



No.4

DEVELOPING GOD'S LOVE

The two sources

It is clear there are only two sources: **THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE SINFUL NATURE**. The Holy Spirit cannot display the character of the beast (Satan). Conversely, Satan (the sinful nature) cannot display the character of the Lamb. There is no middle ground, either we imitate Jesus or we will automatically imitate Satan. Either the light or darkness.

It is crucial that we take hold of this mighty truth in order to identify and discern the works of the devil. **The Lamb of God is love and all the wonderful attributes of Jesus.**

Satan wants to cause us to follow him. How is this done? Satan and his demons will invite Christians to take the bait and allow the works of the devil to be displayed in their lives. If we let him, Satan will oppress our souls, i.e. our emotions, our mind and our will.

Either the character of the Lamb or the character of the beast

We experience the abundant life and the love Jesus has given us only as we imitate Him. We need to beware of living a "double life" i.e. at times imitating Jesus and at other times imitating Satan. I know no one would intentionally decide, "I am going to imitate Satan," and yet when we allow the character of Satan to operate in our lives through fear, bitterness, unforgiveness, resentment, guilt, condemnation, shame, self-centredness, etc. we are actually imitating Satan. While we display these works of darkness we cannot share in God's inheritance, instead, we partner with the devil. We need to be aware of this powerful truth and refuse to allow any of these traits in our lives.

Born again to love

We are sons and daughters of the living God and we are to share the sacrificial, unconditional, divine love of God with others. We are born of God to love others as God loves them.

The "natural" life plus "religion"

This is a sad reality. Too many Christians have adopted a "part time" Christianity. 'Part time' Christians get involved in some Christian activities like going to church, giving to the poor, reading the Bible, witnessing to people, etc. These are all good things to do, but they are not a full reflection of a Christian having a relationship with Jesus. This could mean approx. 90% living by the flesh and 10% by the Holy Spirit. **Our relationship with Jesus is alive ALL THE TIME.** The Holy Spirit indwells us and He is not coming and going; in the same way, we are not to "connect and disconnect". The constant awareness of the Holy Spirit in us means experiencing the abundant life of Christ **all the time**. The love of Jesus floods us **constantly** through the Holy Spirit. Let's remember:

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."

Believers are "billionaires in possession of God's love"

Imagine having billions of dollars while your family, neighbours, brothers and sisters in Christ are poor. Wouldn't it be a delight to be able to help them financially?

Well, many people around us are "starving" without the love of God. We have been given love in great excess. The love of God is endless, you will never be able to give it all away. **There is a vast deposit of the love of God in every believer, as big as God the Holy Spirit in us!** This love is to be

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given away to others, but remember, this is not just “friendly” love, but His divine sacrificial love and it will require you to deny self. **God even puts His desire in us!**

Philippians 2:13

“for God is the One who is constantly putting forth His energy in you, both in the form of your being desirous of and of your doing His good pleasure.”

The Holy Spirit is eager to use you to share His attributes. He puts His energy in you for you to desire to do His good pleasure, i.e. sharing His divine unconditional sacrificial love with others.

Faith is the currency of heaven

Everything we receive from God is received by faith. In the same way that we need to go to our bank account to withdraw money, we withdraw love, power, wisdom and every attribute from God by faith. This is why it is essential that we are always depending on the Holy Spirit and acting on God’s Word. It is a learning process to live everyday more and more by the Holy Spirit instead of by the flesh.

Hebrews 12:2

“looking off and away to Jesus, the originator and perfecter of this aforementioned faith, who instead of the joy then present with Him endured the Cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God”.

Jesus is the author and perfecter of our faith. Faith in the spiritual is supernatural, we cannot produce this kind of faith; this is why God has given every believer first faith to be saved and then produces faith by yielding to the Holy Spirit to receive His promises and to act on God’s Word.

1 Corinthians 13:13

“But now there remains faith, hope, love; these three. But the greatest of these is this previously mentioned love.”

God has given believers everything

God is love and He has given us faith so we can receive His love. God’s love is the ultimate, because it is who God is. It is not that God has love, but that God is love. He has given us hope, faith and His love, but the greatest of these is the wonderful sacrificial love that took Jesus to the Cross.

1 John 4:7

“Divinely loved ones, let us be habitually loving one another with a divine and self-sacrificial love, because this aforementioned love is out of God as a source; and everyone who is in this manner habitually loving, out of God has been born with the present result that he is regenerated and knows God in an experiential way”.

Acknowledging that we have received everything from God and lack nothing spiritually, we need to:

- 1) Be aware of our identity in Christ
- 2) Acknowledge God’s provision and our inheritance in Christ
- 3) Embrace the divine, sacrificial love Jesus displayed for us at the Cross
- 4) Realise we are also to be a sacrifice to others and to Jesus
- 5) Learn to live by the power and love of the Holy Spirit and by God’s Word
- 6) Realise we have received freedom; we should live by grace and not by the law
- 7) Recognise that we have been saved to serve, not to be served
- 8) Have an experiential knowledge of God in our relationship with Him.

The Holy Spirit can’t produce His fruit in us unless we sacrifice our lives to God and to others. The power of God is invested in His supernatural love bestowed on us.