

## The Spirit of Love

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“God is love” (1 John 4:8). His love cannot change because He does not change. His love had no beginning and never will cease. Because God is infinite, His love is infinite. His love is pure and holy. In deed, His love is incomprehensible.

The apostle Paul wrote words of encouragement to believers saying, “the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us” (Romans 5:5; cf. Gal. 4:6).

The Holy Spirit makes the love of God so abundant in the believer’s heart that it overflows (1 John 4:8, 16). He is the divine Agent who expresses the love of God to the believer.

“The fruit of the Spirit is love” (Gal. 5:22). The apostle Paul gave eight aspects of that love. The fruit of the Spirit cannot be imitated. It comes from our abiding in Christ. As the Spirit of love abides in us He bears His fruit to the glory of God.

It is great assurance for the Christian to know that we are now God’s children and that God loves us. Before we were saved God demonstrated His love by sending Jesus to the cross to die for our sins. Now we have the inner experience of His love through the Holy Spirit that sustains us in our daily life.

His sustaining grace gives us patience in our trials and enables us to live to God’s glory.

God’s kind of love is created and fulfilled in us by the Spirit of love.

The apostle John wrote, “Behold, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has beheld God at any time; if we love one another, God

abides in us, and His love is perfected in us” (1 John 4:10-11).

The evidence that we are the children of God is this divine love dwelling in us. “Hereby know we that we dwell in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. . . God is love; and he that dwells in love dwells in God, and God in him” (1 John 4:13, 14).

Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would live and abide in us forever. The evidence that the promise is true is seen in the fruit the Holy Spirit bears in our lives. The New Testament teaches us that the fruit of His abiding in us is love (Gal. 5:22-23). The apostle John tells us this, too.

When the Holy Spirit fills our hearts we see men and women as Jesus sees them. There is no greater ministry for the believer in Christ to do than to demonstrate and share the love of God in Jesus Christ to those who have never heard or seen it in action. I pray the Spirit of love lead us to the individuals the world over who have never experience the love of God. May the Holy Spirit break our hearts with the things that break the heart of God.

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

How does an invisible God reveal Himself to the world? He reveals Himself in the transformed lives of His children. The lost world looks at us and sees the difference and they ask how can this be. Why are you different? What is it that gives you this quality of life? If we abide in Christ, we will love one another and the world will see the difference. That love is a reflection of God’s love in us.

“The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love” (1 John 4:8).

“God’s love will be experienced *in* us and then will be experienced *through* us.”

Abiding in God’s love is made possible by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (1 John 4:13). What a privilege to have God abide in us. We have God’s Spirit

living in us as a permanent resident. Let's give Him permission to settle down and make Himself completely at home in our hearts. We abide in His love, and we experience the abiding of God in us.

“If you love Me you will keep my commandments,” Jesus said (John 13:34; 15:12). What did He say was the greatest commandment? God's love is perfected in the believer. God's love is made perfect in you and me, sinners saved by the grace of God. He reveals His love through us. May our lives be a constant testimony and demonstration of the Spirit of love abiding in us.

“God is love, and he that dwells in love dwells in God, and God in him” (1 John 4:16).

Selah!

Message by Wil Pounds (c) 2006

**Let's Pray**

**Dear heavenly father. I pray that this message will minister to the hearts of the person that is reading this devotional. I pray this is Jesus name. Amen**