LOVE POWER SERIES – PT. 2

CENTRAL TRUTH: *LOVE (AGAPE) IS MOST IMPORTANT LAW AND THE MOST POWERFUL FORCE IN THE EARTH*

Mark 12:30-31 NLT
And you must LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' [31] THE SECOND IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT: 'LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' NO OTHER COMMANDMENT IS GREATER THAN THESE."

James 2:8 ERV
ONE LAW RULES OVER ALL OTHER LAWS. THIS ROYAL LAW IS FOUND IN THE SCRIPTURES: "LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR THE SAME AS YOU LOVE YOURSELF." IF YOU OBEY THIS LAW, YOU ARE DOING RIGHT.

1 John 3:11 AMP
FOR THIS IS THE MESSAGE WHICH YOU [BELIEVERS] HAVE HEARD FROM THE BEGINNING [OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST], THAT WE SHOULD [UNSELFISHLY] LOVE AND SEEK THE BEST FOR ONE ANOTHER;

IN THE LAST LESSON, WE DISCUSSED SEVERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GOD KIND OF LOVE BASED ON 1 CORN. 13: 1 -8.

QUICK REVIEW:

- AGAPE LOVE IS NOT BASED ON EMOTIONS & FEELINGS. IT DOESN'T REACT. IT RESPONDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WORD OF GOD.
- LOVE (AGAPE) IS LONGSUFFERING, KIND AND DOES NOT ENVY.
- WE HAVE THE ABILITY TO LOVE (AGAPE) BECAUSE THE GOD KIND OF LOVE WAS BIRTHED IN OUR HEARTS WHEN WE WERE BORN AGAIN

Romans 5:5 NLT
FOR WE KNOW HOW DEARLY GOD LOVES US , because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

- LOVING OTHERS IS A MAJOR INDICATION WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD

1 John 4:7 AMP
BELOVED, LET US [UNSELFISHLY] LOVE AND SEEK THE BEST FOR ONE ANOTHER, FOR LOVE IS FROM GOD; AND EVERYONE WHO LOVES [OTHERS] IS BORN OF GOD AND KNOWS GOD [THROUGH PERSONAL EXPERIENCE].

1 John 4:7-8,11-12 NLT
Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. [8] But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. [11] Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. [12] No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.

IN THIS LESSON, WE WILL CONTINUE DISCUSSING THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GOD KIND OF LOVE GIVEN IN 1 Corinthians 13:1- 8, 13.

1 Corinthians 13:1-8,13 NLT
If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but DIDN'T LOVE OTHERS, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. [2] If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, BUT DIDN'T LOVE OTHERS, I WOULD BE NOTHING. [3] If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; BUT IF I DIDN'T LOVE OTHERS, I WOULD HAVE GAINED NOTHING. [4] LOVE IS PATIENT AND KIND. LOVE IS NOT JEALOUS OR BOASTFUL OR PROUD [5] OR RUDE. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. [6] It DOES NOT REJOICE ABOUT INJUSTICE BUT REJOICES WHENEVER THE TRUTH WINS OUT. [7] LOVE NEVER GIVES UP, NEVER LOSES FAITH, IS ALWAYS HOPEFUL, AND ENDURES THROUGH EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE. [8] Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. BUT LOVE WILL LAST FOREVER! [13] Three things will last FOREVER-FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE-AND THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE.

POWER POINT- GOD REQUIRES EVERY BELIEVER TO DEVELOP A LIFESTYLE OF LOVING OTHERS AS HE LOVES US.

Matthew 5:44-47 NLT
But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! [45] In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. [46] If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. [47] If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that.

NOTE: WE GROW IN LOVING OTHERS. IT IS THE PROCESS OF BECOMING MORE LIKE JESUS CHRIST AS OUR LIFESTYLE(THINKING, SPEAKING & ACTING) .

1 Thessalonians 3:12 NCV
MAY THE LORD MAKE YOUR LOVE GROW MORE AND MULTIPLY FOR EACH OTHER AND FOR ALL PEOPLE SO THAT YOU WILL LOVE OTHERS AS WE LOVE YOU.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GOD KIND OF LOVE (1 CORN.13:4-5)

4. THE GOD KIND OF LOVE – VAUNTS NOT ITSELF – IS NOT BOASTFUL. Does not boast or brag about what they can do or have so, as to give others the impression they are super spiritual. They are not legend in their own minds or impressed with their own accomplishments. They boast in the greatness of God and help others to know, understand, and experience the goodness of God. They refuse to share a praise report if it will make another person feel inferior in faith. THEY BELIEVE EVERYONE CAN RECEIVE GOD'S BEST BY FAITH IN HIS WORD. THEY HELP OTHERS TO LEARN THE LIFESTYLE OF FAITH. THEY ARE GOD'S CHEERLEADERS. THEY BOAST IN THE CONSISTENT GOODNESS OF GOD. THEIR FAITH SHOUT TO ALL IS, " YOU ARE GOD'S BEST AND GOD WILL ALWAYS CONFIRM HIS WORD IN YOUR LIFE".

They do not put their personal convictions and expectation on others as the model of success (JESUS CHRIST & THE WORD ARE THE MODELS OF SUCCESS). Do you talk more about your ideas, success, and desires when you are around others than they do theirs? Love prefers the others story about what is going on with them. To minister to others, you must enter their world, they will let you in if you love

enough to, sincerely ask because you want to know and listen.

5. THE GOD KIND OF LOVE – IS NOT PUFFED UP – IS NOT FILLED WITH PRIDE. Think too highly of yourself nor is it arrogant thinking you are better than others; we should never be snobbish with an air of superiority when we are dealing with people. Regardless of your spiritual call, position, longevity in the body of Christ or your social economic position it is all by the grace of God. God resist (stand firm against) the proud; Love recognizes we are one in the body with different functions. WE ARE ALL EQUAL, NO LITTLE DOGS AND NO BIG DOGS.

6. THE GOD KIND OF LOVE – DOES NOT BEHAVE UNSEEMLY – Is tactful and not rude and discourteous with others. His language and manner of communication is not harsh or brutal. They talk so mean should not be, said about us. CONSIDER who you are talking to and what you are going to say to them. BE SENSITIVE to how others may respond to what you are communicating. Ex: "They need to hear the truth," "the truth hurts," or "the word cuts" are several phrases we use for not being sensitive to others.

Proverbs 15:1-2 NCV
A gentle answer will calm a person's anger, but an unkind answer will cause more anger. [2] Wise people use knowledge when they speak…

7. THE GOD KIND OF LOVE – SEEKS NOT IT'S OWN – Is not upset at not getting his way to the point of being angry and trying to manipulate others to shine your view. Recruiting, others to join your side so that you can appear to be right. Are you critical of others mistakes especially those in position of authority because you feel this makes you look smarter more qualified for the position in eyes of others? There is your way, their way and God's way. Love always wants God's way and rejoices even when it comes through others.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. DEFINE THE GOD KIND OF LOVE (AGAPE - based on this lesson)?
2. HOW HAVE YOU DEMONSTRATED (AGAPE) LOVE RECENTLY?
3. WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ROYAL LAW?

Pray this prayer:

Heavenly Father I thank you I have the God kind of love in my heart and the Holy Spirit is teaching me how to release this love in my daily life situations. I pray that by the power of the Holy Spirit I overcome all attitudes of pride, rudeness, and seeking my own way. In Jesus Name, Amen.