

"THE WORDS OF THE LORD ARE PURE WORDS, LIKE SILVER TRIED IN
A FURNACE OF EARTH, PURIFIED SEVEN TIMES.
YOU SHALL KEEP THEM, O LORD, YOU SHALL PRESERVE THEM FROM
THIS GENERATION FOREVER." (PSALM 12: 6 & 7)

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“Jesus Christ our Love” (Part II)

As we continue to discuss the issue of Love, my prayer is that Father would bless you and me with a deep revelation of “Agape Love”. May He speak Truth to us in Love as He draws us into Himself. Let it be unto us as it is written.

“...when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; He will glorify me, for He will take of what is Mine (Love) and declare it to you.”
(John 16:13a & 14) Emphasis Added

Let it be Lord! --- Amen!

Dear saints, if I have learned anything that I would stake my life on as it relates to Truth, it is this: Apart from Jesus Christ, I not only can “do” nothing, but spiritually speaking, I “know” nothing, and “am nothing”. Everything pertaining to Life, Truth and Love – Everything – is found in Him. To make that statement is easy indeed. I am sure that most, if not all evangelicals would agree with me. However, to make that statement is one thing, but to walk it out in reality, is something else altogether. The absence of meek humility and a contrite spirit proves my point.

Twenty or so years ago, I was serving as a District Governor of Rotary International. At that time I was not spiritually awake. I was a professing Christian and member of a church, but I was not spiritually awake. I knew all the Christian “buzz words”, I tithed and warmed the same pew every Sunday morning, but I was not spiritually awake.

During those years, I believe that I was very sincere in what I was doing and saying. Others must have believed so, because I blended right in, and was not only accepted, but I believe they respected me. In fact, I was invited to speak from the pulpit and to a Christian boarding school on more than one occasion. Pastors sought my advice on financial matters and church building plans. Oh yes, I was quite sincere – sincerely wrong! It was all an illusion. It was not the real thing. There was no “Life” in it, and therefore there was no “Love” in it. I was self deceived and became an accomplished deceiver. Paul described such behavior in his second letter to Timothy, when he said:

“Evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.” (2 Timothy 3:13) Emphasis Added

During that season of my life, I found myself attending a Rotary Zone Meeting (involving mostly southern states). I believe we were at Calloway Gardens in Georgia. One evening at the close of the conference, my wife and I were fellowshiping with several other District Governors, and the hour being late, we got up to leave and return to our room. The following day we were to return to Kentucky. I had met a man at that conference who was my counterpart from Point Clear, Alabama. He and I had enjoyed each other, both of us having a Real Estate background and a similar sense of humor. After we said our goodbyes and were walking out of the room, my new friend called out to me and said, "I love you Tom Isaac!"

"I love you Tom Isaac." – Those words were spoken to me nearly a quarter of a century ago, by a man that I had only known for three days, and I can still hear them today. I have never seen that man, nor heard from that man again, since that evening. At that time in my life, the words "I love you", spoken by a man to a man outside one's family, or the church, were rare indeed. In fact, it was so rare that it made a lasting impression on me. While I cannot be absolutely certain, I am reasonably confident that those words spoken to me some 20+ years ago, were the real thing. I believe Father spoke to me, through one of His sons. God was wooing and drawing me to Himself. "Love", was speaking to me and calling out to me -- and I was beginning to wake up.

"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him;" (John 6:44a)

I had heard the words, "I Love you" outside my family many times, as they were spoken in Sunday School class rooms and in the church sanctuary, but I never heard them in my spirit until that late night in a hotel in Georgia.

In July of last year, my Dad, W.T. Isaac passed away at the age of 88 years. During the last few years of his life my wife Judy and I made it a point to be in closer touch with Dad and Mother as they needed our assistance. During those years I always ended my visit or telephone call by telling Dad that I loved him. He always responded by telling me that he loved me. There never was any doubt between each of us that we loved each other. Our years together proved that fact. However, upon reflection, I realize that far too often my words, "I love you Dad", were just rote. They carried no life in them. They were spoken from my flesh and therefore, while they expressed a truth, they were empty words – they were dead words. My expression of love toward my Dad had become nothing more than a "form of love", but without power. Much like the majority of Christian religion that we see today. Paul described our condition in his second letter to Timothy (see chapter three, verses one through seven).

While I was going through this season with my Dad, something changed. I believe that our heavenly Father intervened as He had promised to do.

**"He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;"
(Philippians 1:6)**

During the last year of his life, my Dad's words changed. Instead of a mechanical response to my lifeless words, he spoke the same words as he had in the past – "I love you son" –but now they were filled with Life – they were filled with Love – "I love you too, Son." Our heavenly Father had intervened and spoken to me through my earthly father, and by His grace, I had ears that could hear the voice of the Spirit of God saying: "I love you too, Son."

I realize that this is all very personal. I could not expect it to impact you as it has me. My reason for sharing this experience with you is because it is a very real example of our relationship with God. My prayer is that you will use my experience to evaluate your own personal love relationships. Not just with your family and friends, but more importantly with your Father and your Lord.

There is no greater issue of life for man than that of Love – Agape Love. We have already talked about 1 Corinthians 13: 1 – 3, which clearly states, that without Love, we are “nothing”. Do we believe that? That without Love, we are nothing? Our current behavior would indicate that we do not believe those words. Remember God’s words to Adam in the Garden;

“but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” (Genesis 2:17) Emphasis Added

Now then, remember what Satan said to Eve when she responded to Satan’s temptation to ignore God’s words by quoting what God had said (“you shall surely die”).

“Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.” (Genesis 3:4)

Who did Eve believe – God (“You shall surely die”) or Satan (“You will not surely die”)? When God speaks to us today and says, “If you have not love you are nothing”, and Satan speaks to us and tells us that God understands us. That even though we have not the Agape Love of God in us, we are nevertheless “Something”, and should fear not God’s words. Who then do we believe, God or Satan? For me, I have chosen to believe God and in return, He has begun to lift the fog of deception and reveal to me how lacking I am in His Love. The fruit of His Truth working in me is repentance and a healthy fear of God. While I make no claims of having my heart now filled with His love, I can tell you that Father is true to His word and He is proving that to me as He confirms His word in my heart:

“And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.” (Deuteronomy 30:6) Emphasis Added

“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.” (Ezekiel 36:26)

“being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;” (Philippians 1:6)

Dear reader, never forget that our Father loves honesty and hates, with a perfect hatred, hypocrisy. Especially religious hypocrisy. When we loosely tell people that we love them, especially relating to our Christian walk, when in fact we do not love them, we are counted among the hypocrites in the eyes of God (Matthew 23:1-38). We are reduced to “nothing” – whatever that means in God’s understanding. One thing I am certain of – it is not good news! We may fool everyone around us, but we will not fool God! Hear the words of our Lord:

“But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you.” (John 5:42)

I fear that many Christians, well intentioned Christians, active in good works Christians, church serving Christians -- will one day hear a voice – “Like the sound of many waters” (Revelation 1:15) – saying; “I know you, you do not have the love of God in you.” I cannot imagine the horror of hearing those words, and yet, many will. May God have mercy on us all and wake us up before our time runs out.

Regardless of what we may have been taught to the contrary, there is no greater issue before true believers today than that of love – Agape Love – “God”, manifesting Himself as Love – in us – in you and in me!

Dear saints are you aware of the number of references to the subject of “Love” between Genesis 1:1 and Revelation 22:21? There are more references to “Love” than there are to heaven, hell, fear, obedience, faith, judgment, healing, miracles, speaking in tongues, tithing, prophecy, preaching the gospel, the church, etc. Except for references to God, Himself, I find no other subject that is mentioned more often than “Love”. There are approximately 480 references to Love in Father’s word. Seventy-two of those references are attributed to Jesus alone. My numbers may not be exact and that is not important. The point that I make to you, is that God is serious about the issue of His Love – in us. Everything hangs in the balance!

The issue of Love all started with God, not with man – “For God so loved the world, that He gave __ _.” (John 3:16) In return for His unconditional Love, God commanded that we “first” -- more than anything else in life – Love Him.

Jesus said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 22:37- 40)

I cannot overstress the importance of Love when it comes to man’s relationship with God. A man may believe in God and still go to hell, joining the demons there who also believe in God (James 2:19). A man may walk out his life in perfect obedience to all of God’s commandments, except for that of Love, and still go to hell, joining those who have not Love (1Corinthians 13:1-3).

“He who does not love does not know God, for God is Love.” (1 John: 4-8)

**“If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.”
(1John 4:12b)**

“God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him”.

“If someone says, “I love God”, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?

And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.” (1 John 4:16b, 20 & 21)

“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

“He who does not love Me does not keep My words;” (John 14: 21 & 24a)

The majority of we Christians today are so void of Love – Agape Love – that we are in danger of being eternally separated from God. We are so busy performing our Christian duties that we have no time left to allow our Lord to “perfect” His love in us. We are so busy promoting and defending our ministry, our personal beliefs and our favorite doctrines that we no longer have time for Love, except of course for our own. Instead of Lovers of God, we have become lovers of “self” (2 Timothy 3:2). Instead of focusing on our God’s first and great commandment to Love Him and then allow Him to love those around us, through us – we have become lovers of our religious idols. We have become “body” (church) worshipers. We love our church. We love our pastor. We love our favorite teacher. Above all we love our self. We love and we worship the body – while neglecting the Head! Is it any wonder that the church today is so full of corruption, i.e. a lack of faith, divorce, fornication, adultery, lust, greed, sexual perversion, doubt, unbelief, and every other foul thing that one can imagine? All are the direct result of the absence of Love – Agape Love!

Dear saints, Love bears the fruit of unity, not division. Love, bears the fruit of forgiveness, not unforgiveness. Love, bears the fruit of humility and meekness, not pride. Love bears the fruit of peace, not strife and war. Love, bears the fruit of giving, not receiving. Love, bears the fruit of obedience to God’s commandments, judgments and precepts, not rebellion and disobedience. Yes my friends, Love – Agape Love – is the very likeness and image – the reflection of God – in us. We cannot create it, nor put it in ourselves. It is totally a God birthed thing in us. It is God, Himself, being true to Himself, in and through us. Jesus spoke much about Love, and His word is the last word on the subject, as far as I am concerned.

“Whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.” (1 John 2:5 & 6)

There is much more to say on this matter. We will continue as our Lord leads _____. In the meantime, I urge you to find time to separate yourself from all the clamor, the voices and the religious activity, and ask your Father to examine your heart as it relates to His love. There is no greater issue before God, than the issue of “The Love of God” in you and in me.

God Bless,

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Your Brother, Tom

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