

## LOVE IN THE SPIRIT

### *An Example of the Power of Godliness & Partaking of the Divine Nature*

In the study on “The Holy Ghost, the Power of Godliness”, we saw that,

- Sanctification/holiness is Jesus Christ, to be as he is in this world.
- This is attained not by **copying** Christ’s holiness but by **partaking** of it.
- The way to do this is by partaking of the Spirit, who is the power of godliness.
- To experience the power of godliness is to partake of the divine nature, the very nature of God Himself.

Let us illustrate by looking at an actual example, love.

- Firstly, its breath-taking **nature**.
- Secondly, its **source**, to see how we can partake of such love.

### The Nature of Divine Love

#### **The Power of Love**

Love has great spiritual power. Although power without love is possible, Biblical love without power is not possible.

- 2 Tim 1.7-8 God hath not given us **the spirit** of fear; but **of power, and of love**, ... be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God

That power can be **defensive/protective**.

- 1 Th 5.8 putting on **the breastplate of faith and love**

It can also be **offensive/overcoming**.

- Not only through His love **for** us.
  - Ro 8.37, we are **more than conquerors through him that loved us**.
- But also through His love **in** us.

This love in us powerfully overcomes many things which come against us. For example, fear. Fear weakens faith, but love conquers and cast out fear in the same way that evil spirits, and even the evil one himself, are cast out.

- 1 Jn 4:17-18 **There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear:**

The healing ministry of William Branham was the most remarkable in all recorded Church history. He testified that the secret of his power to heal and to overcome demons was love.

#### **Love & Faith**

Let us look more closely at the link between faith and love.

In the Bible love is often linked with faith.

- Eph 1.15 **your faith** in the Lord Jesus, **and love unto all the saints**,
- Col 1.4 **your faith** in Christ Jesus, **and the love ye have to all the saints**
- 1 Th 1.3 your **work of faith, and labour of love**
- 1 Th 3.6 Timotheus ... brought us good tidings of **your faith and charity**
- 1 Jn 3.23 **believe** on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, **and love** one another
- 1 Tim 1.14 the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with **faith and love**
- 2 Tim 1.13 **Hold fast** the form of sound words ... **in faith and love**

In some cases this link is close.

- Eph 6.23 Peace be to the brethren, and **love with faith**
- Gal 5.6 **faith which worketh by love.**
- 1 Th 5.8 putting on **the breastplate of faith and love**

In fact, although there can be a faith without love, there cannot be a love without faith.

- 1 Cor 13.2 though I **have all faith**, so that I could remove mountains, **and have not charity**, I am nothing.
- 1 Cor 13.7 (**charity**) ... **believeth all things**

### **The Vastness of Love**

This love not only believes all things and has great power. It is, in the words of the hymn, "Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free". In fact, it is like the widow's cruse of oil.

#### **a) Outpoured**

- Ro 5.5 **the love of God is shed abroad** in our hearts **by the Holy Ghost** (Cp Mal 3.10 & Gen 7.11; Ps 78.23-24))

#### **b) Multiplied**

- Ju 2 Mercy unto you, and peace and **love, be multiplied** (NB not merely "added")

#### **c) Abundant (overflowing the cup)**

- 2 Cor 8.7 **as ye abound ... in your love to us**
- 2 Th 1.3 **the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth**

#### **d) More abundant (overflowing the saucer)**

- 2 Cor 2.4 I wrote unto you with many tears ... that ye might know **the love which I have more abundantly unto you.**
- 2 Cor 12.15 I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though **the more abundantly I love you**, the less I be loved.

#### **e) More & more abundant (overflowing the tray)**

- Phil 1.9 this I pray, **that your love may abound yet more and more**
- 1 Th 3.12 the Lord make you to **increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men**, even as we do toward you

### **Perfect Love**

This love is not only superabundant, it is,

#### **a) Beyond all comprehension**

- Eph 3.19 And to know the love of Christ, **which passeth knowledge**, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

#### **b) Indestructible, immortal, incorruptible**

- Eph 6.24 Grace be with all **them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity.** ("Sincerity" is translated immortality/incorruption in Ro 2.7; 1 Cor 15.42,50,53,54 & 2 Tim 1.10)

#### **c) In fact, it is Perfect**

- 1 Jn 2.5 whoso keepeth his word, **in him** verily **is the love of God perfected**: hereby know we that we are in him.
- 1 Jn 4.12 If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and **his love is perfected. in us.**

Truly, such love can only be divine.

But is such love really possible in a mortal man? Can he, in effect, be a partaker of the divine nature?

Yes.

**The Source of Love**  
**“Love is of God.” (1 Jn 4.8)**

What does the Bible say about our relationship to this divine love?

- We are not only **recipients of** God’s love.
- Nor are we simply **taught** by Him to love Him and one another.
- But it is **from Him** that receive the love we are exhorted to have.
- Furthermore, we not only receive love **from Him** but the very love **of Him**.
- The result? We love **as Him**. We are partakers of the divine nature.

Let us illustrate.

**a) Not just for Him**

- Phile 1.5 **thy love** and faith, which thou hast **toward the Lord Jesus**
- Heb 6.10 **labour of love, which ye have showed toward his name**
- James 1.12 crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to **them that love him**
- James 2.5 heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to **them that love him**
- 1 P 1.8 [Jesus Christ] **Whom** having not seen, **ye love**

**b) Or taught by Him**

- 1 Th 4.9 ye yourselves are **taught of God to love** one another.

**c) Not even from Him**

- Eph 6.23 Peace be to the brethren, and **love** with faith, **from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ**

**d) Or even of Him**

- Jn 5.42 But I know you, that ye have not **the love of God in you.**
- Jn 17.26 **that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them**
- Ro 5:5 **the love of God is shed abroad** in our hearts **by the Holy Ghost**
- Ro 15:30 I beseech you, brethren, ... for **the love of the Spirit,**
- 2 Cor 5.14 **the love of Christ constraineth us**
- Gal 5:22 **the fruit of the Spirit is love,**
- Col 1:8 Who also declared unto us **your love in the Spirit.**
- 2 Th 3.5 **the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God,**
- 1 Tim 1.14 **with** faith and **love which is in Christ Jesus**
- 2 Tim 1:7 **God hath** not **given us the spirit** of fear; but of power, and **of love**
- 2 Tim 1.13 **Hold fast... in** faith and **love which is in Christ Jesus**
- 1 Jn 2.5 whoso keepeth his word, **in him** verily **is the love of God perfected**
- 1 Jn 2.15 If any man love the world, **the love of the Father** is not **in him.**
- 1 Jn 4.12 If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and **his love is perfected in us.**

**e) But, as Him**

- Mt 5.43-48 **Love** your enemies ... **That ye may be the children of your Father** which is in heaven ... **Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father** which is in heaven is perfect.

- Jn 13.34-35 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; **as I have loved you, that ye also love one another**
- Jn 15.12 love one another, **as I have loved you.**
- Eph 5.2 walk in love, **as Christ also hath loved us**
- Eph 5.25 love your wives, **even as Christ also loved the church**
- 1 Jn 2.5-6 whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself so to walk **even as he walked.**

Truly, as Peter so beautifully said,

- 2 P 1.3-4 his divine power has given us all things that pertain unto ... godliness ... whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature.

In other words, godliness is nothing less than to be God-like. And such God-likeness is attained not by our own works but by divine power.

### To Conclude

Nor is this priceless jewel just for the next world. As Wesley so rightly taught, perfect love is attainable in this present world.

- 1 Jn 4:17-18 Herein is our **love made perfect**, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because **as he is, so are we in this world.** There is no fear in love; but **perfect love** casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not **made perfect in love.**

How unspeakable!

We are at the end. The true Church Is coming back to her original inheritance, the faith once and for all delivered to the saints. Let us go on to perfection: to perfect faith, perfect holiness and perfect love.

Take possession of the Land! Lay hold on your God-given inheritance, the divine nature.

How?

By the Spirit, the power of godliness.

- 1 P 4.7-8 the end of all things is at hand ... therefore ... **above all things have fervent love** among yourselves
- 1 P 1:22 ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth **through the Spirit unto unfeigned love** of the brethren