

The Expression of His Love

For many years, religion has painted us a false picture of an angry God, but we know from 1 John 4:8 that “God is love.” God didn’t become love after the Old Testament. If you read the Old Testament without understanding, you can be confused about the character of God. God gave the Israelites the Law in the Old Testament to show them they needed a Saviour. In the Old Testament, God had no expression on the earth except the Law. “The letter kills but the Spirit gives life” (2 Corinthians 3:6). God needed to express Himself other than the written Word. He sent His son into this world to express His love to you and me. If I want to know what God the Father looks like, all I have to do is look at Jesus. God is so absolutely in love with you! The full expression of His love for you is Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God. He is the One who went to the whipping post and was spat on. He’s the One whose beard was pulled out, had a crown of thorns put on His head and then pounded down into place. He hung naked on the cross for you and me. Your sin has been paid for. Your guilt and shame, it was all laid upon Him, once and for all. He’s the One that has shown you forever, how much He loves you! He loves you with an unconditional, everlasting love! This is a love that the world does not know.

Ephesians 3:17-19 says that God wants us to experience this God kind of love: “That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height – to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” God is Love and in order to demonstrate that love, He had to give you someone to look at. We are to look at Jesus, “the author and finisher of our faith” (Hebrews 12:2). The Bible is our blood covenant! I don’t care what religion you may have been tied up

in; God loves you and He expressed His love for you through His son Jesus. In order to understand the love of the Father, you need to examine His life. Jesus said in John 14:9, “If you have seen me, you have seen the Father.” Jesus is the very expression of the Father.

Zephaniah says that God rejoices over you with gladness and singing (Zephaniah 3:17). When He thinks about you, He rejoices! He is so in love with you! You are the apple of His eye (Zechariah 2:8)! He shed His blood for you to let you know how much you are loved. Do you know anyone else who would do that for you?

The world has been indoctrinated by religion, but people need to know that they can be right with God. They need to know about the love of God. So many people, even the ones sitting in church, do not know the love of God. If you truly know the love of the Father, you are not looking at what you are doing but at what He has already done. Don’t try to disqualify yourself from the love of God and undo what He did at Calvary; once was enough. Because of Jesus we can come boldly into His throne room of grace (Hebrews 4:16)! We have a Heavenly Father who loves us! What Jesus bought and paid for belongs to us!

While God expressed His love through Jesus, the only way He can express Himself in this world today is through you and I. We can’t express Him properly if we are sick, broke, angry and sad. The love of God has been shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost (Romans 5:5). We need to express God in the way that Jesus expressed God. God’s greatest prayer for us is that we would prosper in all things and be in health, just as our soul prospers (3 John 2).

2 Corinthians 5:18 says, He has given to us the ministry of reconciliation. We are ambassadors for Christ! People are waiting to see what we have; we need to let them see Christ in us, the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27)! We have

a treasure in an earthen vessel (2 Corinthians 4:7). It's the goodness of God that leads men to repentance (Romans 2:4). God wants to manifest His goodness through us!

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God” (1 John 4:7). God wants to manifest Himself to the world through

you and I. I encourage you to take time to meditate on the love of God and receive His love for you. His love and goodness will be seen by all those around you!

~Pastor Gary Hooper

Tearing Down Strongholds

The enemy is trying to keep you blind to the things of God, to keep you from victory (2 Corinthians 10:3-6). There's a battle going on! God has given you weapons that are not of the sense realm. You're not fighting against people; you're fighting in the spirit. You can't fight the devil in the sense realm. When you were born again, God gave you weapons. Jesus paid for them at the cross. They're not carnal but mighty through God (2 Corinthians 10:4). He has given you everything you need: the Word, praise, His name, the Holy Spirit and the Gifts of the Spirit (love, joy and peace). These weapons will help you overcome every situation that comes along.

Strongholds are houses of uncontested, negative thoughts, false arguments, reasonings, presumptions, pride, addictive behaviours, anger, pornography, abuse, every towering obstacle erected to prevent man from knowing God (2 Corinthians 10:4). You can't do this on your own. You need God! You have to protect your mind from what you hear and see and train yourself not to react. We all have stuff that we can't resist. Willpower will not do it! We have to submit to God (James 4:7), and say, “Lord, my flesh is weak. I have a problem. I need Your mercy to help me.” If you practice submitting to God every day, He is faithful and will help you, if you are serious about it. If you mess up, repent. God's mercy is new every morning. Stay away from the things that are a bad influence in areas where you are tempted. Resisting it is not doing it! Take hold of every thought and make it obey Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5).

Fear, like faith, comes by what we say. We get into reasoning when we think of all the ways faith won't work, or all the ways we won't overcome. If left unattested, reasoning will become a towering fortress that rears itself against God's Word and keeps us deceived. Reasoning needs to be challenged with God's Word. If you think negative thoughts, it's enmity against God's Word (Romans 8:7). The house has to be blown up! You're responsible to change the way you think and to renew your mind to think like God (Romans 12:1-2). How do you stop negative thoughts? Think about what the Word says and it will control your thoughts. Say, “No! That's a lie. Jesus paid the price for me. By His stripes I am healed. I am a child of God. I am redeemed.” Every time

you have a negative thought, if you fill your thoughts with God's Word it will do its work in you. After a while, what you're saying out of your mouth will get into your heart. Every thought you allow in your mind is either a battle lost or a victory gained. You have to set up boundaries and not let your mind go rampant. Thoughts against the Word will come, but you must cast them down and speak God's Word. The higher thoughts of God's Word are the route to victory.

If a test comes and you're not joyful, you have a stronghold that needs to be broken (James 1:2-4). You can have joy during these trials because through them you learn patience so that you may be mature, complete, fully developed, perfectly equipped, entire, wanting nothing, lacking nothing, without defect, no deficit, in nothing coming short (James 1:4). Rejoicing is a weapon! Suffering with Christ is resisting temptations, overcoming your flesh, the world and the devil (1 Peter 4:12-13). Your faith, like gold, needs to be purified. Tests and trials apply heat. As the heat increases, impurities rise to the top of the gold and are then taken off. A gold refiner looks into the gold until he can see his reflection. Jesus looks into you to see His reflection. When the heat comes, more impurities are taken off the top. You can rejoice because the image of Jesus is being created in you.

If you feed your heart faith with your mouth when you don't need it, then when tests, trials or temptations come your heart will feed your mouth faith when you do need it. Faith will be the first thing out of your mouth. You've demolished those houses. The devil can't tempt you there anymore. Put the Word in your heart every day so it will come up out of your heart.

You are a free moral agent and can do what you want to do. You have freedom, but freedom, without boundaries, becomes bondage. So watch out! Uncontested thoughts open the door to the enemy to have access in your life. You have to close the door on the enemy. Mark 4:14-20 talks about the sower sowing seed. You can have what you want. What do you want?

~Pastor Nancy Hooper

The Anointing of Partnership

God wants to partner with you so He can get what He has to you and through you. I started thinking about partnership and Malachi 3:8 came to mind: “Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.” When you read, “Will a man rob God?” it just sounds bad. However, if you look at it in the light of partnership then it means that you are robbing God of the opportunity of being a blessing to you. God wants to partner with you in all that He has and all that He is. He wants to get the blessing to you, but if He can’t get it to you because you can’t believe Him under the umbrella of tithes and offerings, then you’re robbing Him of the opportunity to bless you.

Malachi 3:10 says, “Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.” In other words, just bring it and let’s get this partnership thing started; let’s hook up together. He wants to bless us.

Partnership is formed when people come together to accomplish what one person can’t do alone. The resources of each partner become available to the other to achieve a common goal. In financial partnerships the partners share in the finances, in intellectual partnerships the partners share in their knowledge, and in spiritual partnerships the partners share in their supply of the Spirit. They become partakers of each other’s anointing and grace. Whatever ministry you partner with, there’s an anointing and grace which you have readily available to you.

Partaker in the Greek means, a co-participant, companion, a fellow participant, a joint partner, one who shares jointly with someone else in a possession or a relationship. In Philippians 1:2, we can see that we’re going to become partners of the grace that’s upon Paul. Not God’s grace, but Paul’s grace. Everybody has a certain supply. He said that as his partners, you’ll share with him in the grace that God has given him to carry out his ministry.

Consider Elijah and Elisha. Elisha asked for a double portion. Why? Because he was a partner with Elijah and he did do twice as much as Elijah. So when you partner with a ministry you should expect to do twice as much as that ministry you’re partnering with. Could you imagine doing twice as much as Kenneth Copeland? That ministry is touching the world and when we tap into that we have the

opportunity to do twice as much.

In 2 Kings 4 we read about the Shunammite woman and can see that there is a benefit to partnership. It’s one of those things that just keeps on going. She was so determined to be a partner that in verse eight it tells us, “she constrained him to eat bread.” She just wouldn’t take no for an answer. She knew something was up and she tapped into it. She and her husband built a special room for him. The more she did for him, the more that he did for her because of the anointing of partnership.

The favour of God is activated through partnership and it keeps on going. We’ve got a perpetual thing going on here but unless we draw on it we’re going to rob ourselves. So we have to stir ourselves up to the fact that we’ve got partnership and partnership has privileges. If you are in partnership with a ministry which is doing the work of God, fighting alongside through your prayers and/or your giving, you will receive an eternal reward for every person who is born again, every believer who is strengthened or healed or delivered as a result of that ministry. You have a part in that and it goes to your account.

Kenneth Copeland said, “Partnership is designed by God to dramatically increase the abilities, the resources and the rewards of every believer. If you will believe and act on the principles of partnership, you will tap into a spiritual goldmine that is so deep and so rich that you’ll never be able to plumb the depths of it.”

~Pastor Paul Wilson

Fear Not!

I’m going to speak on fear. Not on the word fear, but on two words: fear not. We all experience times of fear in our lives. If we don’t, we’re not human! All through God’s Word, great men of God experienced fear, even Noah. God told him to build an ark to save his people, his family. The Bible says that Noah “moved with fear” and he built the ark (Hebrews 11:7). Do you realize that if Noah hadn’t built the ark and saved the people that no one would be saved today? We wouldn’t be here. I’m glad that Noah had that fear and built the ark.

The Lord spoke to me one day to go pray for a lady in our community who had fallen and hurt her back. I said, “But Lord . . .” How many times do we say, “But Lord?” When you’re in the army and you are told to go, you go! You don’t say, “But Lord” or “But so and so.” The devil was telling me not to go and I said, “Get thee behind me! The Lord told me to go!” I went and prayed for this lady and asked her, “Do you believe God can heal you?” She said, “Yes I do.”

I asked her husband the same question. The Bible says, if two agree, it shall be done (Matthew 18:19). We can pray for anyone we like, we can be as happy as we like, but the most important thing is knowing Christ as your Saviour and having Him in your heart. We joined hands and prayed and as I was leaving, I turned back and the Lord told me to tell her, "She's alright." He didn't say, "She's going to be alright." How many times do we say that? Soon she was moving her feet with no pain. Then she moved to the side of the bed. She remembered the doctor had said, "*Don't move for two weeks,*" and wondered if she should get up, but Brother Pierce said, "*You're alright.*" She got out of bed and started washing dishes. We don't take God as seriously as we should. He is our Guide, our Leader, our Healer, our

Everything. The Lord healed me and saved me and all He was asking me to do was go tell it. When God tells you to do something, do it! You should be so thankful that you are saved. I often think of the words of Mary. She didn't have a clue what Jesus would do at that supper, but she said to the people, "Whatever Jesus says to do, do it" (John 2:5). God has made us and He has healed us.

When God called John, he was a very fearsome man. The man didn't care for anything or anybody. It's our business to tell people about the Lord. And John was that kind of man. "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day" (Revelation 1:10). John was alone, yet on the other hand, he was in the spirit on the Lord's Day. What a place to be! Hallelujah! He "fell at His feet as dead" (Revelation 1:17). The Lord picked John up and he stood.

One time I was lost while fishing and I called to my Father to help me. He came and put His arms around me and placed His hands over mine and steered me to safety. When I got to the wharf, the hands lifted. God got me there. He didn't move until I was safe. He will stay by your side, that's God's promise. "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20).

When Peter got out of the boat to meet Jesus, he was doing great until he saw the waves; then fear came on him. When fear comes, your faith gets dim. Don't let fear fill your heart. The Bible tells us that "perfect love casteth out fear" (1 John 4:18). John was the closest to Jesus of all the disciples. And when the Lord spoke to John He said, *Fear not! Since you and I spoke, I have been to hell and back; I've been to the cross and back; I've been to the tomb and back, and when I returned from hell, I brought back the key. Hallelujah! I've brought back the key to sin and death (Revelation 1:17-18).* Fear not!

~Reverend Basil W. Pierce

Editor's Note: Reverend Basil Pierce has been in ministry since 1947. He has dedicated his life to preaching the Gospel and is still going strong today.

Salvation Prayer

Heavenly Father, I come to You in the Name of Jesus. Your Word says, "Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved" and "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Acts 2:21; Romans 10:9). You said my salvation would be the result of Your Holy Spirit giving me new birth by coming to live in me (John 3:5-6, 15-16; Romans 8:9-11) and that if I would ask, You would fill me with Your Spirit and give me the ability to speak with other tongues (Luke 11:13; Acts 2:4).

I take You at Your Word. I confess that Jesus is Lord. And I believe in my heart that You raised Him from the dead. Thank You for coming into my heart, for giving me Your Holy Spirit as You have promised, and for being Lord over my life. Amen.

If you have prayed this prayer, you are born again. Welcome to the family of God! Contact us today and we will send you our free salvation package which will help you become rooted and grounded in your new life in Christ.

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Offering & Prayer Requests

Do you need someone to stand in agreement with you in prayer? We will be honoured to pray for and with you concerning financial breakthrough, salvation for loved ones, healing, wisdom and much more; we want to stand firm on the Word of God with you in prayer! Call or mail in your prayer requests or offering today in the envelope provided.