

THURSDAY, June 10, 2021

Yielding to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the source of God's Love in the believer's life.

Without the Holy Spirit, love is carnal, a work of the flesh.

Knowing God Through Love

1 John 4:7-11 "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹In this, the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

1. Love is evidence of our salvation. **v:7B** "and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God."

John's love is not carnal but has the power to transform the person who possesses it and confesses it. God's love is selfless and looks for opportunities to demonstrate the reality of Jesus Christ. Christ's love is sacrificial and rejoices in being poured forth.

2. v:8B "for God is love." The devil can fake a lot of things, but he can't fake real love. God's love is unconditional and shines brightest when conditions are contrary. When we've been betrayed, God tells His children to pray for their betrayer. The devil wants us to get some payback.

Just as we are called to walk in the Holy Spirit, to live out of His resources, God's love light shines brightest in dark times.

Matt. 5:44 "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,"

3. v:9B "that we might live through Him." God knew the requirements of Agapian love was impossible for humankind. Therein lies the difficulty of the uncrucified mind, flesh. They have no resources to bless someone who curses them or pray humbly for someone they know who hates them. Only those whom God lives His life through are capable of such acts of grace.

4. Lastly, **John 3:16** "For God so loved the world that He gave." God initiated the recovery of fallen mankind. He loved us before we did anything good or bad, so His love is not merit-based or behavior-driven; it's all about His unconditional love.