

From Randall J. Brewer's book
**BORN TO LOVE,
CALLED TO SERVE**

RADICAL LOVE

Discovering
that God's love is
not ordinary-
but radical

RANDALL J. BREWER

RADICAL LOVE

RANDALL J. BREWER

The following mini book is an excerpt from the book, *Born to Love, Called to Serve* by Randall J. Brewer, and is copyrighted and protected by U.S. and International copyright laws. The reader may reproduce this article for *free* distribution only. However, this article and its contents must remain intact and unchanged as presently formatted and published.

Scripture taken from *The Message*. Copyright © 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002. Used by permission of NavPress Publishing Group. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations taken from the Amplified® Bible, Copyright © 1954, 1958, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1987 by The Lockman Foundation Used by permission." All rights reserved.

Scripture taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2007 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

For more information on this publication and all other articles and books published by the author, you may contact Randall Brewer directly at ar917eph320@aol.com

©RANDALL J. BREWER



CONTENTS

FOREWORD

CLIMBING TO OBTAIN	iii
---------------------------------	-----

CHAPTER ONE

RADICAL LOVE	1
<i>Radical Love is a Fruit</i>	1
<i>Extended to the Maximum</i>	2
<i>Radical Love Never Quits</i>	2
<i>Radical Love is Powerful</i>	3
<i>Radical Love is Gentle</i>	3
<i>True Love</i>	4
<i>Where to Live</i>	5
<i>What Are You Doing?</i>	6
<i>Love Will Cost You</i>	6
<i>Loves Does the Impossible</i>	7

CHAPTER TWO

EXCEL IN LOVE	10
<i>It's a Me Generation</i>	10
<i>Love isn't About You</i>	10
<i>Love is an Action Word</i>	11
<i>Love is a Sacrific</i>	12
<i>Be All Things to All People</i>	13
<i>What Are You Doing to Help?</i>	14

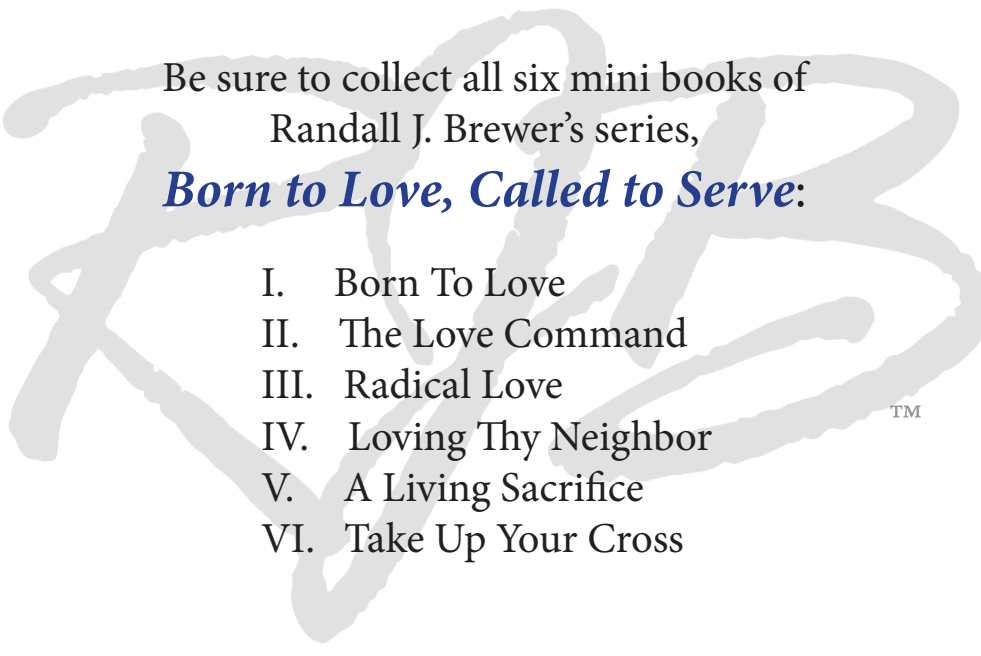
CHAPTER THREE

LOVE IN ACTION	16
<i>Meditate on Love</i>	16
<i>Love is All You Need</i>	17
<i>Love Forgives & Forgets</i>	19
<i>Love is Kind</i>	19
<i>You Are Visibly Marked</i>	20
<i>Leave Judging for the Judge</i>	20
<i>Inseparable Twins</i>	20

CHAPTER FOUR

LOVE ON DISPLAY	24
<i>Abound in Love</i>	24
<i>Church is a House of Labor.</i>	25
<i>Neglect No One in Need</i>	26
<i>Don't Be Proudful- Be a Servant</i>	27
<i>Make Room for the Needy</i>	28
<i>Visible to the Heart</i>	29
<i>Love is a Way of Life</i>	29
<i>You and God Are Love</i>	29

CREDITS	31
----------------------	----



Be sure to collect all six mini books of
Randall J. Brewer's series,
Born to Love, Called to Serve:

- I. Born To Love
- II. The Love Command
- III. Radical Love
- IV. Loving Thy Neighbor
- V. A Living Sacrifice
- VI. Take Up Your Cross

FOREWORD

CLIMBING TO OBTAIN

In Randall J. Brewer's latest exert from his book, *Born to Love, Called to Serve*, we see God's love as the final frontier; the last and largest spiritual and emotional challenge known to man. This is Radical Love.

Mt. Everest stands over 29,000 feet high, and it's footprint is just as big. It stands as the tallest natural structure in the world. Weighing in at an estimated 35 billion metric tons, it is the final resting place of more than 216 failed climbers. ¹

The best time of year to make the climb is in May, when the temperatures average only -4° and the wind gusts have calmed down from 175 miles per hour, to a little over 100. Many a climber has been blown off the mountain or frozen to its face. ² Mt. Everest offers the harshest conditions known to man. ³

And yet, author Randall J. Brewer teaches us that climbing to the top of the world's tallest rock is parallel to walking in love. Many Christians try and many have failed, deciding to descend and give up. Walking in love is the most difficult spiritual task known to any Believer. And the greatest reason Christians fail is because they attempt to achieve love through emotions and intellect. It is a spiritual-only acquisition.

Randall urges us to continue to labor toward unconditional love, because *this* mountain is called Perfection and the summit is our goal. The Holy Spirit has inspired the writers of the Bible to coach us onward to the top, the pinnacle they themselves successfully achieved in this life before entering the next.

Working to love all people is a commandment only for this life. What could we possibly gain by loving everyone when we get to heaven? We are charged to love everyone here, today. ^{Mt 5:43-48}

Paul Baker,
Publisher and friend of Randall J. Brewer

CHAPTER ONE

RADICAL LOVE

Walking in love is the Mount Everest of all Christian behavior. Jesus sets the standard of love that we are to follow as high as it can possibly be set.

He said in John 13:34, "**A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.**" Jesus said that our love for others must match the love He has for us. This radical love is not just a special requirement for the super-committed. It is clearly God's standard for all His children. He continues in vs. 35, "**By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.**"

The love you have for your Christian brothers and sisters must be marked by a devotion that is characteristic of a loving, close-knit, and mutually supportive family. Radical love must be developed, and as you grow to be more like Jesus, you'll soon develop a genuine interest in others where you'll seek to serve and not be served. Daily you must fight against the common hindrances to love such as selfishness, pride, impatience, the love of the world and the things in the world that will pull you down. In other words, you must die to yourself. Even Paul said, "I die daily" ^{1 Cor. 15:31}.

RADICAL LOVE IS A FRUIT

Love is a sacrifice, but it is a joyful sacrifice. Jesus said in John 15:11, "**These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.**" What separates the false from the truth is joy. Radical love gives

you radical joy, which in turn gives you radical strength ^{Neh. 8:10}. People who walk in radical love are never weak and depressed, because they're full of strength and the joy of the Lord.

Peter spoke of radical love when he wrote, "Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart" ^{1 Peter 1:22}.

The sincere agape love of God describes the quality of love bestowed by God and does not refer to an easy, sentimental reaction to our personal likes and desires. Instead, radical love is a fruit of the Spirit in a yielded believer who is then enabled to do the supernatural and not just the natural. The believer is able to love the unkind and the unlovable, they can love in spite of insult and injury and love when love is not returned.

Peter goes on to say, "And above all these things have fervent love for one another..." ^{1 Peter 4:8a}. The phrase "above all" reminds the saints that love is the prerequisite to all proper exercises of Christian behavior. Courtesy without love is a cold thing, and generosity without love is a harsh thing. Love makes all other virtues what they should be. Love is the badge of honor that a believer displays openly, especially in times of testing and persecution. It is with radical love that you'll be able to give your life away and obey the Lord's rules for kingdom living.

What Peter had been saying was that a radical love is a fervent love that flows from a heart that is pure. The word "fervent" is literally

*Love is the badge of honor
that a believer displays.*

the picture of one who is stretched out. It pictures an intense strain and unceasing activity which normally involves a degree of intensity and perseverance.

EXTENDED TO THE MAXIMUM

The Greek word "ektenes" was used to describe a horse whose legs are fully extended while galloping. It was also used as a medical term describing the stretching of a muscle to its limit, and in Grecian athletes it is described as a runner with the taut muscles moving at maximum output, straining and stretching to the limit in order to win the race. Peter is calling us to a love which is "fully stretched out" and manifested in an all-out manner with an intense strain.

This presents the clear picture that love is not something that will just happen, but is something you will have to work at like an Olympic athlete who strives to master his area of expertise with all his energy.

An aggressive love that is "stretched out" allows you to reach out and touch someone with strenuous and sustained effort. Christian love is not an easy, sentimental reaction, but is energetic and demands all your mental and spiritual energy.

Radical love is the love that never fails and into which every atom of one's strength is directed. Love never disappoints and never lets anyone down. It can always be depended upon and is always reliable. Walking in radical love will always be a benefit to other people and it will take you out of the prison of selfishness you've been living in most of your life.

Jesus said in Luke 6:27-30 ^{MSG}, "To you who are ready for the truth, I say this: Love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a

hard time, respond with the energies of prayer for that person.

If someone slaps you in the face, stand there and take it. If someone grabs your shirt, gift wrap your best coat and make a present of it. If someone takes unfair advantage of you, use the occasion to practice the servant life. No more tit-for-tat stuff.

Live generously."

RADICAL LOVE NEVER QUITS

Love never quits and walks away. It cares more for others than it does for itself and it patiently and passionately bears with others for as long as patience is needed. Love doesn't demand others to be like itself, but rather is so focused on the needs of others that it bends over backwards to become what others need it to be.

Love suffers long ^{1 Cor. 13:4} and is like a candle that has a long wick and is prepared to burn a very long time.

A person with radical love is ready to forebear, to patiently wait when a person doesn't quickly respond back to them in a proper way. To be patient means to be long spirited, to be long tempered.

Heb. 10:36 says, "For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God you may receive the promise." Life is a marathon and when you realize we're in this for the long haul, the sooner you'll see the need for love, faith, and patience.

The level of patience in your life is the same level of faith that you have. If you lose your patience, you lose your faith. They go hand-in-hand. When you have no faith, you stop believing God and you no longer please Him. Patience motivated by radical love is developed through

"Let your enemies bring out the best in you."

exercise. Most people want things quickly and pass up opportunities to develop patience and walk in love. They get upset driving behind a slow plow and lose their temper when they have to stand in line at the check-out counter at the store.

Love is generous and the more you exercise patience by displaying acts of aggressive kindness, the stronger it will become; the more it will develop. Faith works by love, and if you don't stop loving, you won't stop believing and lose your faith. To be patient and kind means to be adaptable to the needs of others and to love people so much that you become all things to all men ^{1 Cor. 9:22}.

RADICAL LOVE IS POWERFUL

Love is a Person. God is love ^{1 John 4:8} and radical love is...

A force;

A nature;

A commandment;

An action.

*There is no defense
against love, and the devil
can't stop it.*

There is no defense against love and the devil has nothing in his arsenal that can stop it or slow it down. Love is tolerant and patient, but is also kind while it is patient. Being patient reveals how deep your love and strength goes. The more impatient you are, the more weak in faith you are.

It is not okay to be impatient and demanding with one another. Never have the attitude that says, "I want it and I want it now!" Don't be so ambitious and self-centered and so consumed with yourself that you never think of the needs or desires that others have.

RADICAL LOVE IS GENTLE

- Love is humble and never seeks its own way.

- Love is not rude or discourteous. It's not careless or thoughtless, nor does it carry on in a fashion that would be considered insensitive to others.
- Radical love has an attitude that is submissive and will always adapt itself to the needs and desires of other people.
- Real love will step out of line and let others go first, even if it means they'll get the best and you'll have to settle for second best. That's okay. Do it for God. It won't matter a century from now anyway.

Make it your business every day to glorify God by walking in love and preferring other people above yourself. People are supposed to see your love for love hidden is not real love. The Message® Bible says, "Live a lover's life, circumspect and exemplary, a life Jesus will be proud of: bountiful in fruits from the soul, making Jesus Christ attractive to all, getting everyone involved in the glory and praise of God" ^{Phil. 1:11}.

Too many people live in their own world where everything is about them. The flesh is selfish and everything is always about me, me, me! It is time for the church to rise up and adopt a new way to live. It's time to change the way you look at the world. It's time to turn your eyes away from yourself and onto the lives of others.

Forgetting about yourself is very liberating and will give you a freedom you've never experienced before. Let the biggest joy you have come from seeing the smile you put on someone else's face. God can use you for miracles where you become a dream come true for those you meet. Ask Him to show you people with needs without getting anything in return. Radical love is not based on what you get back.

Consider what Paul said in 2 Cor. 12:15, "And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved."

The Message® Bible says, "I'd be most happy to empty my pockets, even mortgage my life, for your good. So how does it happen that the more I love you, the less I'm loved?" Paul was saying he wasn't getting anything in return from these people, but he was going to keep on loving them anyway. That's the radical love of God!

Love is a decision. It's a choice you make to value people and do good things for them, no matter if they respond back to you or if they don't. You won't find this love in the selfish world we live in, because the radical love of God is good to people all the time. It steps in when the rest of the world steps out.

TRUE LOVE

To be totally and completely developed in love is Christlike perfection. To be just like Jesus is to be love, a radical love that abounds to every good work ^{2 Cor. 9:8}. The love of God is the manifestation of all the excellencies of God. He is love and you must daily pursue your calling to also be love.

The true love of God is when you love and do nice things for the person who does nothing for you. You can't love people if you fear being taken advantage of all the time. Fear comes in when you're concerned that something bad will happen to you instead of being concerned about what you can do for somebody else.

People spend more time trying not to be hurt, than they do reaching out to others with a sincere heart and pure motive. People who walk in fear are self-centered and are forever focused

on the bad things they thought somebody did to them.

"You ignored me at church last week.

You didn't talk to me.

You didn't call me on the phone.

You didn't give me what I thought I needed."

People put up walls so they won't get hurt, but those same walls also prevent the love of God from flowing out as it should. It takes great determination to walk in love. The radical love of God is strong and fearless and is never concerned about itself at all.

1 John 4:18 says, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love." Love throws out fear, thus enabling you to yield to the love

that has been shed abroad in your heart ^{Rom. 5:5}.

Love is a choice and is independent of how you feel and how other people treat you. You can love somebody and there is nothing they can do about it.

Love is a command. If God said you can do it, then you can do it. Love others as God loves you. Be radical. Become love to somebody else.

The number one call in a person's life, the top priority, is to walk in radical love. Paul said, "So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love" ^{1 Cor. 13:3} MSG. Prosperity and success in the business world should not be your top priority, but it should be developing a strong, successful love walk. Jesus said in Matt. 6:33 to seek first the expansion and the full development of God's kingdom, and this is done through walking in love.

*It takes great determination
to walk in love.*

A walk is made up of several steps and is the slowest form of transportation known to man. Slow down and live life one step at a time. A decision is made to take each step and in the walk of love lots of decisions have to be made every day, all day long.

***Decisions determine direction,
and direction determines destiny.***

You need a kingdom mentality, and every morning when you wake up and every night when you lay down, you need to make the decision to simplify your life and walk in love. Too many distractions and complications in life can hinder your love walk and cause people to put other things first, especially their own personal needs and desires.

There's more to life than having money in the bank and a lifelong membership at the yacht club. Most of the world is either spiritually dead or spiritually asleep, and this is why Paul says in Eph. 5:14, "Therefore He says: 'Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.'" The Message® Bible says, "Climb out of your coffins."

The only thing you need to do to be carnal is nothing. Decide to be a doer of the Word and not a hearer only ^{James 1:22}. Get focused on the right thing. Walking in love must be the first and foremost priority in your life and everything else a distant second.

WHERE TO LIVE

The nicest and greatest place to live on planet earth is in the radical love of God. He, who dwells in love, dwells in God and God dwells in him. God is love and so are you. There is nothing love won't fix. Enough love will heal your body and make those headaches go away

and cause your liver to function properly. It will get your debts paid off and restore broken relationships, and will make you the head and not the tail.

1 Cor. 13:13 says, "And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

The Message® Bible says, "Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of these is love."

Love has to be the top priority of your life, the foundation of everything you believe, say, and do. When you believe in that love and act on it, there is nothing you can't receive from God. Your light will rise in obscurity and the Lord will guide you continually, and He'll satisfy your soul in a bad economy during seasons of drought and lack. He'll water your garden and make fat your bones. When you walk in love, think about

God, and what He wants you to do.

Hundreds of things are fighting for your mind time, those things you think about instead of God. If you are not careful you can get so caught up in these distractions that days turn into weeks and weeks turn into years, and suddenly half your life is gone.

Get sold out to Jesus and think about Him all the time and meditate in the Word day and night ^{Josh. 1:8}. People will think you're strange, but so what? Who cares what people think? If Jesus was their Lord they'd be doing the same thing.

The world is way too busy. People are running around like a chicken with its head cut off, going here and there, and not really going anywhere. They're so busy they don't know if they're coming or going and their lives are spinning out of control.

Now is the time to slow down and make

***Godly love gives with no
strings attached.***

a decision on what's important to you and act accordingly. God is calling you to walk in love, and you need to put everything on hold and answer the call. Jesus said "**many are called, but few are chosen**" ^{Matt. 20:16}, because only a few people slow down enough to answer the call.

Those who seek first the kingdom must also do so with their time.

Time is a limited, precious commodity and if you're too busy to love your neighbor as you love yourself, then you're too busy. There is only so much time in a day and what amount of time you spend on one thing, you can't spend on another. You can't have it both ways. It's a choice you have to make. And once today is gone, it's gone forever. You can't get it back; you only have what's left.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

What will the Lord find you doing when He returns? You don't have enough

days and years to waste doing those things not relevant to the kingdom of God. Prioritize your time! Unclutter your schedule and get rid of those things you do that have no eternal significance. Lay aside those things that take up your time, thoughts, and energies. If you don't, life will pass you by and you'll miss out on the will of God.

You can't serve two masters. You can't serve yourself and God. Kick yourself off the throne of your life and put God there. Say, "not my will, but Your will be done." Pursue love ^{1 Cor. 14:1} and set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. "Pursue the things over which Christ presides. Don't shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up, and be alert to what is going on around Christ - that's where the action is. See things from His perspective" ^{Col. 3:1, 2 MSG}.

LOVE WILL COST YOU

Love is costly. It cost Jesus His life and the Father His Son. Every time you walk in love it will cost you something. You will be asked to give away, something you want to keep, say something you don't want to say, and behave in a way you don't want to behave. This is why you must be reading about and studying love all the time, because it's one of the hardest things to get and maintain.

Most people struggle in life and are forever asking Jesus to hasten His return to planet earth to relieve them of all their suffering. Jesus does not want to come back just to bail you out of all your troubles. He wants to come back for a strong and victorious church; a church that is walking in love and obeying all His principles; a church that is radical and stirred up and on fire every day, day in and day out. You are His representatives on the earth and you are to be working the works He gave you to do, and occupying until He comes.

The truth of the matter is that you should desire Him to delay His return so you can do more for Him, not less. Love will protect you as you seek first His kingdom. Love "bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things" ^{1 Cor. 13:7}. The word "bear" means 'to cover as a roof covers a house.'

There are many seasons of life and not all seasons are pleasurable. Some seasons are stormy and very difficult, but love will protect you exactly as a roof shields and guards the inhabitants of a house from snow, rain, heat, and cold.

Love endures all things and it never quits, never surrenders, and never gives up. Real love never throws in the towel and never accepts defeat. It is always pressing on, reaching forward, and straining to fulfill that which it's

You should desire Him to delay His return.

been called to do. Love never fails!

God is love. It's not what He does, it's Who He is. You too, are love. And since God and love are perfect, you also are called to radical perfection. Jesus said in Matt. 5:48, **"Therefore you shall be perfect, just as Your Father in heaven is perfect."** The Amplified[©] Bible says, **"You, therefore, must be perfect [growing into complete maturity of godliness in mind and character, having reached the proper height of virtue and integrity], as your heavenly Father is perfect."** The Message[©] Bible puts it this way, **"In a word, what I'm saying is 'Grow up.' You're kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you."**

One cannot sidestep the context of when Jesus commanded you to be perfect. He said these words right after He said to **"love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you"** Matt. 5:44.

A carnal Christian is one who only obeys the Word when it's easy to do so. It's easy to love those who love you back, to love the rich church member, but despise the poor. Character is developed in the dark and perfection comes when you love those who don't love you back.

Love is an act of your will, and perfection comes when you talk to people when you feel like being quiet; when you smile when you feel like frowning; when you give away that what you want to keep; when you're nice when you're worn out and tired and don't feel like being nice; and when you tolerate people whom you'd like to slap and put in the trash can. This is how you imitate God. This is how you become radical. This is how perfection comes.

LOVE DOES THE IMPOSSIBLE

Love does the impossible and it all begins when you seek first God's kingdom. David said, "Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart" Ps. 37:3,4. You delight yourself in the Lord by doing what pleases Him and putting His holy law in your heart (see Ps. 40:8 and Rom. 7:22). God has not promised to gratify all your fleshly desires and the appetites of your body, but to grant all the desires of the heart, the cravings of the renewed, sanctified soul.

The desire in the heart of a Godly person is to know God, to live for Him, to please Him and to be pleased in Him. Nothing pleases God more than when you become your brother's keeper and love your neighbor as you love yourself. God is not a genie in a bottle waiting for your

command for Him to fulfill your wildest dreams. No, He is God and we are to fulfill His dreams.

*Love is an act of your will.
This is how you imitate God.*

When your life is so in harmony with the Savior's that your only goal is to see Him face to face, then this oneness produces the likeness of Jesus in your earthen vessel. Your delight is in the Lord and Him alone.

Out of this great union between you and God comes a change of heart. No longer are you driven to the material things of this world, but are more hungry for the things of God's heart. His heart becomes your heart and His desires become your desires. He then gives you the desires of your heart that you were intended to have before they were muddled by the selfishness of sinful thinking. When all is said and done, doing His will and living His dreams should be your one true goal in life.

Say out loud, "Lord, show me Your heart and let me dream Your dreams."

Living for His dreams is far more exciting than living for your own. Truly, the adventure of life begins in the heart of God.

CHAPTER TWO

EXCEL IN LOVE

When the apostle Paul first met the Lord on the road to Damascus his key question was, "Lord, what do you want me to do?" ^{Acts 9:6}. From that day forward Paul devoted his life doing what the Lord told him to do and saying what the Lord told him to say.

Our God is a God of love and He used Paul in a great way to teach the church how to be transformed into His image and to love one another as He has loved us.

During his second missionary journey, Paul and Silas brought the message about Jesus the Messiah to the city of Thessalonica ^{Acts 17:1}. Many people became believers, but a riot soon arose and they had to flee, narrowly escaping with their lives.

A short time later Paul became concerned that the believers in this infant church might fall away from the faith due to the opposition they were facing, so he sent Timothy to encourage them.

When Timothy returned with the good news that those in the church had remained faithful, Paul wrote them a letter to express his joy. Their faith, hope, love, and perseverance in the face of opposition was exemplary and Paul's affection for them is evident in every line he wrote. He encourages them to increase in their new-found faith, to excel in their love for one another, and to rejoice, pray, and give thanks always.

So proud of them was he, that he wrote in 1 Thess. 2:19,20 ^{MSG}, "Who do you think we're going to be proud of when our Master Jesus

appears if it's not you? You're our pride and joy!"

As Paul penned these words to his dear brothers and sisters in the Lord, his love was so strong that the desire rose up in him to one day return and visit them once again.

This desire was expressed in 1 Thess. 3:11,12, "Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you."

The Message[©] Bible says, "May God our Father Himself and our Master Jesus clear the road to you! And may the Master pour on the love so it fills your lives and

splashes over on everyone around you, just as it does from us to you."

Paul continues to encourage his readers to excel in love a few verses later when he wrote, "But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more" ^{1 Thess. 4:9,10}.

The Message[©] Bible says, "Just love one another! You're already good at it; your friends all over the province of Macedonia are the evidence. Keep it up; get better and better at it." Love is a behavior you choose to operate in, because you represent God and He told you

*You yourselves are taught
by God to love one another.*

to do it. If you have received the gracious gift of eternal life then you owe a debt of love to all people. The good news is that you don't have to pay this debt with love that you generate on your own. Rather, you pay it out of the limitless overflow of God's love toward you.

IT'S A 'ME' GENERATION

To excel in love the first and foremost thing you must do is realize that it's not about you. You must get yourself off your mind and reject all thoughts of selfishness. Love is a sacrifice and if you want to be free you must first forget about "me."

Prov. 30:15,16 says, "The leech has two daughters, crying, 'Give! Give!' There are three things that are never satisfied, four things never say, 'It is enough':

The grave,
the barren womb,
the earth that is not
satisfied with water, and
the fire the never says, 'It is enough.'"

The NL© Bible says, "The leech has two suckers that cry out 'More! More!'"

The EV© Bible says, "The leech has two daughters and both have the same name, 'Give me!'"

A big horse leech is a parasite, a creature that lives off the life of something else. It's like a mosquito that sucks the blood out of its host. The life is in the blood and a parasite takes the life out of something else in order to sustain their own self.

In Hebrew the word "leech" literally means 'to suck,' and it is sad but true that with some people in different situations there is no pleasing them. No matter what you do or how nice you are, it is never enough. They don't realize it, but

they are a "sucker" much like a leech and they always cry out, "Give! Give! More! More!" They complain because you didn't do this and you should have done that. They are never satisfied and are forever trying to pull something out of someone else in order to sustain their greedy and selfish ways.

The biggest root cause of problems in relationships is 1) selfishness and 2) a failure to walk in the commandment to love. Husbands tell their wives, "If you'll submit to me, I'll love you" and wives tell their husbands, "If you'll love me, I'll submit to you." Both are saying "Give me." Paul says in 1 Cor. 10:24, "Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being." Don't be a leech who pulls on people for something all the time.

*Take care of somebody else
and God will take care of you.*

LOVE ISN'T ABOUT YOU

Love seeks not its own and it doesn't think about "me" and what "I" need. Don't have a selfish attitude.

Remember, it's not about you. You must die to yourself and learn to think of others and put their needs above your own. God cares about hurting people and He expects you to care about them as well.

We read in Luke 10:25-28, "And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, 'Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, '**What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?**'"

So he answered and said, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'love your neighbor as yourself.'"

And He said to him, '**You have answered rightly; do this and you shall live.**'" Jesus was saying, "You know the answer, now do it." The

AMP Bible says in vs. 28, "If you do this you will enjoy an active, blessed, endless life in the kingdom of God."

People who are not happy rarely, if ever, do things for other people. They are "suckers" and all they ever think about is "Me! Me! Me!"

Being saved is no guarantee of happiness.

If you are selfish and full of yourself, you will never be happy. Our society drives people to selfishness and this same "Give me!" attitude has crept into the church. We want more and more and more yet we are never satisfied with what we have. We try to buy happiness yet are some of the most miserable people in all the world.

Take care of somebody else and God will take care of you. You cannot be happy until you get yourself off your mind and reach out to somebody in need. God wants you to prosper and have nice things, but He doesn't want you to forget the poor, the lost, the needy, the naked, and the destitute. You cannot out give God. Find somebody who is hurting and try to make a difference in their life.

Be passionate about the things God is passionate about. Be more caring when it comes to helping people in need.

The first century church did God's work with great power, but the more selfish we become the less power there is available to us. It's time for a change! It's time to start doing what the Bible tells you to do! Jesus called us to love one another and this means you have to do something. You can do anything, but one thing you can't do is *nothing*.

There is more to life than making money. When you're on your death bed it's not going to

matter how much is in your bank account. Get out of your comfort zone and go be a blessing to someone else. Who cares if the pews at church have padding on them or not or if your air conditioner didn't work one day this week?

Stop being the center of your life. Forget about yourself. Get yourself off your mind and excel in loving one another.

God will lift you up from the deepest pit, but He won't lift you out of your easy chair. That is something you have to do yourself. God will open doors for you, but it is you who must get out of your comfort zone and walk through them. Give God something to work with. Just as thrust is the power that pushes an airplane forward so it can gather speed and lift off the ground, use love to provide forward motion in your life and thrust you into a radical life of being a blessing to other people.

A hypocrite is somebody who talks the talk, but doesn't walk the walk.

You will never walk on water unless you're willing to get out of the boat. If you want to swim, you are going to have to take the plunge.

Some people spend their whole lives waiting for the perfect time to do something. Little do they know that there is rarely a perfect time to do anything.

What is important is to get started. As you walk in love, put one foot in front of the other and that momentum and forward motion will provide you with the lift you need to soar like an eagle in your service to other people.

An ancient Chinese proverb says, "The journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step." Even if there are a thousand things you cannot do, there is always something you can do.

It may seem small and insignificant, but the eyes of God are on you. He is watching to

see what you do with the opportunities He has given you. Your response determines whether or not He entrusts you with more.

LOVE IS AN ACTION WORD

Love doesn't just happen on its own. You have to pursue it. 1 Cor. 14:1 ^{AMP} says, "Eagerly pursue and seek to acquire [this] love." You can pray for God to help you walk in love, but He's not going to do it for you. The Message[®] Bible says, "Go after a life of love as if your life depended on it - because it does."

Without love you are a useless nobody. Love is not a feeling, it's a "willing"! Get up each morning and will yourself to love somebody on purpose. God will show you what to do, but He won't make you do it.

Love is an action word. It's a verb, not a noun. Real love is seen and measured in how you treat people. If love is not seen and felt, then all you've got is talk.

A hypocrite is somebody who talks the talk, but doesn't walk the walk. They tell people what to do, but don't do it themselves. They preach love, but don't live it. They have a scripture for everybody and they're proud of how much more they know than you. They're judgmental and think they're better than everybody else. Hypocrites are "suckers" and the good news they preach to everybody else isn't working for them, because they don't do the things that illustrates their love.

Don't judge people and look down your holy nose at them. Nobody is better than anybody else and you don't impress the world by being religious. Hypocrites are "traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness, but denying

its power. And from such people turn away" 2 Tim. 3:4, 5.

If you're not happy, maybe it's because you're not excelling in love and not doing anything for somebody else. It's the goodness of God that leads people to repentance ^{Rom. 2:4} and God wants to be good to somebody through you. If you're good to people they'll be more open to listen when you talk to them about Jesus.

An anointing abides in you ^{1 John 2:20}, so wherever you go, do something good to somebody, whether you feel like it or not. Get up every day and put yourself on deposit before God and say, "Use me, Lord. Here I am. Send me." Don't wait for somebody to say, "I'm hurting. Please help me." Go find somebody! David writes in Ps. 68:5, 6a ^{NIV}, "A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families;

He leads out the prisoners with singing..."

Go to your pastor and ask for a list of all the widows and

single parents in the church and then go out and do something for them. Bless them, encourage them, visit them, take them shopping. Forget the attitude that says "What about me?" and go find a single mom and give her some money and take her and her children to lunch. Pay her rent this month and send her some gift certificates to stores without letting her know you did it.

Adopt a widow and visit them and care about them. Being lonely is a terrible thing, and days are long and painful when nobody calls or visits you. Remember those in prison. Write them often and encourage them to have faith in God and that all hope is not lost. Do something and stop passing by on the other side of the street ^{Luke 10:31,32}.

Being a Christian is not just about going to church.

LOVE IS A SACRIFICE

You can't love people from a distance. "If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,' but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?" Jas 2:15,16.

How often at church do people hug one another, say "I love you with the love of the Lord," and then part ways and don't see or hear from each other until the following Sunday? Never tell a person you love them if you're not ready and prepared to get personally involved with their lives. If you're not ready to do this then your words are cheap and meaningless. People need to "see" Jesus.

Being a Christian is not just about going to church. It's about developing the character of God in our own lives so that people can actually see Jesus in what we do and say. We need to display the same love, attitude, and behavior that God has toward His Son and all the people in the world.

Love wants to give and doesn't feel put out when asked to do so. It looks for reasons and opportunities to get involved. This should be your goal in life. It shouldn't be about having enough faith so that you can get everything you want, or to get to the point where nothing bothers you and the devil never comes against you.

Your goal and purpose in life is to be living epistles read by all men, to represent God in this earth, to act like Him so that people who need Him can see Him through you.

BE ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE

The only way to truly be happy is to forget about yourself and to lose sight of your

own interests and what you want and need. Remember, it's not about you.

Those who love Jesus look for opportunities to be a blessing to someone else. Job writes, "When the ear heard, then it blessed me, and when the eye saw, then it approved me; Because I delivered the poor who cried out, and the fatherless and he who had no helper. The blessing of a perishing man came upon me, and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy" Job 29:11-13.

He continues in verses 15,16, "I was eyes to the blind, and I was feet to the lame. I was a father to the poor, and I searched out the case that I did not know."

Job took it upon himself to look for ways to bless other people. He was a man who excelled in love and further evidence of this is seen in Job 31:16-22,

Remember, it's not about you.

- "If I have kept the poor from their desire, or caused the eyes of the widow to fail, or eaten my morsel by myself, so that the fatherless may not eat it (But from my youth I reared him as a father, and from my mother's womb I guided the widow);
 - If I have seen anyone perish for lack of clothing, or any poor man without covering;
 - If his heart has not blessed me, and if he was not warmed with the fleece of my sheep;
 - If I have raised my hand against the fatherless, when I saw I had help in the gate;
- Then let my arm fall from my shoulder, let my arm be torn from the socket."

Everything we've been given by God should be used to bless another person's life. Job said if he could not use his arm to bless somebody, then yank it out because he had no use for it.

Love is a sacrifice and you can't love people without giving something up that is valuable to you. Give to the missionary who comes to your church the money you've been saving for your dream vacation so he can feed the poor in Calcutta. Let the single mother borrow your new car when hers has broken down. Stay home from that fishing trip with your buddies so you can help paint the walls of the Sunday school classroom. Help your neighbor move into their new home when you'd rather watch the championship ballgame on TV.

Make investments into the lives of other people and do it cheerfully without grumbling and complaining.

Take the initiative and offer to do these things without being asked. Most people don't do this. Most people are "suckers" (leeches) who make demands on other people and say "Give me! Give me!"

Declare war on selfishness and be good to people on purpose.

When you give with a right attitude you're more like God than at any time in your life. Love is a beautiful thing and the world is hungry to see what real love is really like.

It's your job to show them that the true love of God is not selfish; it seeks not its own; and is a higher, deeper love than what the world knows. Love is carried through vessels and it is your responsibility to be good to people all the time and show them what God is really like.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO HELP?

Get stirred up in love and be willing to be used by God to bless somebody else. Heb. 10:24 says, "And let us consider one another to stir up love and good works." Actively seek to make somebody's life better. The word "seek"

means to get up and go after it.

Turn off your television, pull yourself out of that easy chair, and go out and do something good to somebody. Show the world that you know God, and through you let them see what He is like.

1 John 4:7,8 says, "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God, and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love." You can't know God and go around being a "sucker" all the time. If you're continually using people for your own benefit, you don't know God.

Gal. 6:2-5 states, "Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one examine his own work, and then he will

have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For each one shall bear his own load."

The Message® Bible continues in verses 7,8, "Don't be misled: No one makes a fool of God. What a person plants, he will harvest. The person who plants selfishness, ignoring the needs of others - ignoring God! - harvests a crop of weeds. All he'll have to show for his life is weeds! But the one who plants in response to God, letting God's Spirit do the growth work in him, harvests a crop of real life, eternal life."

The love of God that comes "to" you doesn't benefit others until it flows "through" you. Ask yourself, what are you doing to help somebody? What are you doing to make somebody's life better?

Don't be super spiritual and go to Bible studies all the time. Go into the world and "be" a Bible study to those in need. Live what you've

Declare war on selfishness and be good to people on purpose.

learned. Your religion is useless if you don't do something good for somebody else. This is what it means to be so heavenly minded that you're no earthly good.

Start to creatively ask God, "What can I do?" You have compassion because God is in you and there is always something you can do. Don't ever assume you can't do anything. You can help relieve all the suffering in the world if you will let God baptize you with the fire of love (see Ps. 97:3).

Jesus died so people can be set free and it's your God-given obligation to get yourself off your mind and go out and do something for someone else. There is more going on in the world than what's going on inside the four walls of your house.

People who are "suckers" don't walk in love, because it's an effort and will cost them something, but Paul says in Eph. 5:1,2, "Therefore, be followers of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma."

It's time to take a stand against complacency, where you no longer close your eyes to the needs of others. Love finds a way to help. It makes no excuses. You are equipped with the love of God to make a positive change in the world. Now get off your couch and go do something. Now! Today!

Right this minute!

CHAPTER THREE

LOVE IN ACTION

Since the dawn of time, love has been one of the most misunderstood and abused words known to man. We all know love is important and that we are told to love one another, but most people would be hard pressed knowing how to do that.

One mistake many Christians make is they think if they've heard a lot about love that they're good at it. This is deceptive thinking, because it's not what you know that counts, it's what you do. The time is now for people to make up their minds and become a doer of the Word and not a hearer only James 1:22.

Do the Bible. Do what it says to do...

If the Bible says pray, then pray.

If the Bible says to sing praises and shout, then sing and shout.

If the Bible says give, then give.

If the Bible says be a witness, then be the best witness you can possibly be.

If the Bible says to have joy, then have joy to the fullest.

And if the Bible says to love, then love "with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength" Mark 12:30.

You've got to do it and work at it day after day, year after year. Jesus said in John 15:10a, "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love..." You need to live, stay, and continue in the love of God. You've got to grow in this love and learn more things and put it into

practice. When the decision is made to do this, then God will personally step in and teach you how to love one another (see 1 Thess. 4:9).

What was once a mental concept to you, can become a reality in your life when you put into practice that which you've heard. Walking in love is just not an ideal, it's something you do. It's an action, a command that must be followed wholly.

You can only learn so much from instruction, the rest you'll learn by doing it. It's the doing that causes growth to come, and in time walking in love will become second nature to you. You can do it without even thinking about it. Yes, God will

teach you how to love, but divine revelation only comes when you put the Word into practice.

It's the doing that causes growth to come.

MEDITATE ON LOVE

Wake up in the morning and lay down at night meditating on things you can do to keep the love command. Daily ask yourself, "Did I keep the command? Did I follow orders?" If not, it will open the door to the enemy in your life.

Be aggressive in your love for God and other people and by all means do not be led and controlled by your feelings. You can feel different in ten minutes than how you feel now, and fifteen minutes after that you'll feel different again.

Feelings are fickle and are forever changing. If you live by how you feel before long you'll be a basket case. Spiritual people are not controlled by their feelings, carnal people

are. That's why they're carnal. They quit when things get hard or when they don't feel like doing something. When you walk by feelings you cut yourself off from the blessings of God. The true love of God is not a feeling, it's a command, an order, and you can love the strongest when your feelings are at their worst.

The command to love would be an easy order to follow if all we had to do was love our family, friends, and loved ones. Even the heathen do that and in truth this is a selfish love because more than likely these people will love you back (see Luke 6:32,33).

The love of God, however, is different. It is not an ordinary love. It is a love that goes beyond our sensual feelings and reaches into the realm of the supernatural. So powerful and unique is the love of God that we are commanded to love the unlovable, to be kind to the unkind.

Jesus said in Luke 6:35, "**But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Highest. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.**"

The Message® Bible continues this revelation of love in vv. 36-38, "**Don't pick on people, jump on their failures, and criticize their faults - unless, of course, you want the same treatment. Don't condemn those who are down; that hardness can boomerang. Be easy on people; you'll find life a lot easier. Give away your life; you'll find life given back, but not merely given back - given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity.**"

Those who need love the most deserve it the least, but still the command goes out to love them the same way Jesus loves you. Luke 6:28,29 says to "**bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. To**

him who strikes you on the one cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold your tunic either." This is love in action.

LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED

The walk of love is an exciting, adventurous journey, and the Bible is our road map showing us the direction we should go. Ps. 103:7 says, "He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel." God will make known His ways to you and if you're willing and obedient He will personally teach you how to love one another.

Love is an action and the foundation this is built on is Rom. 13:10, "Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law." Love is the only law you need! Love does no wrong to any one and that's why it satisfies all of God's requirements.

It shouldn't cost people to be around you, so become more aware of the affect your actions

and words have on other people. Don't butt in line at the grocery store and don't cut people off on the highway. The flesh is self-centered and you can be so caught up with yourself that you walk over other people without ever knowing you're doing it.

It should grieve you if, through willingness or ignorance, you have hurt somebody else. Be not hard-hearted, but be sensitive to those around you. Have a tender heart and ask God to help you not hurt anybody. Be the type of person people can trust because they know you're not going to hurt them or take advantage of them.

People today don't trust those they should be able to trust. Husbands and wives don't trust one another, because they know they're the ones who can hurt them the most. You can't hurt people when you're walking in love. Love

Love is the only law you need!

prefers the other person and does no harm to a neighbor.

A Secret Service agent will take a bullet before they'll let the president take one. Likewise, love will hurt itself before it hurts another person. You can be physically strong on the outside, but be pitifully weak on the inside.

Weak people hurt others trying to prove they're strong, but this only shows how weak they really are. A strong person will absorb the punch and take the pain, thus making life easier for the other person.

Paul wrote in 2 Cor. 12:15, "And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved." Paul took the pain of not being loved in order that he could be a blessing to those he was ministering to. This is what happened when Jesus went to the cross. He loved the Father and us so much that He said, "I'll go to the cross. I'll take the pain. I'll do it." He endured the cross with joy ^{Heb. 12:2}.

Likewise, the Father so loved the world that He took the pain of seeing His only begotten Son hanging on the cross for those who were yet alienated from Him.

To be Godlike is to be willing to take the place of someone who is hurting. Jesus was willing to take your place on the cross and He did. Even today He is taking your place at the right hand of God "since He ever lives to make intercession for you" ^{Heb. 7:25}. The more we learn who God is and what He's like, the more we'll desire to be like Him:

- He's big!
- He's strong!
- He's tough!

- He's love!
- He's got you covered.
- He takes the pain for you and smiles all the while He's doing it.

If you love somebody you won't allow yourself to hurt them. Don't look at people when they're down. Don't exploit and reveal the faults of those around you, but instead cover it with love. 1 Peter 4:8 says, "And above all have fervent love for one another, for 'love will cover a multitude of sins.'" This is not a lying and deceiving cover-up, but a willingness to not expose and publish your brother's faults and past mistakes. We read in Prov. 17:9, "He who covers a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates the best of friends."

After the great flood, Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard. Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent. And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside"

^{Gen. 9:20-22}. This is not love.

People want to cover their own faults, but expose the sins of those around them. Prov. 16:27,28 says, "An ungodly man digs up evil, and it is on his lips like a burning fire. A perverse man sows strife, and a whisperer separates the best of friends."

Love doesn't want you to look bad. Love leaves you better than when it found you. Love covers a multitude of sins. Gen. 9:23 says, "But Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and went backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father's nakedness."

*God takes the pain for you
and smiles while
He's doing it.*

LOVE FORGIVES & FORGETS

Shem and Japheth did not look at their father in his current condition. They didn't see his nakedness and this reveals the nature of the Heavenly Father. He covers our mistakes, failures, and sin with the blood of Jesus. God remembers our sins no more ^{Heb. 10:17} and neither should you remember the sins of others.

We are to forgive and forget their sins as God has forgiven us and throws our sins into the sea of forgetfulness. Ezek. 18:21,22 states, "But if a wicked man turns from all his sins which he has committed, keeps all My statutes, and does what is lawful and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of the transgressions which he has committed shall be remembered against him; because of the righteousness which he has done, he shall live" (see also Ezek. 33:16).

If a person has genuinely repented, then do not ever bring up their past failures again. In heated arguments people keep bringing up things from the past. This is not right. This is devilish, for the devil is the accuser of the brethren ^{Rev. 12:10}. This is making a mockery of the shed blood of Jesus and is a blatant violation of the love command.

People feel bad and hang their head in shame when you bring up their past sins. Don't gossip about other people and don't be a talebearer. Don't look at the speck in your neighbor's eye when you have a plank in your own ^{Matt. 7:3}. You wouldn't want the skeletons from your past dug up from the grave, so treat others as you want to be treated.

LOVE IS KIND

...not harsh and abrasive. Paul wrote in 1 Thess. 2:7,8, "But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own

children. So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the Gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us."

This is also what Jesus was willing to do, and when you are dominated by this same love, you will do the same thing. You are a love child of a love God and just as God is strong, you also can be strong without being harsh. Those who are weak get harsh to make people think they're strong. This is deplorable and utter foolishness. Anybody can yield to their temper and be mean, but it takes a strong man to be soft and gentle.

Prov. 15:1 says, "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." A strong man who obeys the love command will smile and speak softly and will not be moved by what's going on around them.

A strong man who obeys the love command will smile and speak softly.

Prov. 16:24 tells us, "Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the bones."

If you want people to accept what you say and do, then don't walk around with a sour look on your face all the time. Sweeten up a little. Let people feel the warmth of love coming out of you, and let them sense in their hearts that you honestly care about them. Let your words flow with pleasantness, because it's not what you say that wins people over, it's how you say it.

Never speak evil of somebody else. Never say things that will make people think less of another person. Your words have power and evil words can change the perspective people have toward others. Love does no harm to a neighbor so "let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers" ^{Eph. 4:29}.

The Message® Bible says, "Watch the way you talk. Let nothing foul or dirty come out of your mouth. Say only what helps, each word a gift. Don't grieve God. Don't break His heart. His Holy Spirit, moving and breathing in you, is the most intimate part of your life, making you fit for Himself. Don't take such a gift for granted. Make a clear break with all the cutting, backbiting, profane talk. Be gentle with one another, sensitive. Forgive one another as quickly and thoroughly as God in Christ forgave you" Eph. 29-32.

Love builds up and edifies. Love recognizes and celebrates what's right about a person and does not focus on what is wrong. Just as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children, so does love care for others and seeks to bring encouragement into their lives.

David had the right idea when he cried out to God in Ps. 141:3, "Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips." He also said in Ps. 39:1, "I will guard my ways, lest I sin with my tongue; I will restrain my mouth with a muzzle..."

Paul writes in Phil. 4:8, "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy - meditate on these things."

The Message® Bible says, "Summing it all up, friends, I'd say you'll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious - the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse."

YOU ARE VISIBLY MARKED

Love is the distinguishing mark of the believer and love always sees the best in other people. Love shows mercy and never judges another person. Jesus said in Luke 6:36,37, **"Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful. Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven."**

How you treat others is how you'll be treated, so judge not. God didn't tell other people not to judge you, He told you not to judge them. This is a daily full-time job, because you'll be tempted to judge and find something wrong with every person you meet.

The word "judge" means 'to decide' and when you judge somebody you make a decision about them. You're deciding whether they're right or wrong, guilty or innocent, good or bad. To "judge not" means you don't have to make a decision concerning somebody else. There is only one Judge and you're not Him!

*There is only one Judge
and you're not Him!*

LEAVE JUDGING FOR THE JUDGE

Being a judge is not a pretty thing, and it reveals some serious flaws in a person's character. Too many people want to pass judgment on everything people do. They're always pointing a finger at somebody else saying, "You did this wrong and you did that wrong. I'd never do what you did."

Judging reveals a spirit of superiority, and if you're a judge [not of the municipal, state or federal kind], you're a hypocrite." Rom. 2:1 says, "Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things."

The Message® Bible says, "Those people are on a dark spiral downward. But if you think that leaves you on the high ground where you can point your finger at others, think again. Every time you criticize someone, you condemn yourself. It takes one to know one."

Judgmental criticism of others is a well-known way of escaping detection in your crimes and misdemeanors. But God isn't so easily diverted. He sees right through all such smoke screens and holds you to what *you've* done."

You can't love and do what you want all the time. Don't get offended and make a list of what other people did wrong to you. Don't be a record keeper. The reality of life is that you will never have a relationship with a person who never does something to irritate you. Never! You won't have a perfect spouse, child, friend, pastor, co-worker, or boss. So let it go!

Don't be so judgmental. Give people a break. Cut them some slack. Compliment them and keep records of all the good things people do and say, not the bad things. Remember, we all have faults and we probably irritate others as well.

God will put people into your life whom He wants you to love into wholeness. You need to lay your life down in order to help people feel good about themselves, to help them feel special and valuable. A lot of people feel worthless and how you treat them often determines how they feel about themselves.

All people need to be encouraged, so compliment them and magnify the good in them. Get people to talk about themselves, because listening to people makes them feel valuable.

Lay yourself aside and don't bring your

problems to other people. Selfishness always wants to talk about itself and this won't make you any friends.

***People don't want to hear
about all your problems
every time you talk to them.***

When you walk in love, you don't want people burdened with all your problems. Cast your care on Jesus ^{1 Peter 5:7} and don't tell people more than you need to tell them. They've got their own problems to deal with, so don't bring your burdens to other people. Besides, if you're walking in faith, other people won't know you've got problems.

Paul writes in Rom. 15:1,2, "We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples (weaknesses) of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification."

The Message® Bible says in vv. 1-3a, "Those of us who are strong and able

in the faith need to step in and lend a hand to those who falter, and not just do what is most convenient for us.

Strength is for service, not status. Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, 'How can I help?' That's exactly what Jesus did. He didn't make it easy for Himself by avoiding people's troubles, but waded right in and helped out."

John, the apostle of love, writes in 1 John 3:18, "My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth."

Love is patient and kind, but it also honest. It's difficult to have relationships with insecure people, because you don't feel you have the freedom to be honest with them.

Paul rebuked the churches of Galatia for

***Lay yourself aside and don't
bring your problems
to other people.***

turning away from the Gospel of faith and then wrote, "Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?" Gal. 4:16. You are not walking in love with people if you are dishonest with them.

A selfish person will tell you what you "want" to hear, but love will tell you what you "need" to hear. Eccl. 7:5 tells us, "It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise than for a man to hear the song of fools."

In today's society, lying is expected and accepted, but still honesty is always the best policy. The Lord said in Zech. 8:16,17, "These are the things you shall do:

1. Speak each man the truth to his neighbor;
2. Give judgment in your gates for truth, justice, and peace;
3. Let none of you think evil in your heart against your neighbor;
4. And do not love a false oath. For all these things I hate."

Don't have an attitude of superiority, but in meekness speak the truth in love Eph. 4:15.

Use the truth to enlighten, edify, and enrich others. Yes, the truth may hurt, but love helps ease the pain. Biblical love is a commitment to seek the highest good of the one loved, so be sensitive in how you talk to others. Truth without love can be brutal, but love without truth is hypocrisy.

INSEPARABLE TWINS

There is a universal need for truth and honesty is a characteristic of the mature in Christ. Truth is the element in which we are to live, move, and have our being. Truth, however, must be married to love. They're inseparable

twins. Good tidings spoken harshly are not good tidings. The charm of the message can be destroyed by the harshness of the messenger. Eph. 4:15,16 AMP says, "Rather, let our lives lovingly express truth [in all things, speaking truly, dealing truly, living truly]. Enfolded in love, let us grow up in every way and in all things into Him Who is the Head, [even] Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One)."

This is a verb that literally means "truthing in love" and has the idea of maintaining truth in both what you say and what you do. This is the recipe for which growth is maximized. "Speaking the truth" pictures the right doctrine and "in love" pictures the right spirit and attitude.

You cannot have an exact truthfulness that speaks the truth with blunt rudeness. Love does no harm to a neighbor, thus truth must be spoken with loving caution and kind allowance.

Confronting people with the truth may not always be easy, but every sacrifice has it's reward.

The reward for speaking the truth in love is freedom. Jesus said in John 8:32, "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." And whom the Lord makes free, is free indeed v.36.

Jesus said in Mark 8:34, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." Love is always going to cost you something. It will cost you your time, money, effort and energy. It requires you to put aside selfishness and self-centeredness.

The Amplified® Bible says, "Let him deny himself - forget, ignore, disown, and lose sight of himself and all his own interests." You can't walk in love and be selfish. Love is an effort and you must do it on purpose. If you're not willing to pay the price, you'll never love, and if you never love you'll never share God's glory.

Truth, however, must be married to love. They're inseparable twins.

Paul writes in Rom. 8:16-18, "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs - heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

You were born to love, so love on purpose! Love unconditionally even if people don't treat you right. You glorify God by living an excellent life and love is the most excellent way ^{1 Cor. 12:36}.

Love to glorify God! Sacrifice for Him! Love on purpose! Be willing to give up what you want so you can give to other people what they want. When you do this, God will step in and give you what you want. Bless others and God will bless you. What you make happen for others, God will make happen for you ^{Eph. 6:8}.

Trust God for your personal joy. Your responsibility is to let God use you to help make other people happy. Live for God and as His representative, love like God loves. Unconditionally!

Love is always going to cost you something.

CHAPTER FOUR

LOVE ON DISPLAY

Life is an adventure and those who walk in love will find that it is a glorious adventure. When the love of God has the first and last word in everything you do, you'll see how greener the grass gets and the better the birds sing. It will be easier to get up in the morning and you'll be less concerned about what your hair looks like.

As you abide and dwell in the manifested presence of His love, you'll rise to a higher dimension of life, because it gives you a different focus on what life is all about.

Love is more than a sermon you hear on Sunday morning. It's a lifestyle that you live, a habit of life that you develop where you strive each and every day to make people feel better about themselves.

People in the world don't want to hear about love, they want to see it in action. Paul wrote in 2 Cor. 8:24, "Therefore show to them, and before the churches, the proof of your love and of our boasting on your behalf."

Love must be proven. Show people what Jesus is like. God is love and people must see this love in how you walk, talk, and act. People want something real, something genuine, so make treating them with love the top priority of your life. Love not shown is not love at all. The world won't be won if you hide yourself in a closet all day and don't show them what the love of God is like. You owe them love. It's a debt that must be paid.

ABOUND IN LOVE

You impress people by loving them because most people don't know what true love really is. The love of God is a love that sacrifices, that lays down its life for other people, that goes out of its way to bring a blessing into their life.

People want to see by your actions what God is really like. They are not going to want Jesus until they first want what you have. People don't want sermons, but when they see Christ in you they'll want your love, your peace, and your joy. Be aggressive with your love walk. Do it on purpose. Ask God to show you something you can do to be a blessing to somebody else.

Paul says in Phil. 1:9, "And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment." Pray that your love will flourish and that you will not only love much, but well.

The Amplified® Bible says, "And this I pray: that your love may abound yet more and more and extend to its fullest development in knowledge and all keen insight [that your love may display itself in greater depth of acquaintance and more comprehensive discernment]."

Love is the most excellent way to live, so let your love abound and grow and display itself to greater measures every day of your life. No matter how good your love walk is it can grow to the point where you have abounding love, a love that chases people down and overtakes them, a love that displays itself openly.

Love is more than a sermon you hear on Sunday morning.

CHURCH IS A HOUSE OF LABOR

A crippling deception is in the church today, where the majority of the people believe that the ministers and preachers are the only ones called upon to do the work of the ministry. This type of thinking, if true, would cripple and limit the leaders of the church. They are all mortal, and if they don't get the proper rest because they are overworked, it will send them to an early grave.

At the same time it causes the people to not develop. You can't sit on a pew every Sunday and do nothing, and expect to grow and mature in the things of God. You can't sit and watch, and do nothing. Church is a place to work, a place of service.

Paul says in Eph. 4:11,12 that it is the responsibility of the leaders in the church to teach the people how to serve one another with brotherly kindness and holy hospitality.

Rom. 12:10-13 says, "Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality."

The Message© Bible says, "Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality." What good is being a Christian if you can't help somebody out during a time of need? If the need arises, don't hesitate to let people borrow your car or lend them some money. Don't be covetous or make an idol out of the things you have. People are more important than your material possessions, so treat them like royalty and make them feel at home when they come knocking on your door.

1 Peter 4:8-10 tells us, "And above all things have fervent love for one another, for

love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." You can be a channel God uses to meet other people's needs, and hospitality done properly will be most enjoyable.

The Message© Bible says, "Most of all, love each other as if your life depended on it. Love makes up for practically anything. Be quick to give a meal to the hungry, a bed to the homeless - cheerfully. Be generous with the different things God gave you, passing them around so all get in on it."

God takes it personal when you bless one of His children. He took it personal when Saul persecuted the church. On the road to Damascus He said, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" Acts 9:4. Likewise, He takes it personal

when love is shown to them as well. Jesus said in Matt. 25:35-40, "'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you

gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'"

Christianity is the life of the open hand, the open heart, and the open door. It is a great thing to have a door from which the stranger and the one in trouble know that they will never

*Church is a place to work,
a place of service.*

be turned away. The open door is the door of Christian welcome and Christian love for we are to identify ourselves with the needs of others and make them our own.

Christianity is much more than a pat on the back and a handshake. It means sharing the burdens and the blessings with others so that all grow together and glorify the Lord.

NEGLECT NO ONE IN NEED

When God's children are in need, be the one to help them out. Get into the habit of inviting guests home for dinner and, if need be, lodging for the night. Give freely to those in want and be eager for opportunities to show hospitality. Job 31:32 says, "But no sojourner had to lodge in the street, for I have opened my doors to the traveler."

Job repels the very thought that he could let the traveler be neglected. Christ's direction to the apostles to "take nothing for the journey" ^{Mark 6:8} presupposes that they were sure of always finding hospitality. It was assumed that they would even be able to make their own choice of hosts ^{Matt. 10:11}, and would be able to stay as long as they chose ^{Luke 10:7}.

In Biblical times, travel was dangerous and inns were evil, scarce, filthy, and very expensive. They were targets for thieves and prostitutes. This being so, the early Christians would welcome traveling believers, especially those laboring in the Gospel, into their homes even if they had never met them before ^{3 John 5-8}.

Hospitality was a highly valued Greek and Jewish virtue. It was absolutely necessary for the expansion of the Gospel and for the maintenance of the fellowship within the church as well as the image of the church from without.

The word "hospitality" means 'fond of guests' and the Greek word means literally 'a lover of strangers.' It means taking an interest in others and making them feel welcomed and at ease. This is a quality that every Christian must strive for and it should begin when people gather at church.

If you're talking to someone you know and see a visitor all alone, don't keep talking to each other. Go to the visitor and make him feel welcome. 1 Peter 4:9 ^{AMP} says, "Practice hospitality to one another (those of the household of faith). [Be hospitable, be a lover of strangers, with brotherly affection for the unknown guests, the foreigners, the poor, and all others who come your way who are of Christ's body]."

And [in each instance] do it ungrudgingly (cordially and graciously, without complaining, but as representing Him)."

Hospitality is a test for godliness.

Hospitality is a test for godliness, because those who are selfish do not like strangers (especially needy ones) to intrude upon their private lives. They prefer their own friends who share their lifestyle. Only the humble have the necessary resources to give of themselves to those who lack such resources.

Heb. 13:1,2 states, "Let brotherly love continue. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels." Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, because you don't know who you're being kind to.

The Message[©] Bible says, "Stay on good terms with each other, held together by love. Be ready with a meal or a bed when it's needed. Why, some have extended hospitality to angels without ever knowing it!"

Genesis 18 tells the story of three strangers

who came to visit Abraham one day as he sat in the door of his tent in the heat of the day. "So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground" ^{v.2}.

DON'T BE PRIDEFUL- BE A SERVANT

One must understand that Abraham was a very wealthy man who had hundreds of servants to do his bidding for him. Still, he personally took it upon himself to show holy hospitality to these three strangers who stood before him. He then said, "Please let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourself under the tree. And I will bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh your hearts. After that you may pass by, inasmuch as you have come to your servant" ^{vv. 4,5}.

Abraham was called the friend of God, because he would do anything God told him to do, go anywhere God told him to go, and give anything God told him to give. He was faithful and righteous and very wealthy, but still he humbled himself to the point where he bowed down before these strangers and called himself their servant.

Verses 6-8 continues the generous reception he gave his guests, "So Abraham hastened into the tent of Sarah and said, 'Quickly, make ready three measures of fine meal; knead it and make cakes.' And Abraham ran to the herd, took a tender and good calf, gave it to a young man, and he hastened to prepare it. So he took butter and milk and the calf which he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree as they ate."

Abraham did not walk to the herd, he *ran* to

it and this showed the fondness he had for his guests and his willingness to display his love by showing holy hospitality. Scriptures reveal that his guests were two angels and Jesus Christ in preincarnate form, and it was shortly after this meal was prepared for them that they announced that Sarah his wife would have a son ^{v.10}. Thus began God's plan to have a bloodline through which His Son would one day be born. All this happened because Abraham was aggressive in his kindness to his three guests. One can only imagine what would have happened had he not been hospitable to them.

In Genesis 19 a similar encounter happened to Abraham's nephew Lot. "Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground. And

Lot was hospitable to those who came to save his life.

he said, 'Here now, my lords, please turn in to your servant's house and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go your way.' And they said, 'No, but we will spend the night in the open square.' But he insisted strongly; so they turned in to him and entered his house. Then he made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate" ^{vv.1-3}.

Lot was hospitable to those who came to save his life. What if this kindness had not been shown? Also, 1 Kings 17 tells the story of a widow woman who fed the prophet when she had almost nothing to give.

Don't be prideful and turn people away, just because your couch has a hole in it. Love the stranger who comes knocking on your door, and let the Lord lead you and guide you in what you should do. This woman sustained the prophet during a time of famine and she put his needs above her own and those of her son. As a result

of her kindness, the bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, and she and the prophet and her household did eat for many days ^{vv. 15,16}. What if she had not been hospitable to the stranger who came knocking at her door?

MAKE ROOM FOR THE NEEDY

Some Christians have been known to build extra rooms onto their homes in order to provide for traveling evangelists and missionaries on furlough. This happened in 2 Kings 4 and we read in v. 8, "Now it happened one day that Elisha went to Shunew, where there was a notable woman, and she constrained him to eat some food. So it was, as often as he passed by, that he turned in there to eat some food."

This great woman constrained the man of God, and this means she literally grabbed onto him and physically forced him to eat food at her house. She and her husband was practicing holy hospitality and this means to...

"Follow or press hard after, literally to pursue as one does a fleeing enemy; an intensity of effort leading to a pursuit with earnestness and diligence in order to lay hold of."

Verses 9,10 says, "And she said to her husband, 'Look now, I know that this is a holy man of God, who passes by us regularly. Please, let us make a small upper room on the wall; and let us put a bed for him there, and a table and a chair and a lampstand; so it will be, whenever he comes to us, he can turn in there.'" This took time and money, but they did it anyway.

Like this couple, you also need to get in a position where you can bless people. Take them out to eat, buy them things, let them stay with you for a while. Start now right where you're

at. As a result of this couple's efforts they were blessed with a son they were unable to have. What would have happened if hospitality had not been shown to the traveling man of God?

Paul writes in Eph. 2:10, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." You were born again to do good works and the word "good" means 'pleasant; to do pleasant, beautiful works, appropriate, beneficial works.'

The Message® Bible says, "He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join Him in the work He does, the good work He has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing." Doing good works

is to be the believer's supernatural and Spirit empowered lifestyle and habitual practice. Continual

earnestness and diligence must be displayed in order to show holy hospitality.

Luke tells of the hospitality of Lydia when he writes in Acts 16:15, "And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.' And she constrained us."

In Acts 28 we read that on the island of Malta "there was an estate of the leading citizen of the island, whose name was Publius, who received us and entertained us courteously for three days" ^{v.7}.

Luke 10:38 tells where a certain woman named Martha welcomed Jesus and His followers into her home. To do this same thing will cost money, and for sure people will get dirt on your carpet and leave water marks on your coffee table. Dirty dishes will be piled high in your sink, but you can't look at this as an inconvenience. This is all part of your Christian

*For we are His
workmanship, created in
Christ Jesus for good works.*

testimony, your walk of love. Later Martha's brother Lazarus died and got raised from the dead by Jesus. What if Martha had not been hospitable to her welcomed guests?

VISIBLE TO THE HEART

People are supposed to see your love. When they do, they see who God is and what He is like. Daily make a choice to do something on purpose that will bless another person. Treat people the way God told you to treat them, whether you feel like it or not. Not feeling like it does not relieve you from the responsibility of doing it.

Push your feelings aside and love on purpose. God said in Is. 55:8,9, "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.'"

God has a higher way of doing things, a better way, and the goal is for us to walk in His way. He'll direct you to where you should go and then He'll show you the way to get there. Prov. 16:25 says, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."

Every time you have an opinion, it's right in your own eyes, but if you see things His way, you'll walk in the light. David wrote in Ps. 138:23,24, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." David asked God to look at his thoughts, because at first he wanted to do things his way. He knew that God has a specific way of doing things and he asked God to show him where he was in the wrong and then to lead him in His way.

LOVE IS A WAY OF LIFE

God's way is the way of love. Love is not an emotion. It's a lifestyle and a spiritual force. It is God, and love is the way of the Lord. When you "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" ^{Matt. 6:33}, you are seeking His way of doing things and of being right.

You can't serve two masters. You can't serve God and still seek to do things your own way. Anything with two heads is a freak. There is one Lord, one Master, and His way is the way of love. Love is the highest way, the more excellent way. Get on fire for God and seek to love others on purpose. Love will find a way to give when there seems to be no way.

People are suppose to see your love.

Luke 5 tells the story how some men who carried a bed with a paralyzed man on it, who was brought to Jesus so

that he may be healed. Verse 19 says, "And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the housetop and let him down with his bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus."

A heart motivated by love doesn't quit. When love sees a roadblock, it seeks a detour. Love can't be stopped. It's committed, and when it saw no way into the house it literally took the high way and went up onto the roof.

Jesus looked up and saw their work of faith motivated by love ^{v.20}, and moments later the paralyzed man rose up healed and whole, and began to glorify God. Your labor of love has possibilities of eternal value, so never devalue that what you do in love. Faith and love working together always gets what it aims to achieve.

GOD AND YOU ARE LOVE

God is love and you can be also. Be love to somebody else. Choose to do acts of love and obey what Paul said to do in Col. 3:12-

14, "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection."

Love shown, love on display, can change the life of another person dramatically. It can change the direction of their life, where in time, they will become a completely different person than what they would have become had love not been shown to them.

Love makes a difference, a big difference, so be determined day in and day out to display love wherever possible. Love will lead you and give you the opportunity to make people feel special and important.

*Seek to acquire love,
make it your aim,
your great quest.*

You help people change by letting them see Jesus in you. You do this by walking in the light of God's love. 1 John 2:10 says, "He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him." Pursue love!

^{1 Cor. 14:1} Eagerly pursue it, crave it, go after it. Seek to acquire love, make it your aim, your great quest. Be mindful to be a blessing to others. God's love is unconditional, so always be aggressive with your love walk.

And remember, some folks make you feel at home, others make you wish you were.

CREDITS

Foreword, Climbing to Obtain: ^{1, 2, 3} Associated Press, BBC News, Daily News, Popular Mechanics.

About the author:

Randall J. Brewer has been conveying the mind of God for more than thirty years, and we believe he's just getting started.

Raised in an abusive home, Randall has overcome numerous obstacles throughout his life by his trust in the One True God of the Bible. Writing for the Lord, Randall will put pen to paper anywhere the Lord finds him. From the comfort of his home to sitting in his car in a frozen Illinois parking lot, Randall can tell you that when the Spirit of the Lord is upon you to move... you move wherever you are.



Gifted with the Holy Spirit's willingness to express God's attitude and clarification of the Word, Randall has distributed a myriad of his publications worldwide over the years. Thousands of requests pour in each month needing the ministry teachings of Randall and the Holy Spirit's revelation of the character of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the King. Countless ministers throughout the world are using Randall's teaching as a basis for their sermons and study guides.

For more information about all Randall's publications, go to our website:

www.rjbrewerandcompany.com