



BECKY COMBEE MINISTRIES, INC.

Love Wins!

At various undefined intervals, I find myself face to face with a person or involved in a situation that challenges God's great command to love others. Jesus Himself voiced this directive saying, "Love one another; as I have loved you."¹ What an overwhelming command!

Some days this principle seems beyond my grasp. But in those times, I remind myself of Jesus' sacrifice for sin and of the life and nature of God which now dwells within me because of my faith in Him. The apostle Peter tells us that through our Savior Jesus Christ we have obtained faith and are partakers of the divine nature. Of course, the divine nature is the nature of God Himself.²

The nature of God is defined in the Scripture as eternal life. Although many define eternal life simply saying it means to live forever, we realize that the sinner will live forever, but he does not have eternal life. With this in mind, we understand that eternal life must be more than length of life. And, it is!

When we possess eternal life, we have in our spirit the life of the eternal one, the divine nature. The apostle Paul said it this way, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature."³

One of the interesting facts about the new creature, or new creation, was also written by the apostle Paul. He declares that the love of God has been poured into our heart.⁴ It is with this love – God's love – that we love others. God's love must dominate our lives.

God's Word ignites the flame of love that is in our heart.

However, our body, mind, and emotions frequently object to love's domination. When pressed beyond measure, we are tempted to retort, "She can't do that to me. I'll not put up with that. That's totally unfair." The voice of the flesh always represents its own interests.

Yet, God has commanded us to be kind, longsuffering and unselfish.⁵ He also declares that God's children are not easily provoked.

The New Living Translation writes that “Love is patient and kind ... Love does not demand its own way. Love is not irritable.” In the New Century Version we read that love “does not get upset with others. The Contemporary English Version declares that love “isn’t selfish or quick tempered.”

So, what can we do to strengthen our walk of love when we are challenged by the principles of love? Well, there are two things that always work. First, we meditate in the Scriptures that explain God’s love. We must remember that the Word of God is alive. It is so much more than a book. By meditating in its life-giving principles, God’s Word ignites the flame of love that is in our heart – that has been in our heart since the day we were born again.

When we meditate in God’s Word, we read it over and over again. We are not interested in large volumes of Scripture, but in one verse or one principle that stirs our heart and quiets our mind and emotions. It is like standing by your fireplace on a cold winter’s day until you are warm or staring at the ocean’s waves until you are saturated in peace. The Word of God changes us.

At Thanksgiving, we have a great feast and we eat until we are full – too full. I don’t suppose there are very many people that stop eating before they are filled to capacity. In like manner, the Word of God fills our spirit and we must keep pondering its declarations until we are certain that God’s life and power is working in us. We must stick with it even if it takes many hours or even many days.

I always know when I have eaten too much food. It isn’t long before I am talking to myself, questioning my judgment. Yet, when I have eaten and eaten God’s Word, I am filled with His life again and I am overjoyed. Now, I can obey God!

PRAYER

The second important instrument of love’s victory is prayer, particularly praying in other tongues. In Jude 1:20 we are told that speaking in other tongues builds us up. Recently, one pastor said that it constructs or builds things in our heart. What a wonderful picture this paints for us. I can envision a construction crew working diligently in my spirit as I pray.

According to verse 21, one thing that is built up in our heart is God’s love. In the Message Bible we read, “Carefully build yourselves up in this most holy faith by praying in the Holy Spirit, staying right at the center of God’s love.” Here, it is evident that as our spirit

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is strengthened, particularly by prayer, we will more ably represent the love of God. We will not be too far to the left or too far to the right, but in the very center of His loving commands. Oh, what a revelation! God lives in us! His love dwells in our heart and we are equipped by His Spirit to represent Him.

Now, we are sure that angry, hasty and unkind words will not declare His love. A critical and judgmental attitude cannot say God loves you. Selfishness never decrees His loving kindness. But the Word of God and the Spirit enable us to overcome these ungodly foes. With their help God’s love will flow from our lives in abundant measure. Then, selfishness dies. Impatience and unkindness retreat and angry words disappear. And love wins.

When love wins, I win. What a glorious victory!

¹Jn 13:34 ²Pe 1:1,5 ³2Co 5:17 ⁴Ro 5:5 ⁵1Co 13:4-5