

Spiritual Reality — Rekindle The Flame Ministries

The Power Of Love

Lesson 1. The Purpose of Preaching

1 Timothy 1:5

1 Timothy 1

5 But the goal of our instruction is love

The goal of preaching is agape love

God IS love

We can share in His love

We can not emulate or replicate His love

Our focus is on preparing human hearts to receive God love and then to share it in all situations and relationships.

from a pure heart

A prepared heart must be pure — Clean, pure, clear, in a natural sense unsoiled, unalloyed.

John 15:3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

and a good conscience

Must have a good conscience

It denotes an abiding consciousness whose nature it is to bear inner witness to one's own conduct in a moral sense. It is self-awareness.

Titus 1:15 To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled.

and a sincere faith.

Must walk in sincere faith — without hypocrisy or pretense, unfeigned, genuine, real, true, sincere. No double mindedness — seeing and doing the viewpoint of God.

James 1:5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, 8 being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

A person prepared in this way is ready to receive God's love and then share it.

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Lesson 2. Extraordinary, But Not Love

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

1 John 3

16 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17 But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

Agape means laying down your life like Jesus
Agape means giving personal resources

Agape is how you talk — also how you act

James 2

14 What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? 17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.

Works also validate faith

1 Corinthians 13

1 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

It is possible to go through the motions of spiritual behavior without having agape.

2 If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

It is possible to max out on strong spiritual gifts and yet not have agape.

3 And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

It is possible to be apparently sacrificial in giving and serving and yet not have agape.

Agape will manifest in your attitudes, words, and actions (including facial expressions) when you surrender yourself to the Christ life and Holy Spirit filling.

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Lesson 3. Love's Characteristics and Qualities

1 Corinthians 13:4-8,a

1 Corinthians 13

4 Love is patient,

love is kind and

is not jealous;

love does not brag and is not arrogant,

5 does not act unbecomingly;

it does not seek its own,

is not provoked,

does not take into account a wrong suffered,

6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness,

but rejoices with the truth;

7 bears all things,

believes all things,

hopes all things,

endures all things.

8 Love never fails;

long suffering, no hasty anger

willing to help

not envious or covetous

to think too highly to become haughty

doesn't act indecently, uncomely, unseemly

doesn't put self first

doesn't get incited to anger or indignation

doesn't reckon to an account, impute

has no pleasure in wrong

finds joy in unveiled reality

covers other's mistakes, bears up under

to trust in and embrace with hope

to expect with desire

bears up under various difficulties

never falls from one place to another

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Lesson 4. Love Is Eternal

1 Corinthians 13:8-13

1 Corinthians 13

8 Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part; 10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away. 11 When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. 12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known. 13 But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.

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Lesson 5. Love — The First Fruit Of The Spirit

Galatians 5:22,23

Galatians 5

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

