Challenge 19 of 40

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"Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails."
1 Corinthians 13:4-8a NKJV

Love is a wonderful gift from GOD, but not simple, easy, or cheap. Jesus told His disciples, "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends." (John 15:13 NKJV) Later in His ministry, Jesus lived out these words by dying on the cross for His disciples, for you, and for me. Sometimes love involves giving of yourself until there is no more to give. John the beloved disciple reminded the believers of Jesus' definition of God's love, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16 NKJV) At times, loving means giving that which is most important to you so that those whom you love can have a better future. Again, love is not simple, easy, or cheap. It cost the blood of Jesus and the pain of the Father seeing His Son dying on a cross.

In making sure that this great act of love is never forgotten, that the essence of Jesus is ever present before us who believe, the Father and Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, “And I will pray to the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He
may abide with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.” (John 14:16-17 NKJV) The perfect, sinless Spirit of Truth is assigned to this wretched, corrupt, sinful world so that you and I will always remember the love of God through Jesus’ ministry and teachings. Jesus declared, “But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.” (John 15:26 NKJV) The ministry of the Holy Spirit is a vivid reminder that God wants to dwell with us. He wants to remain in community with us through the struggle, ever reminding us that we are free and victorious because Jesus paid the price for our salvation and claimed our lives to Himself.

It is so amazing to know that God Himself tells us in His Word, the Bible, that He loves us that much. You might ask, ‘well, how can I love that way?’ The answer to that question might actually lie in another question. Who can help you love that way? Talking about God and what Jesus has done on our behalf John said: "We love Him because He first loved us." (1 John 4:19 NKJV) If you want to love the way Paul described in 1 Corinthians 13, look to Jesus, open your heart to the workings of the Holy Spirit, and let the love of God radiate through your life, words, and actions. God is the only one that can help you love. He sent Jesus to exemplify in the flesh what true love looks like. He gave the Holy Spirit to remind you and me of His never ending love toward us; for you see, love is God with us.

Recalibrate

1) Do you feel that you've ever experienced community with GOD?

2) How much do you feel you are willing to sacrifice for true love?

Feel free to email us here with any thoughts, questions, or reflections you may have.