

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.

NIV

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 our 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 everyday, 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.

HOW TO SHOW LOVE

Luke 6:27-36

27 "But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. 29 If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. 30 Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. 31 Do to others as you would have them do to you. 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

1. Love - In the heart
2. Do good - Practical
3. Pray for - Spiritual exercise required.
4. Bless them - Prophecy on the object of love.
5. Do unto others what you will have them do unto you. - Spiritual law of life.

PRACTICAL WAYS OF SHOWING LOVE

Matt 25:31-46

31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the

sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. 34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' 37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' 40 "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' 41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.' 44 "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' 45 "He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' 46 "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

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Rom 12:9-21

9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. 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

1. Give – Food, clothes, encouragement, your time etc.
2. Care – for the sick, the hurting, and the withdrawn.
3. Identify (be concerned) – with the brethren in all their experiences.
4. Share with those who don't have.
5. Be hospitable

6. Don't hate or bear grudge. But tolerate, forebear, overlook, and forgive. Don't pay evil for evil.
7. Wish everybody well.
8. Associate in love with those who are far lower in status than you. Remain humble.

LOVE AN ENHANCER OF POWER

Love has great power, and even greater power than we imagine. God's power is made manifest in love.

John 13:24

24 Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, "Ask him which one he means."

NIV

John 13:35

35 By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

NIV

Mark 12:29-31

29 "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

NIV

Love connects us to the source of power.

John 4:7-8

7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" 8(His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

NIV

Love is a proof of discipleship, and that guarantees an increase in the flow of power.

God's power is made manifest when there is compassion born out of love. Jesus healed out of compassion, and healing can only occur through us when we are walking in love. If you want to see the power of God, walk in love.

CONCLUSION

Don't love by mouth. Be practical. Let everybody see your love. Love is contagious. Spread it. Win friends through love. Affect someone positively through love. Let your faith in God and in our Savior Jesus Christ be seen through practical love, make someone happy everyday. Say a kind and

encouraging word to someone who needs it everyday. Visit the brethren. Don't gossip or slander another person. Promote love and peace, and not hate and division. Teach others how to love and serve God by your practical example.

Let your presence be felt in your church, office, and class and wherever you find yourself. Affect someone positively. Pray for one another. Bless, don't curse. Pray for me. God bless you