



FEBRUARY MESSAGE: MONTH OF

LOVE *in* ACTION

ISSUE #1 | VOLUME 2

Eye has not seen, nor hear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him. But God has revealed them unto us by His Spirit. 1 Cor. 2.9-10.

Love is a word that the world has thoroughly and profoundly misused and bastardized. It is a concept that connects heaven and earth, between the Creator and His creatures. It is the glue that holds families and societies and even nations together. Hence in a month that is referred to as the lovers' month it is important to revisit and put it into proper perspective in terms of God's plans and purposes for our lives in this new year and month.

The world confuses 'lust' with 'love'. Love's attributes are well known and celebrated down the ages in the sacred and secular literature. It has three core elements.

SHARING.... its sharing of burdens, challenges and being supportive. Its empathy: putting oneself in the others' space and standing firm especially in times of trouble. The Holy Book defines a friend in these terms.... s/he loves at all times Prov. 17.17.

SACRIFICE.... It's a readiness to defer present enjoyment for a higher value or promise. So, the Lord died to pay for our sins and brought us to His Father so we can serve Him for the rest of our lives. 2 Cor. 5.14-15. It's the reason a parent serves and nurtures his/her children not minding the difficult situations they must endure until the child matures. The Bible's definition of love places patience or long suffering ahead of other descriptors. 1 Cor. 13.4a.

SEEKING TO INCREASE VALUE OF THE OTHER: Essentially, love seeks to raise the value of the one who is the object of our love. Its kind, not envious, boastful or proud but it could mean some hard knocks--for this reason the Lord disciplines those He loves Heb. 12.6.

The attributes of lust are the exact opposites: SELFISHNESS, SELF-CENTREDNESS and DECEPTION/MANIPULATION. Scripture lists it as a part of the 'works of the flesh' whereas love is the first element of the fruit of the Spirit. Gal. 5. 17, 19; 22-23.

Those who lust are thieves, like their master who seeks to steal, kill and destroy. By contrast those who love like Himself promote life and abundance. Jn. 10.10. King David's son, Amnon

exemplified lust when he pretended to be in love with his half-sister but ended up raping and mishandling her. 2 Sam. 13. This is an act that has been replayed over time since then across nations and demographics.

It is thus our month to test whether we truly love our family members and brethren and other associates. It is also a time to confirm our love for the Lord who has loved us with an everlasting love. Rev. 1.5-6. He greatly increases us when we love Him in return. He does not just reward in kind (since He is a rewarder). He enables us to rise above the challenges and mountains of life by giving us of His Holy Spirit by which we can mount up with eagles' wings (Heb.6. 10, 11.6; Is. 40.31).

This was what the Lord did for Abraham and the Patriarchs. It was the only way Israel came out of Egypt...the Lord carried them on eagles' wings-Ex. 19.4. The experience of King David and Queen Esther and the great prophets after them, Elijah and Elisha. It was the way the Lord Jesus transformed His disciples and they were able to turn their world right side up. (Acts 1.5, 17.6). He Himself needed the Holy Spirit to have a fulfilled ministry that still impacts our world (Acts 10.38). One Gentile, Cornelius a Roman captain dramatized this. He was *devout* (consistently committed to God), *God-fearing* in his relationships with members of his family, kins and business associates. He *gave generously* to the Lord's work and *prayed to the Lord always with fasting, including with his whole family*. (Acts 10. 1-8, 24, 30). The Lord rewarded Him with the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the first among Gentile believers.

His testimony as those of many others since Bible times till today confirm that prayer and fasting changes us, the course of events and even the living God, when we use this as an opportunity to repent or get closer to Him. Jonah 3.4-10; Esther 4.16-17; Acts 13. 1-3. The Lord helps us to arise like the eagle with clearer vision, insight on how to soar as we ride out powerful storms and hold on to Him in righteousness, mercy and humility, renewed in body, soul and spirit.

This month is our month to prove our love to our Lord and to the people around us. May we not fail.

Welcome to the month of LOVE IN ACTION.

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