer or gardener knows FRUIT is grown.  
If you want a harvest, plant seeds and take care of them.

■ 3) Get it (Love) from the Word of God.

A good way to do that is look up every Scripture you can find that deals with the Love of God and write them down, print them out, put them where you can see them, speak them over yourself.

■ Rom. 10:17 Consequently, **faith** comes from (continually) **hearing** the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

Faith comes by HEARING. Hearing what someone is speaking! Maybe YOU!

■ Josh. 1:8 Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; **meditate** on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

To meditate here means 'chew the cud' – like a cow. Swallow a little, then bring it back up and chew on it some more. Suck the life out of the Word!

■ 4) PUT ON Love.

Like a garment. IT is a choice. We are ALL responsible for HOW WE REACT!

■ 1Th. 5:8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and **love** as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.

We make a conscience decision, a choice, to love. That is an act of Faith. Don't have to feel it. NOT YOURS. Just have to be obedient. We do our part, God does His part.

■ If you don't – He Won't. He won't over ride the choices WE make. That is free will.

You don't even have to want to. You can say "God I don't want to." He knows what's in your heart anyway. You're not fooling Him, and probably no body else!

■ 5) The Law of Sowing and reaping

■ Gal. 6:7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be **mocked**. A man reaps what he sows.

■ 2Cor. 9:6 But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall **reap** also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall **reap** also bountifully.