

GOD'S LOVE IS GREATER THAN YOU**23/7/18**

When we talk about the love of God; many rightly feel safe and secure in the gracious comfort and merciful forgiveness, which is far above our personal capacity. God is far more capable than we are, thus as Christians we endeavour to love and think more like Christ would have us do. The trouble with this is, we often can miss why he has shown his love towards us... we focus on his love, but often miss why he has revealed it to us. We have been filled with the Holy Spirit to demonstrate God's love, not just feed on it. His love goes far beyond his personal and touching care for us. He also cares for the rest of the world and wants us to do our bit in sharing the gospel with the unsaved as well. Should we miss this second part of God's love, we also miss the overcoming nature of our existence. Even worse, we also miss numerous blessing and can feel unfulfilled.

Use the powers that the Holy Spirit has given you... overcomers move forward, not backward. GAL 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. Many confuse the flesh with sin... this is not so in many circumstances. Our marriage, children, work, home chores, etc., are all natural duties (of the flesh). All natural responsibilities need attending to, in fact neglecting many of these duties is also a sin. The worst problems arise when we put too much time into natural interests and forsake spiritual ones. Lack of spiritual input blocks the developing love of God in our lives, because God's love is about serving others; not just waiting for God to serve our personal needs. This leads to many of our expectations failing and risks leading to lack of purpose and faithlessness. Our lives can stall and move back to the sad position we were in before we were saved. There is no lasting benefit from poor choices. **18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.** The spirit frees us from condemnation; thus confidence and purpose are best served by using the spirit for the benefit of others. **God thought all people were worth the sacrifice of his son's life...** he wants us to think and act accordingly. Anything less, risks draining us spiritually and emotionally. Uncertainty, doubt and failed purposes quickly follow. Jesus warned about this very serious problem in one of his letters to the seven churches.

The downward spiral of a Christian is uncomfortable and distancing from God. REV 3:16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Worldwide, many Christians today are in this predicament (it is called the 'great falling away' ... 2THE 2:1-3). Many are willing to follow God in order to receive his blessings, but not when there is a duty to perform. Many are interested in any promise that mentions blessings and prosperity, anything that will make them feel or look good. However, when the speaker talks about tithing/giving, witnessing, or making real sacrifices for the Lord, Many feel uncomfortable and try to justify other viewpoints. They will only follow God up to a point. The problem with being lukewarm is that it can be undetectable for many who suffer from it. Many can work hard or believe hard in the things of God, but miss the greatest aspect of God's love. Servitude in spiritual wisdom and power, is most often the missing ingredient. God's love is not just about you personally, it's about offering others the great comfort that God offers us... whether it is well received or not.

God wants us to live by the gospel and apply it, but the gospel enlarges itself as we walk in the spirit. More is understood and more is expected... more needs to be done.

Those who are cold know exactly who they are, they have almost abandoned any pretext of walking in the spirit and are often never seen in fellowship, nor do they make any effort to overcome... their lives are totally wasted from a spiritual point of view.

On the other hand, people who are hot for the Lord always have healthy doubts. They keep motivated and have a conscience towards serving God's plan and participating in spiritual exercises. They regularly compare themselves with their increasing knowledge and wisdom, to see if they have cooled down. They are always trying to do better, looking for ways of serving the saved and the lost, alike.

True Christians need heat continually added to their walk, or they cool down. ROM 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. These verses require commitment and discipline and set the scene for a healthy future that brings more benefits than can be imagined. The cold have no hope, but the lukewarm are even worse off than them. Hot is best because hot is blessed. Remember, God's love is much greater than you and far more rewarding than your own efforts.