

LOVE - GOD
(I JOHN 4:16-19; I Corinthians 13:1-8)

Love is the light that shines before men, showing the depth of God's love for mankind. We are the recipient of this love – God, to shine forth through good deeds, through our attitude and behavior toward men, causing them to give glory to God. **The secret of the perfect reflection of this love is based on our dwelling and on the continue dwelling in God's love. Yahshua said, I have loved you, as the Father has loved Me; abide in My love** [continue in His love with Me]; if you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love and live on in it, just as I obeyed My Father's commandments and live on in His love (John 15:9-10). When our actions show obedience to Christ, we know that we are abiding in His love.

Compassion seems natural to all, even to the natural man, as we have seen through charitable organizations. Millions of dollars have been poured into organizations to help the handicap and needy people. How then one separates the good deeds of a born again from that of the natural man? There will be not much difference between them, if our emotion- the heart is full of bitterness, vengeance, self pity, judgment and criticism toward others. The light that shines from the true love, will be through behaviors marked by tenderhearted pity, mercy, kind feeling, a lowly opinion of ourselves, gentle ways, patience, gentle and forbearing with one another, if we have a difference against another, readily pardoning each other, even as the Lord has forgiven us (Colossians 3:12-4).

The perfect example of this love is found in the life of Yahshua Who amidst His sufferings in the hands of Gentiles and Jews, prayed, "Father forgive them, for they know not what they are doing". For every nail hammered into His hands and feet, there was love poured out, uniting us to God and reconciling us to Himself. One can only reflect this perfect love by dwelling and by continue dwelling in love- God. John said, God is love, and **he who dwells and continues in love dwells and continues in God and God dwells and continues in him**; in this, love is brought to completion and attains perfection with us (I John 4:16-17). Love is complete and perfect in us in our dwelling and continue dwelling in it. To dwell in love is to dwell in God and God in us. The word continues means **all the time, without interruptions**. When fear has its control over us, it is because we are not dwelling in love and we are not continuing dwelling in it, as John says, the one who fears has not reached the maturity of love; [has not grown into love's complete perfection]. The human being can only love when he is loved, but Yahshua calls us to practice His unconditional love by: giving the other cheek to the one who hit us; giving our clothes to the one who stole them from us; by praying for those who persecute us; by forgiving seventy times the one who hurt us. This love is not so much love in a visible action, but in the personal change of attitude of the heart and in the renewing of the mind toward those who are our enemies. It is many times silent expressed only by a smile radiating peace and gentleness, leading one to sacrificial actions. That's the kind of love I am referring here. God's love is the essence of what our Christian faith should be; it is fundamental in our behavior to shine His love to others. Love is the power that keeps all other spirits away from us. When we are dwelling in love, angels stand by with swords to protect us against all other spirits.

Paul said to Timothy, God has not given us a spirit of **fear, but of love, power and sound mind** (II Timothy 1:7). When we abide in the spirit of love there will be a healthy mind and a spirit of power, and love. The spirit of fear is not given to us by God; love and fear do not coexist together; it will be one or the other controlling us. When fear is strong in us, our minds are confused; our emotions are disturbed and empty of peace. The real reason for this, my friend, is that we have stop dwelling in love and have stop producing the fruit of love.

My behavior toward my neighbor must be inspired by the love of God, for it to be counted worthy for eternity. Nothing that I do, empty of love will have eternal value before the Judgment Seat of Christ; Paul expressed well the importance of acting with love in first Corinthians thirteenth: If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal; and if I have prophetic powers and understand all the secret truths and mysteries and possess all knowledge, and if I have faith so that I remove mountains, but have not love I am nothing. Even if I dole out all that I have food and if I surrender my body to be burned or in order that I may glory, but have not love (God's love in me), I gain nothing. The characteristics of love should be in my every behavior toward my neighbor, because love is the essence of my faith; it is the life of my faith; love is God molding and shaping me to perfection until I reach His holiness. Through love He saved me and in love He carries me through the path of earthly life.

Love is the seed in the parable of Luke 8, planted in the hearts of men; those seeds that fell by the **way**, are the ones that never grasped and took hold of God's love offered to them; those fallen **on rocks** are those who have their hearts hard toward God, they do not receive neither share love to others; those fallen on **thorny ground** are those who are much into the worries of the world and by them they are suffocated. Those whose hearts were tender toward God, received the seed of love with repentance and humility; they dwell in love and continue dwelling in Him and He in them, producing fruit of righteousness, as they reach out to others with forgiveness, the the rays of the light of love that always points to God's love.

Love is God . . . dwell in Him continuously and He will dwell in you continuously.

To dwell in love is to be in the presence of the holy God where we see ourselves for what we are inside, where no one can penetrate. Isaiah, when he saw God in His holiness, he saw his inner self and cried, Owe is me! For I am undone and ruined, because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts (Isaiah 6:5). How important that is for us to dwell and to continue to dwell in love-God! It is to be cleansed continuously by the renewing of the mind, the renewing of the heart-the emotion and have our will transformed into His will. It is to be **sanctified!**