

## Walking in Love. Part 4 Getting the balance

### Recap :

#### Our measuring Stick.

1 Cor 13 : 4-8. 4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails.

**Love is Patient.** Long suffering. Is able to endure evil and provocation.

**Love is kind.** The greek word is a doing word. It refers to performing an act of good will towards someone. The act of being kind. It is talking about living the lifestyle of doing things to benefit others. This kindness seeks opportunity to do good and does not wait to be pressured into doing something by guilt, manipulation or sense of duty.

**It does not envy, Is not jealous.** Of others receiving undeserved blessings, jealous of their gifting, of their popularity, of their prosperity.

**It does not boast,** To display ones own greatness above another's. To try to impress others with your own experience or knowledge.

**It is not proud.** Self opinionated. Arrogant , Conceited. To think of oneself more highly than another.

**It is not rude,** does not act not unseemly, does not treat others badly, is not impolite, ignorant or bad mannered.



**It is not self-seeking,** It is not selfish. Thinks of others well being even at the expense of their own. Does not seek to enforce their own rights or own way but seeks only that which is in line with the will of God for others.

**It is not easily angered,** Is not irritable, touchy, fretful or resentful.

**It keeps no record of wrongs.** Makes no records of evil done to them, does not bear a grudge, does not bring up past misdemeanours for another to remember in order to strengthen your case against someone or make a point. Pays no attention to a suffered wrong. (not to be confused with the legitimate use of past experience to teach and encourage others )

**Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.** It does not enjoy injustice or ungodly behaviour but delights when right prevails and truth is magnified.

**It always protects,** It believes the best of everyone, seeks to cover others faults and failings rather than expose them to others. Though we are free to tell others of their faults in private, we are not meant to put them on public display.

**Always trusts.** It is always willing to trust, though godly wisdom also allows for caution to be exercised when someones character has been proven to be dodgy.

**Always hopes.** If trust is brought into question then hope comes into play. Love always hopes for the best for others, knowing that we serve a miracle making God.

**Always perseveres.** Love will keep hoping, keep protecting, keep doing good, love will just keep on loving when all others have fallen away.

Invite questions at this point .



## 1/. The contrast drawn between love and gifts.

1 Corinthians 13: 13. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. 1 Cor 14: 1. 1 Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy.

The three essential graces that we need to go through life as effective christians.

**Faith** rises to the revelation of God's promises for us to receive His blessings and brings peace of mind into problems of life. We are to exercise faith in what we believe. When we reach heaven, faith will have nothing left to focus on.

**Hope** fixes on the future joys of heaven.

We are to get encouragement and draw strength from our hope.

A/. In the future rewards that only the resurrection can reveal.

B/. Biblical Hope is the confident expectation of a good outcome. Hope holds onto the character of God, knowing and trusting in a Good who is good.

Hope is something that when we reach heaven, we won't need. Hope will have nothing left to hope for. Its is for the hear and now of humanity. An anchor for our human souls.

A ship puts down anchor during a storm, in order to keep them in position. Preventing them from being driven off course or onto rocks.

**Love** fixes on the divine qualities of perfection themselves and produces fruit that will last forever. When we reach heaven, love will be rewarded and perfected for eternity.

## Getting the balance between Spiritual gifts and walking in love.

1 Follow the way of love and eagerly desire (ZELOO, zealous, covet) spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy.



## **Follow the way, or pursue.**

Follow the way is a weak translation of the greek word dioko which carries the connotation “to drive”. It is used in Pauls words, “I press on to the upward call”. The word gives a sense of determination and force in purpose to love. “I will and am going to love you.” To put into practice the way of love. As opposed to wanting to receive or desiring to be loved.

**Matthew 11:12 AMP** From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violent assault, and violent men seize it by force [as a precious prize].

**Testimony : Me and my sister.**

## **The dangers of reversing the priorities.**

We are to Pursue, to go after with determination and force, to put into practice the ways of love, and desire, have a wanting for the gifts of the spirit. Not pursue gifts and desire love.

**Question :** Are we in danger of pursuing our gifting and desiring to be loved.

When we pursue our gifting and desire love, it exposes our need for identity, recognition, praise, acceptance, affection, belonging, a sense of importance, of significance or purpose.

**Love never fails.** Ekpipto. “To fall out of”.

Gifting won't keep you from falling away. Gifting is without repentance and therefor will never be taken from you through bad behaviour or abuse.

**Invite questions at this point .**



## Some benefits of walking in love.

Who ever is determined to imitate Christ and follow the way of Love, is going to experience a greater measure of The Holy Spirits work in four main areas of their lives.

**1/. Prayer.** Walking in Love, will allow your faith to grasp the promises of God with confidence.

1 John 3 : 16. By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17. But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? 18. My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. 19. And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. 20. For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. 21. **Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. 22. And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.**

Having confidence before God, knowing that we are pursuing the walk of love, gives us a sense of freedom in prayer.

Testimony : Me and Steve.

**2/. Protection.** James 1: 12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to **those who love him.**

STATEMENT : You don't know you're in a trail unless you know you're in a trail.



**Those who love Him.** Without discernment or self awareness given to us by God, none of us would even be aware of the fact that we were being tested or tempted in the first place. When you love God, He, the Holy Spirit, will not allow you to be taken by surprise. But makes us aware of the enemies schemes. Love will always bring to our attention the reasons for our struggles in order for us to deal with them and keep us on track.

### **3/. Perseverance**

**12Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial,**

Love will hold you in position. To those who love Him. It is love that will get you through the trials, not gifting. When emotions are beaten and bruised through life's trials and enemy attacks, our love for God will bring the strengthening power of the Holy Spirit enabling us to hold our heads up above the waters of despair and stop us from sinking and drowning in self pity, doubt, deception and disobedience.

### **4/. Promotion.**

**James 1:12Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.**

To those who love Him. The crown of life. Speaks of authority. Proving leads to promoting.

**Invite questions at this point .**

### **Some more benefits of walking in Love from**

**Song of Song 2 : 4: He has taken me to the banquet hall, and his banner over me is love. Jahovah Nissi.**

A banner was a large military flag that kept a fighting unit together. In the noise and dust of the battle, soldiers needed a visible sign to keep them together and stop them from being separated from their fellow soldiers.



**a/. Love will keep you involved.**

The banner reminds you that you are a part of something bigger than yourself. That you are a part of an army. The skills (gifting) that we have been trained with could mean the difference between life or death to a fellow soldier. If I choose to put down my gun and stop fighting, a member of my squad could get seriously injured or even killed. Love reminds us that we are needed, despite our own insecurities or feelings of insignificance.

**b/. Love will keep you together and on track.**

When the sparks are flying. When the battle gets rough and bloody. When smoke is clouding your sight. Love that is held high above your head will aid you in keeping close quarters with the rest of your squad. Trials have a habit of distracting our attention so that we lose sight of our fellow soldiers and wander off. There we can become isolated and vulnerable to even greater attacks.

**c/. Love will keep you focused.**

When the noise of battle deafens us and we can't hear. Then the smoke gets so thick that we can't see, We may wonder if our orders have changed and we question our objectives. It is then that we need to look to the banner of love and keep following the squad. Not trusting in our own judgement but surrendering our opinions and worried considerations to the officers. Trusting that they have not lost sight of the plans for battle.

**d/. Love will keep you compassionate.**

Love reminds us who is on our side. Though many of our squad may get wounded by the enemy, maybe even through their own fault, we must never shoot our wounded. Love should cause us to want to cover their wounds and heal their hurts. Not expose their wounds and cause them more pain.

Question : Are we waiting for someone to give us a reason to show them love through a word or deed? Love is to be given and not earned.



Invite questions at this point .

### Challenge

Am I basing my christian legitimacy on the premise that I can speak in tongues, prophesy, cast out demons, heal the sick. Though I can move mountains with my faith but have not love, I am nothing. Am I trusting in my spiritual gifts to give me a right standing before Jesus or a prominent position in church?

