

I pray that this letter finds you abounding in the love of God like never before!

I cannot overemphasize how important it is to remind ourselves of the basic teachings of Christianity, those principles that we sometimes allow to slip. The Bible says, "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip" (Hebrews 2:1). Often, it's in those "I know that stuff" areas that we need the most development. That is why I strongly believe that we should not seek "new" revelation until we've understood and become proficient at applying the "old" revelation that we've heard.

As I was preparing to teach my congregation at World Changers Church International about the anointing—the burden-removing, yoke-destroying power of God—the Lord cautioned me. Although I had a fresh revelation to share, what He wanted to remind them of was much more important. He spoke this to

my heart: "Don't bother telling them anything about the anointing and My power if they haven't fixed their love life." He went on to say that it would be a waste of time to talk about the anointing if the congregation doesn't understand and take seriously the need to develop in the love of God. The bottom line is that nothing in the kingdom of God will work on our behalf if we fail to develop our love walk.

Many people want to witness miracles. They want their debts cancelled supernaturally. Ministers want to raise the dead, cast out devils, open blind eyes, and heal the sick through the laying on of hands. Who doesn't want to be used by the Holy Spirit to administer the spiritual gifts mentioned in First Corinthians 12?

There's nothing wrong with desiring these types of manifestations of the anointing. The problem, however, is when believers pursue the power of God while neglecting the source of His power. I'm referring to the

love of God. Despite the value and precedence that we place on the spiritual gifts of prophecy, speaking in tongues, faith, healing, and so on, they are not considered the best gifts. There is a "best" gift that we should pursue. First Corinthians 12:31 says, "But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I you a more excellent way." This "excellent way" is the lifestyle of love, as detailed in chapter 13. Love is the greatest of all of God's supernatural gifts that are made available to us.

I believe that as ambassadors of God in the earth, we must represent Him fully through our lifestyle of loving people as He does. That's where our priorities come into play. Developing the love of God must be our number one objective as believers. I say this because divine order is the prerequisite for miracles. We should never place the pursuit of the spectacular before the pursuit of cultivating the love of God that we have deposited within our hearts (Romans 5:5). There is nothing special about walking on water, or calling

down fire from heaven, or bringing a person back to life if the love of God is not perfected within us.

First John 4:16, 17 says, "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world." The heartbeat of this scripture is that God is love, and because we are one with Him, we, too, are love—at least we are supposed to represent His love in the world.

What's the use of calling ourselves

"Christians" if we fail to follow Christ's example of love? The secular world needs to know that we are really born again. And they will, once they witness our lifestyle of uncompromising love. Keep in mind Jesus' message to us: "If you keep My commandments [if you continue to obey My instructions], you will abide in My love and live on in it, just as I have obeyed My Father's commandments and live on in His love... This is My commandment: that you love one another [just] as I have loved you" (John 15:10, 12, AMPC).

I encourage you to focus more on the needs of others rather than on your own needs. There's nothing like using your prosperity to express the love of God toward others. That's the distinguishing mark of a true Christian!

Taffi and I love you and want you to prosper in every area of life, with your holy, walking in love self! Remember, Jesus is Lord, and "...in all of thy getting, get understanding."

Love

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P.S. We want to make sure you get this month's free offer of Dealing with Your Emotions.

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1 John 4:16, NLT



ABOUND IN GOD'S LOVE



I can love others because God's love has been poured into my heart by the Holy Spirit!

NOVEMBER CONFESSIONS

Romans 5:5, AMPC







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