



POWER OF LOVE (PART 1)

John 13:34 (KJV) "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."

Our Lord Jesus Christ gave us this commandment. He said we should love one another. Nothing beats love. A powerful Christian is the one who loves the most. A prayer warrior is not more powerful than the one who loves, a miracle worker is not more powerful than the one who loves. The one who loves is the greatest of them all.

1 Corinthians 13:13 (NIV) "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

The Apostle mentions in the scripture above the top three qualities that remains unshaken after the rest has failed and these three are FAITH, HOPE and LOVE, but of these three, LOVE is the greatest.

You may think you need faith to move mountains but without love faith does not work because the scripture says faith works through love (***Galatians 5:6***). Love is greater than hope, love is greater than faith. Even if you are to have a healing gift and you have no love then you will be like a witch doctor (sangoma) because if your power is not working in love, it becomes evil.

HOW TO EXPRESS LOVE?

1. Empathy

Empathy is the ability to understand and share the feelings of someone. When you love someone, you are able to feel their pain and their sorrow. If you are not empathetic, then you are not loving

enough. If you want to see whether you love someone or not, just check if you are empathetic towards that person. Look at the scripture below

Hebrews 13:3 (KJV) "Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body."

Do you see brethren that the scriptures are teaching us to feel the pain of others as if we were suffering with them? That is what is called empathy. Love without empathy is empty and fake. Love expresses itself through empathy.

If you are looking for a prayer partner, find someone who is empathetic towards you, someone who feels the same pain as you, someone who understands what you are going through. Many people make mistakes when finding people to help them pray for certain issues, they chose powerful people or well-known prayer warriors instead of choosing those people who are empathetic towards them. A powerful person who does not feel what you feel about your problem is useless, you need someone who feels for you, like he/she is going through the same problem, such person's prayer is heartfelt and can generate power, such person is motivated to spend time in prayer for you because he/she understands and feels what is at stake.

Many people will follow powerful people to be prayed for by them, some may even pay such people to pray for them but I tell you today, it is much better for your cell group leader or your local pastor who feels your pain to pray for you than a powerful person who does not have any connection with you to pray for you (It is not wrong to seek prayed for by other servants of God). You will be shocked to discover that some people forget about your problems as soon as you leave because there is no empathy in them towards you. Never make a mistake of looking for power over empathy.

My prayer partner is always my wife Sarah, we do not need to both be very powerful to pray for each other, we only need to use our empathy towards each other to pray.... I feel what she feels, I understand how she is feeling therefore my prayer for her is more accurate. Sometimes before you get the pastor to pray for you, allow your husband/wife to pray for you first because of their high level of empathy towards you.... Let us continue tomorrow from where we left today. Hallelujah!

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POWER OF LOVE (PART 2)

HOW TO EXPRESS LOVE?

We continue today from where we left off in the previous episode. We are talking about ways to express love to one another.

2. Sympathy.

Yesterday we spoke of empathy as a way of expressing love. Today let us also deal with sympathy. What is sympathy? It is a deep understanding of what the other person is going through or feeling sorry about what the other person is going through.

You cannot show love without being sympathetic to others. Sympathetic people are sensitive to how the other person feels because they understand what they are going through. If someone loses a close relative or is facing serious marital problems, your sympathy will give that person some comfort. Sometimes just a strong hug or just a rub or just a good word may be of great help. The other person only wants you to show him/her that you understand what he/she is going through.... Remember people do not care about what you know, they simply want to know if you care. Sometimes it is not about what you will say to them but just show that you care. People appreciate your care/your concern than your words.

The reason children grow up closer to their mothers is because of the sympathy that mothers have. If you are sympathetic to someone, you bring that person closer to you. The reason why pastors are loved is because of the sympathy they always show. Today, learn to be sympathetic towards your spouse, understand what she/he is going through trying to make it work for both of you. I can tell you that if you are sympathetic towards one another, before you know it, you will also be close to each other. Sympathy heals a lot.

3. Compassion.

You cannot love without being compassionate. Compassion is the deepest of both sympathy and empathy because with compassion you feel the pain of the other person, you understand it really well but you do not stay there, you go on to try and alleviate it.

Look at Jesus in **Luke 7:13 (KJV)** "And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not."

Jesus felt the pain of the widow who had lost her only son. He understood it and purposed in His heart that He is going to do something about it. That is compassion. At a funeral, there are sympathetic people, empathetic people and compassionate people, all these are expressing love towards a friend but compassionate people make more difference.

Jesus was moved with compassion and He raised the widow's son. Compassion is therefore love in action.

4. Giving.

Love without giving is fake. You can give without loving but you cannot love without giving. "For God loved the world and he gave his only begotten son Jesus, that whosoever believeth in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (**John 3:16**).

It is easy to feel loved when you are given something. Our gifts explain our love better

than our words. In places where your words can be doubted, your gift can give more assurance. We do not only give money, we give time as well, we give our labor.... all these are an expression of love.

If you love something, you give it your time. If you love the Lord before you give Him money, give Him your time. When you give, you act your love. If you are married, make it a culture to bless each other with small gifts.... they will explain your love for each other better.

Brethren the subject of love is so expansive, we will try to summarize it to make sure that we get all the basics in this series. We continue tomorrow on another dimension of love. Amen

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POWER OF LOVE (PART 3)

1 Corinthians 13:8 (NIV) "Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away."

Love never fails...it's a quality in love. Where everything else fails, where prophecies as nice as they are fail, where tongues, as powerful as they are fail, love will triumph.

Speaking in tongues and prophesying and working miracles are very powerful things but these the bible say will pass away and will all fail at some point but love will remain.

Today let us learn from God himself our Father. God, since the fall of Adam has been trying to reach to people and narrow the gap that was between him and the people. He used various methods to show people that he indeed was their God the Almighty one. One time he answered them by

fire at mount Carmel through prophet Elijah (**1Kings 18:21-40**), It was a powerful manifestation but still people went back to their idols. All that show of power and that great miracle work was a waste.

God at one time gave them the law which was very stringent to try and solve the problem of his lost relationship with mankind but instead of the law achieving what it was intended for it achieved the opposite. It made the relationship between God and man worse (**Romans 7:8-15**). Paul says instead of the law (the ten commandments included) bringing life to him, it brought death, which means what God had planned to give life, gave death instead. It really frustrated Him.

God then introduced punishments to those who would not adhere to his instructions, He brought disease, droughts and wars as a way of punishing the people to turn back to him but still it didn't help. Every other attempt of God to bring his people back to himself failed including even spoiling them by giving them manna and quail in the wilderness, still man second guessed God. What would then work?

Now God found a new solution and it worked perfectly well. The solution is recorded in **John 3:16** "for God so LOVED the world, that he gave his only begotten son Jesus...."

We see now that God moved away from laws, punishments, prophesies, miracles to resort to only loving the people. All those other ways had failed dismally but love conquered. That's why Jesus came and said, "I only give you one commandment and the commandment is love another." (**John 13:34**).

If anything can't change a person, maybe it's stubborn child or a misbehaving colleague...punishment though it helps may fail, restrictions may also fail but love will not fail. Where war fail, love will win. This is how powerful love is.

A loving church is more powerful than a miracle working church, a loving family is more powerful and happier than a wealth family.

Seek to love. Love can change the world. Love cannot fail. Amen

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