



No.3

DEVELOPING GOD'S LOVE

The Grace of God

James 4:6

“Moreover, He [the Holy Spirit] gives greater grace. For this reason [in conformity with this] He [the Holy Spirit] says, God sets himself in battle array against the arrogant and haughty but gives grace to the humble and lowly.”

Nobody wants God's opposition and yet so many Christians allow pride and self-reliance to steal God's blessings. God opposes the proud; this means He cannot bestow His grace to bless pride. He will never deny His Word.

As we seek to develop God's love in our soul (mind, will and emotions) we need to realise that pride is poison. We cannot experience the grace and love of God fully while being proud, arrogant, haughty or entertaining self-pity or inferiority, etc. This is the reason why many Christians don't experience the love and the power of God in their lives and consequently cannot share it with others.

The two sides of pride

Pride is like a coin; it has two sides. On one side we have pride manifesting in arrogance, haughtiness, superiority, etc. On the other side it manifests in low self esteem, self pity, inferiority. Both are self-centred and will always block the grace of God. We receive everything by God's grace. This does not mean that a person is not saved, but that a believer who is proud and self-centred will miss out on God's grace and blessings. God's love still resides in the believer, but the love of God will not be experienced in its fullness and power when there is pride.

Jesus is love and humility

Humility nullifies pride. Again, we cannot experience the love and grace of God in its fullness unless we embrace humility. God is love and He wants to produce the fruits of the Holy Spirit in us in order that we reflect the love of Jesus in our lives. The fruit of the Holy Spirit is connected with God's love.

Galatians 5:22

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control. Against such things as these there is no law.”

The Lamb and the Dove

This is a powerful display of the character of Jesus. God depicts Jesus as a lamb and the Holy spirit as a Dove. Both creatures are harmless, gentle and pure. These creatures don't display aggression, violence or danger. This is why God has selected the lamb and the dove to represent the character of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. God did not choose a lion or a bear or any other powerful animal; He chose gentle creatures, powerless in the physical realm. Another display of Jesus' character was when He entered Jerusalem on a donkey instead of on a powerful horse.

The Lamb

The lamb is Jesus, the lamb of God. The lamb of God is the only one who could open the scrolls in the book of Revelation (Revelation 5:1-8) not the “powerful” Lion of Judah, but the sacrificial lamb.

This is the character we ought to imitate. The lamb (Jesus) could open the scrolls because He had authority. How did He obtain this authority? By being a loving sacrifice. In the same way, we obtain God's grace and authority through humility, sacrifice, obedience.

The Dove

The dove is the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus, it manifested like a dove, pure, gentle and beautiful.

John 1:32

“And John testified, saying, I have beheld the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He abode upon Him.”

The Holy Spirit is powerful, He is God the Holy Spirit, and yet, He never forces Himself on us. He is gentle, kind and possesses all the attributes of the Father and the Son.

The Holy Spirit is in us to help us develop the wonderful character of Jesus. We just need to yield to Him to defeat the enemy's temptations. We need to develop the character of the lamb and the dove; this is how we experience the supernatural, divine sacrificial love of God.

The character of Satan

We need to be aware that many of the “traits” we display are a faithful imitation of Satan. Satan rebelled against God because of envy and pride.

What are these traits? Pride, arrogance, envy, ambition, self-reliance, putting self above God. God opposes the proud as much as He opposed Lucifer when he rebelled against Him. Lucifer is now called Satan, the chief evil spirit, the great adversary of humanity, the devil.

We need clarity in order to not allow ourselves to imitate Satan. It comes naturally to us as humans, because we have a sinful nature. Thus unless we allow the Holy Spirit to be our helper, comforter and counsellor to nullify the sinful nature, the character of Satan will automatically emerge by the flesh through our emotions, words and actions.

Be aware!

You need to discern when you are operating in the flesh and imitating Satan. I can assure you that you will not allow yourself to yield to the sinful (evil) nature and to Satan when you are spiritually alert. The sinful nature has no power when you depend on the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:19-21

“Now the works of the evil nature are well known, works of such a nature as, for example, fornication, uncleanness, wantonness, idolatry, witchcraft, enmities, strife, jealousy, angers, self-seekings, divisions, factions, envyings, drunkenness, carousings, and the things of such a nature which are like these things, respecting which things I am telling you beforehand even as I told you in advance, that those who are in the habit of practicing things of that nature shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

God's wisdom

Developing the love of God is not to be seen as a “big mountain” to claim. It is simple, first, the Bible teaches us to take one day at a time. If you are spiritually alert just for one day at a time, it becomes an easier target. It is spiritual awareness, God's love, our minds and hearts yielding to the Holy Spirit just for one day. This fixes your problems for the rest of your life. Just one day at a time.

Matthew 6:34

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.

DEVELOP THE LOVE OF GOD JUST ONE DAY AT A TIME AND TRUST THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR POWER