

THE POWER OF LOVE

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Love is the greatest weapon in the universe where all else fails, love always wins. Love conquers, and has always conquered the beast in man. By the “Beast”, I mean the evil nature in man. The meanest of all men has always bowed to love. No matter how hard-hearted or wicked a man may be, when loved, will bow. That is why the wicked have lovers – people that they laugh and play with. In the presence of such people wickedness is suspended or forgotten as long as their fellowship lasts.

There is something in man that craves for love. And nothing can fill that vacuum. Man is constructed (made) to love and to be loved. Man is created to seek and expect love. Man is created to fall for or bow to love. All this is so because man is a product of love from a loving God who himself is an embodiment of love – God is love.

1 John 4:7-10

7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

NIV

Everything about God is love. He exists in love. The essence of God is love. All He does, He does out of love. All He created, he created out of love. When He judges, He is driven by love. Every Father disciplines the children he loves. Discipline is an act of love and not hate. There is no hate or evil in God that is why He is described as the “*unapproachable light*”, one who “*wraps himself in light as with a garment*”, and The “*father of heavenly light*”. Light is a symbol of purity; and purity is the absence of evil.

If God is love and operates in love, anyone who claims to belong to and know Him must necessarily walk in love. Like father like child. No wonder Jesus said, “*By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another*” (John 13:35).

LOVE WINS FRIENDS, MAINTAINS RELATIONSHIPS AND WIN OVER ENEMIES.

Matt 5:43-47

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?"

NIV

If you cannot love your enemies or those who hate, abuse or persecute you, you are not different from the unbelievers. Jesus wants every of his child to prove his sonship by being different from the unbelievers through love. Love wins friends, maintains relationships and wins over enemies.

Luke 6:32-36

32 "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even `sinners' love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even `sinners' do that. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even `sinners' lend to `sinners,' expecting to be repaid in full. 35 But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.
NIV

Rom 12:17-21

17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. 20 On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
NIV

LOVE ENABLES A MAN TO OVERLOOK AN OFFENCE

1 Peter 4:7-8

8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.
NIV

Prov 19:11

11 A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense.
NIV

Without love it is difficult to overlook and forgive an offence. But a heart filled with love will always be willing to overlook an offence. Deep love covers a multitude of sins. Deep love continues to tolerate and absorb all wrong doings. If you are intolerant and find it difficult to overlook an offence, then you are not walking in God's love. Measure your love by how much you are able to tolerate your partner or offender.

LOVE PROVES US TO BE TRUE SONS OF GOD

Luke 6:35-36

35 But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.
NIV

Matt 5:9

9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.
NIV

1 John 4:7-8

7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.
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John 13:34-35

34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."
NIV

Love is the only true proof of sonship in Jesus Christ. Since God is love, you can't be a son of God and not walk and live in love. Love is true evidence and mark of a true disciple of Jesus Christ. Love is the nature of the believer. It is the spiritual blood that flows in the vein of the believer. Love is the life that flows in the spirit of the believer. You can't be born of God and not be a lover. You are a lover by nature, therefore, you can love anyone and everyone, including those who hate and ill-treat you. Shout it out Loud now, "I AM A LOVER". Keep saying it to yourself until it starts flowing out of you.

Love conquers everyone and anyone who is loved. Anyone can change when loved. And love involves patience. You must be willing to be patient till the change expected is effected. You can't love without practicing patience.

The love of God won me over. The love of God won you over. The love of God is still changing us from one glory to another. If you have not given your life to Christ, give your life now. Let the love of God displayed through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ touch your heart and win you over now.

Love is so powerful that the one who experiences it is always more productive than the unloved. Love fills a man with energy and enthusiasm. It has a way of bringing out the best in a man. A loving environment is a good environment for creativity and productivity. A loved person is a creative person.

Love makes a man happy, and when he is happy, he is energetic. When a man is happy, he lives a healthy life.

Prov 15:13

13 A happy heart makes the face cheerful, but heartache crushes the spirit.
NIV

Prov 15:31

31 He who listens to a life-giving rebuke will be at home among the wise.
NIV

Prov 18:14

14 A man's spirit sustains him in sickness, but a crushed spirit who can bear?

NIV

You need love, I need love, and everybody needs love. Your unruly neighbor needs love. Your uncooperative boss and colleague need love. You can win anybody over through love. But let your love be sincere and genuine. Owe no man anything but love, for love is the fulfillment of the law. All the law of God find their fulfillment in love.

Rom 13:8-10

8 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. 9 The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

NIV

To walk in Love is to obey all the commandments of the Lord. To walk in love is to walk in holiness. To walk in love is to live the life of God – it is to live the life of Christ.

Love everybody because you owe everybody love. Be kind to people. Be patient with people. Tolerate people and forbear when they offend you. Forgive when offended and don't keep records of wrong. Be humble and associate with people of low esteem. Be free with people and serve them no matter your status in life.

Use the weapon of love and win over those who don't love you. Love and love, and never stop loving and being loved in Jesus name.

PRACTICING LOVE

1 John 4:7-21

7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

13 We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. 16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. 17 In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. 18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. 19 We love because he first loved us. 20 If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God,

whom he has not seen. 21 And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

NIV

Love is practical. It is not theoretical. God loves us, this we know because he proved it by giving us his only begotten Son to die in our place that we may be saved. And John explains that if we don't love our brother whom we see every day, how can we say we love God whom we do not see.

Love is tied up to work – your acts show your love.

James 2:14-26

14 What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? 15 Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. 18 But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds."

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. 19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that-and shudder. 20 You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? 21 Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. 23 And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. 24 You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone. 25 In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? 26 As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

NIV

You don't love by mouth, you show love practically. Love is all about giving. It is sacrificing who you are, what you have and what you need to satisfy another person. You can't love without giving, though you can give without loving.

Love is all about making another person happy, though you suffer some deprivation in the process. Love is all about putting a smile on someone's face; touching someone's heart; strengthening a weak, discouraged, tired and burn-out person. It is giving hope to the hopeless. Love is restoring the lost and making people excited about living. Love is individual oriented. It is practical.