



"THE EYES OF YOUR UNDERSTANDING BEING ENLIGHTENED; THAT YE MAY KNOW WHAT IS THE HOPE OF HIS CALLING, AND WHAT THE RICHES OF THE GLORY OF HIS INHERITANCE IN THE SAINTS," EPHESIANS 1:18

A MONTHLY MESSAGE OF HOPE • LOVE • FORGIVENESS

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LOVE: IS IT SOMETHING THAT I REALLY HAVE TO DO?

Text: Mark 12:29-31, “And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: ³⁰ *And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.* ³¹ *And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.* There is none other commandment greater than these.”

Do you have a desire to know God in a more personal way? Do you desire to know what it is like to be in a one-on-one relationship with the Almighty God? According to the Bible, a more excellent way to walk and operate in the power of God is to pursue love. That’s the best way to develop a lifestyle of doing the works of Jesus. Walking in love is the best way for the world to see Jesus through us.

You may want to know; how do we grow and develop in love? You grow and develop in love the same way you grow and develop in anything else. **You practice it.** You exercise it until you get stronger and stronger in it. Some people start out by trying to practice love on the meanest, ugliest person they know. This may sound a little hard to do, but you must remember the words written in, Philippians 3:13, “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” The power of God can and will be with you as you do, what you might see as, “impossible.”

The Bible does tell us to love our enemies and to love each other as Jesus loved us. If you start there, however, you’re likely to end up frustrated and defeated. Why is that? Because, according to the Bible, the divine cycle of love begins with God’s love for us and our love for Him, then it extends outward to other people. Once you start loving the Lord and receiving His love, you are going to love others. First John 5:1 says plainly, “Every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.” In other words, everyone who loves the Father also loves the children!

We practice our love on Him and we end up falling in love with everyone around us. As His love begins to flush the

fear out of us, suddenly we can drop the barriers that have separated us from other people. We can forget about our own preservation and protection and lose ourselves in helping meet the needs of those around us. As we grow up in love, we will walk in the fullness of the measure of the image of Christ.

Our goal should be to be an example of the life and actions of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

CONCLUSION: Love is something that you must first experience from the Lord, and then He will cause more grace to abound towards you and in everything you do, you will realize that you do have to love everyone. Jesus Christ just makes it easier.