



# No.1

## DEVELOPING GOD'S LOVE

Romans 5:5

**“And this hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts and still floods them through the agency of the Holy Spirit who was given to us”.**

We need to learn from God's Word how to develop God's love. This study will encourage you to not only experience, but also develop God's divine love.

It is a fact that God's love has been already poured out in our hearts. The question is, how do we experience and develop this powerful, supernatural, divine, sacrificial love of God? How do we apply it into our lives and share it with others?

We need to understand that this love is sacrificial. We suffer for the sake of righteousness. What righteousness? We are the righteousness of God. God's righteousness in us is linked with God's love. The love of God will always bring His righteousness. When we share God's love through our sacrifice we are automatically displaying God's righteousness.

Romans 3:22

**“indeed, God's righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe, for there is not a distinction,”**

It is a fact that we are the righteousness of God, but unfortunately, too many Christians are unable to experience it.

**We are to rejoice when we suffer for Christ. Suffering for Christ's sake is a blessing.**

1 Peter 4:13

**“but insofar as you share in common with the sufferings of Christ, be rejoicing, in order that also at the time of the unveiling of His glory, you may rejoice exultingly.”**

We are to suffer for the sake of righteousness in order to become spiritually prosperous. We are not to be affected spiritually by others or by circumstances.

1 Peter 3:14

**“But if even you should perchance suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are spiritually prosperous ones. Moreover, do not be affected with fear of them by the fear which they strive to inspire in you, neither become agitated.”**

### **God's description of Divine Sacrificial Love**

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 and 14:1

**“If in the languages of men I speak and the languages of the angels but do not have love [Greek word here used of God's love produced in the heart of the yielded saint by the Holy Spirit, a love that impels one to deny himself for the sake of the loved one], I have already become and at present am sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And if I have the gift of uttering divine revelations and know all the mysteries and all the knowledge, and if I have all the faith so that I am able to keep on removing mountain after mountain, but am not possessing love, I am nothing.**

And if I use all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I deliver up my body [as a martyr] in order that I may glory, but do not have love, I am being profited in not even one thing. Love meekly and patiently bears ill treatment from others. Love is kind, gentle, benign, pervading and penetrating the whole nature, mellowing all which would have been harsh and austere; is not envious. Love does not brag, nor does it show itself off, is not ostentatious, does not have an inflated ego, does not act unbecomingly, does not seek after the things which are its own, is not irritated, provoked, exasperated, aroused to anger, does not take into account the evil [which it suffers], does not rejoice at the iniquity but rejoices with the truth, endures all things, believes all things, hopes all things, bears up under all things, not losing heart nor courage. Love never fails. But whether there are utterances given by a person consisting of divine revelations he has received, they shall cease; whether languages, they shall stop, whether knowledge, it shall be done away; for we know in a partial, fragmentary, incomplete way, and we utter divine revelations in the same way. But whenever that which is complete comes, that which is incomplete and fragmentary will be done away. When I was a child I was accustomed to speak as a child. I used to understand as a child. I was accustomed to reason as a child. When I have become a man and have the status of an adult, I have permanently put away the things of a child, for we are seeing now by means of a mirror obscurely, but then, face to face. Now I know only in a fragmentary fashion, but then I shall fully know even as also I was known. But now there remains faith, hope, love; these three. But the greatest of these is this previously mentioned love.

Be constantly pursuing this love, earnestly endeavoring to acquire it. Moreover, be earnestly desiring the spiritual gifts, and do this in order that you might more efficiently impart to others the divine revelations you have received”

## Called to suffer

The Kingdom of God is totally opposed to our “earthly kingdom”. We believers are called to suffer, to suffer for Christ. When we suffer for Christ, we develop God’s love. Sacrifice makes us grow because we are identifying with the sufferings of Christ. Christ’s love took Him to the Cross and we are called to imitate Him by suffering for others in righteousness and in obedience to His Word.

Matthew 6:33

“But be seeking first the kingdom and His righteousness, and these things, all of them, shall be added to you. Therefore, do not begin to worry about tomorrow, for the next day will take care of its own interest. Sufficient to the day is its trouble.”

We will only suffer for Christ as we seek His Kingdom and His righteousness. When we live according to the “earthly kingdom” we will not develop God’s love. It is only as we get out of our “comfort zone” and stop putting ourselves first that we experience the power of God’s love. God’s love is power and will give you victory over whatever circumstance, relationship or struggle you are facing, as you act in righteousness with God’s love.

## Suffering as a result of unrighteousness

Suffering because of our wrong doings of the flesh will bring only pain, sorrow and defeat. This kind of suffering, we are to avoid. Instead of developing God’s love, these kinds of sufferings only develop negative emotions leading to all kinds of problems and eventually, to defeat. To suffer as a result of unrighteous deeds is pointless and will actually affect your life and the lives of others; your spirituality; and will also hinder your growth in Christ. It is now Christ who lives in us by the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 2:20

“With Christ I have been crucified, and it is no longer I who live, but there lives in me Christ. And that life which I now live in the sphere of the flesh, by faith I live it, which faith is in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself on my behalf.”