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LOVING GOD, LOVING YOURSELF AND LOVING OTHERS

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and Loving
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LOVING GOD, LOVING YOURSELF, AND LOVING OTHERS

Receiving God's Love

I. Why Does God Love Me If He Loves Me At All?

- A. He just cannot help Himself!
 - 1. God is love; and if He is not loving, then He is not God.
- B. **Ephesians 1:4-6** – We can never be what He wants us to be if He does not love us.
- C. In the entire world, God's love is the best medicine for the wounded soul. It is actually the only medicine that can heal the brokenhearted and wounded.
 - 1. **Isaiah 38:17** – You have loved my life back from the pit of corruption and cast all my sins behind Your back.
- D. **Deuteronomy 7:8** – Because God loves us and keeps His oath sworn to our fathers, He brings us out of bondage with a strong arm. **GOD DOES IT FOR US; not because of us, but because of HIS LOVE and MERCY.**
 - 1. Our part is to be thankful and amazed at His goodness. Receive and learn to give to others what He gives to us.
- E. **Jeremiah 31:3** (KJV) – . . . *I have loved thee with an everlasting love . . .*

1. Love with no end, no limits, and no understandable reason for it
- F. God’s love is available, free of charge, but it is up to each individual as to whether or not they will receive it.
- G. **I John 3:1** (KJV) – *Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God . . .*
- H. **Ephesians 2:4** – **God loves us and shows us mercy in order to satisfy the intense love with which He loves us.**

II. Paul Stresses The Importance Of Personal Revelation Concerning God’s Love.

- A. **Ephesians 3:17-20** – Be rooted in His love – come to know it in a practical way. Experience it for yourselves.
1. Trees that are well rooted don’t blow over easily in the storm.
 2. Too many Christians are blown over (they give up or become offended) in the storms of life.
- B. **Romans 8:35-39** – Don’t allow yourself to be separated from God’s love, and it will help you conquer every problem in your life.
1. When you have trials, don’t get separated from God’s love – continually affirm to yourself, “**God loves me.**”
 2. **Ephesians 2:3-5** – When you make mistakes, fail God’s expectations, or sin – continually affirm to yourself, “God still loves me. He loved me when I was still yet a sinner, how much more now that I am His own child!”
- C. **Romans 5:8-9** – While we were yet sinners, He loved us – how much more now.

III. What About Fear?

- A. **I John 4:16-19** – Perfect love casts out fear.

1. We often try to put faith in God, and yet we have no faith in His love for us.
- B. Receiving God’s love is the first step toward seeing it brought to completion in our own lives.
1. **I John 4:19** – *We love Him, because He first loved us.*
 2. We must realize that if we love other people with the God-kind of love, it opens a door for them to love Him.

My husband did this for me, and look at my life today.
- C. Perfect love casts out fear because we know that if He loves us, He will surely take care of us.
1. Fear brings torment. Worrying about the future brings torment.
 2. **Ephesians 2:10** and **Jeremiah 29:11** – God has a good plan for your future.
 3. “Yes, I know that, **but**” or “**what if?**” No **but’s**, no **if’s** – **JUST BELIEVE!**
 4. **John 11:40** – Only believe and you will see the glory of God.

Stop trying to figure out why God would love you and just BELIEVE in His love.
- D. **Hebrews 13:5-6** – God promises to meet our needs; therefore, we do not have to fear.

IV. Security and Insecurity

- A. **Job 11:16-18** – You shall be secure and feel confident.
- B. **Isaiah 54:17** – This peace, righteousness, security, and triumph over opposition is your inheritance.
 1. **The promise – No weapon formed against you shall prosper.**

C. **Psalm 112:5-9** – We see a man who has dealt generously with the poor, and during his own trial he is not afraid.

1. He surely has received the love of God for himself; otherwise, he would have had no desire to help anyone else.

D. **I Peter 3:13** – Who is there to harm you if you are zealous followers of that which is good?

1. If a person is loving God, loving others, and doing the best he can for where he is at in his spiritual growth – **THERE IS NOTHING TO FEAR.**

E. **Insecurity is now at epidemic proportions.** It causes great problems in all kinds of relationships. It pressures marriages and friendships. It makes it very difficult for employers to deal with employees. **Insecurity makes people touchy;** they imagine things that are not true. They cannot go forward in life. **They stay focused on themselves** and are usually hurt if others don't focus on them and their needs. **They need outward confirmation continually** because they are getting none from within their own heart.

F. The only cure for this widespread problem is the love of God. Everyone wants to be loved unconditionally – loved for who they are, not what they do or don't do. God is ready to give us that love if we will humble ourselves and receive it.

1. **Isaiah 55:1** – Come and drink freely of the river of life, simply for the self-surrender that accepts the blessing.

V. **How Does God Show His Love?**

A. Most people don't have a clue – they don't watch for His love; they watch for punishment.

1. God's love can be recognized in our daily affairs if we will pay attention and look for it.

**STOP GIVING COINCIDENCE AND LUCK CREDIT
FOR THE THINGS GOD DOES IN OUR LIVES.**

- B. Example: A few weeks ago, my husband put his brakes on and began to slide (on wet pavement) back and forth across a major highway. He missed every car. And as he finally landed on the embankment, he was able to put the car in reverse and back out with no problem.
1. Without God's help, he could have had a serious accident or needed a tow truck to pull him out of the ditch.
 2. The first thing we should do in a similar situation is **thank God that He loves us enough to watch over us and provide.**
 3. If you have had a wreck, does that mean God does not love you? No! If you are still alive, that means it could have been much more serious than it was.
- C. How many times are you in the right place at the right time and as a result you get a blessing?
1. You go shopping and find what you need on sale.
 2. The clerk asks if you have the coupon that was in the paper, which will save you twenty percent. You don't have one, but she "just happens" to have one that another customer didn't use and gives it to you.
 3. It begins to rain as soon as you get into your car, and it stops when you get to your destination.
 4. You are at the grocery store; it is bitter cold outside. You would love to have a front row parking space, but everything is full except way in the back of the lot. No, wait a minute – someone is pulling out of the space right in front of the store, and nobody else is around to get it.
- D. Keep a book of remembrance – at least until you begin to recognize God moving in your life all day long.
1. This is my greatest thrill – I love to see His hand moving in my affairs.

2. **Malachi 3:16** – God keeps a book of remembrance of the good things we do. Why don't we follow His example?
- E. **Isaiah 49:15** – A nursing mother might possibly forget her child, but God cannot forget His.
1. A nursing mother is in pain if she cannot give to her child the provision she has – imagine how God feels.
- F. Knowing the love of God delivers us from fears:
1. About the past or the future
 2. Finances and health
 3. The fear of man (what they think, say, and do)
 4. Wrong fear of God Himself
 5. Fear of harm
 6. Various phobias
- G. **II Timothy 1:7** – God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind.
- H. God shows His love for us by correcting us.
1. **Hebrews 12:5-10** – God corrects us (directs us) because He loves us and wants us to be sharers in His own holiness. He does it for our good.

The number of undisciplined children in the world today is a sign of the selfishness that is rampant almost everywhere we look.
 2. **Revelation 3:19** – Those whom I love, I tell their faults.

So be enthusiastic and burning with zeal.

Loving God

It All Starts With Receiving God's Love.

I. We Only Worship What We Love.

A. Worship – Includes praise, adoration, and reverence. It means to honor, to serve, to kiss.

1. **Psalm 2:12** – *Kiss the Son . . . lest He be angry . . .*

Jesus is the lover of our soul, and no lover likes it if they are not getting any attention.

B. Worship (footnote in Vine's) – *The worship of God is nowhere defined in Scripture. A consideration of the verbs translated as worship shows that it is not confined to praise; broadly it may be regarded as the direct acknowledgement to God, of His nature, attributes, ways and claims, whether by the outgoing of the heart in praise and thanksgiving or by deed done in such acknowledgment . . .*

C. **Proverbs 3:6** – Acknowledge God in all your ways.

1. Noticing Him and conversing with Him about even minor daily issues shows our love and dependence upon Him.

D. David, as shepherd and king, loved God.

1. If you cannot love God when you're a shepherd, you won't love Him when you're a king.

2. The deep love in David's heart for God was what prompted God to anoint him to be king in the first place. While others looked at David's youth and inexperience, God looked upon his heart.

3. **BEFORE** we are promoted in this life (financially, spiritually, on the job, etc.), we must obey Scripture:

**“LOVE THE LORD THY GOD WITH
ALL THY HEART, SOUL, AND MIND.”**

E. **John 4:24** – He is seeking worshipers to worship Him in spirit and in truth.

1. I believe facing truth squarely and confronting areas that are out of line in our lives (with the Holy Spirit’s help) shows our love for Him.
2. I have faced a lot of truth about myself in the past several years; and believe me, I would not have done it for any reason except my love for God.
3. Truth is very important to God.
 - a. **John 14:6** – Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.
 - b. **John 16:13** – Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us into all Truth.
 - c. **Psalm 51:6** – I desire truth in the inner being.

F. True, genuine worship comes out of the deepest part of our being. It is not lip service. True worshipers worship God with their lives.

1. **Psalm 25:1** – *Unto You, O Lord, do I bring my life.*
2. **Romans 12:1** – Make a decisive dedication of your body, presenting ALL your members as a living sacrifice.

II. Bending The Knee In Worship Should Represent Bending The Will.

A. Bowing the head in worship represents humility, which is vitally necessary for obedience.

- B. **John 14:15** – Jesus said, “If you really love Me, you will obey Me.”
- C. **John 21:15-18** – Peter, do you love Me enough to sacrifice what you want for My will?
- D. Does anyone really know what love is in our society today when they get married?
 - 1. Whatever happened to “for better or worse”?
 - 2. Jesus is our Bridegroom, and we are His bride. Once we make the commitment to follow Jesus, it is for better or worse.
- E. **Hebrews 5:8** – Jesus learned obedience through the things which He suffered.
 - 1. There is no such thing as obedience without some suffering at various times.
 - 2. Anytime I don’t get “my way,” I suffer.

The more stubborn and rebellious I am, the more intense the suffering is.

III. Forget About Getting “Your Way” And Seek To Know “His Way.”

- A. **Psalms 37:5** (KJV) – *Commit thy way unto the Lord . . . and He shall bring it to pass.*
 - 1. This was the Scripture my mother-in-law wrote in the front of my first Bible. Had I really understood it, I could have saved myself a lot of years of trouble and suffering.
- B. It is “our ways” that cause a lot of our trouble.
 - 1. **Haggai 1:2-7** – The Israelites were having problems; and God said, “**Consider your ways.**”

2. He did not say, “Find out what demon it is and bind it.”
He said, “**Consider your ways.**”

C. **Exodus 33:13-15** – Moses knew that if he was going to succeed and please God, he had to cease trying to get his own way and find out God’s ways.

1. Any leader or person who sincerely wants to walk in God’s presence and carry the anointing of the Holy Spirit must live a life of obedience.
2. Obeying God in little things as well as big things – perhaps obeying in little things is even more important.

**IT IS THE LITTLE FOXES
THAT SPOIL THE VINE.**

3. If a man is not faithful in little things, he will never be made ruler over much.
4. Examples:
 - a. You are busy, and it keeps coming to your heart to call a sick friend.
 - b. Your conscience is telling you that you need to stay home and clean your house instead of going garage-sale shopping with your friends.
 - c. You sense in your spirit that you are supposed to give a certain item you own to a person you know.
 - d. You sense you should take the time to help someone with a project they are having trouble with, but you had something else planned.
 - e. You are complaining, and the Holy Spirit convicts you.

D. You cannot commit yourself to God without committing “your ways.”

1. **II Timothy 1:12** – Paul was suffering, but he trusted that God was able to keep what he had committed to Him.
 - a. I don't believe the way Jesus led Paul would have been his way had he been doing the choosing.
 - b. **Acts 9:1-16** – Paul was persecuting those who followed “The Way.” After his own conversion, God revealed to him that following “**The Way**” means you won't always get **your way**.
2. **I Peter 2:23** – When Jesus was reviled and insulted, He trusted God instead of trying to get revenge Himself.
3. **I Peter 4:19** – Those who are ill-treated and suffer in accordance with God's will must:
 - a. Do right
 - b. Commit their souls to God – Who will never fail them

IV. **An Obedient Lifestyle Requires Learning To Deal With All Kinds Of People.**

- A. **John 13:34** – *I give you a new commandment: that you should love one another. Just as I have loved you, so you too should love one another.*
 1. It is God's will that we love other people. We cannot say we are doing His will if we don't love people.
- B. We cannot love people without serving them – being involved with them, helping them, and doing things for them and with them.
 1. When a parent says to the child, “I love you, but I don't have any time for you,” they have spoken empty words that tell lies.
 2. If I have two of something, and a friend of mine has a need for one of what I have two of – and he has no way of obtaining one – I am not walking in love if I don't share what I have with him.

- C. “I would rather not get involved” accurately expresses the attitude of our modern society.
 - 1. Perhaps the most selfish, self-centered, troubled, confused, messed-up society that has ever existed

- D. We must **LEARN** how to get along with people. In doing so, we will not always get “our way.”
 - 1. How upset I get when I don’t get my own way determines how spiritually mature I am.

- E. **Philippians 4:1-13** – Paul is dealing with three difficult issues and stating, “we can do all things through Christ Who strengthens us.”
 - 1. Getting along with people
 - 2. Not being anxious about unwanted circumstances
 - 3. Learning to be content – no matter what your situation currently is

V. An Obedient Lifestyle Requires Serving People.

- A. **John 13:1-17** – Jesus washed the disciples’ feet for two reasons:
 - 1. Because He loved them to the highest degree possible. This kind of love always leads us to serve.
 - 2. He did it as an example for them and ultimately for us to follow.

- B. **Galatians 5:13** – . . . *through love you should serve one another.*

- C. When we serve people with a right heart, we are actually serving Christ.
 - 1. **Colossians 3:18-24**

Loving Yourself

It All Starts With Receiving God's Love.

I. Self-Analysis

- A. Our relationship with God, ourselves, and others are all interconnected and affect each other.
1. **I Peter 3:11** – Peace with God, ourselves, and others is vital to happiness.
- B. Analyze (defined) – To take apart in order to determine the worth or value of.
1. **Hebrews 12:2** – Looking away from all that will distract unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith.
- C. **Philippians 1:6** – He that hath begun a good work in you will complete it and bring it to its finish.
1. When will it be finished?
 - a. Not completely until Jesus returns for the church
 - b. **I Corinthians 15:52-53** (KJV) – . . . *in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump . . . we shall be changed.*
- D. **I Corinthians 4:1-5** – Paul refused to sit in judgment on himself, and he paid no attention to anyone else who tried.
1. He knew Who his judge was.
 2. When the Lord comes, He will bring all hidden things out into the light and will manifest what is in man's heart.
- E. **John 8:15** – You judge after the flesh.

- F. Stop analyzing yourself and picking yourself apart. Stop determining what should be done with you – whether or not you are worth loving or worth being used in God’s kingdom work – trying to decide if you are worthy of some blessings.
1. If you are worth using, you probably won’t be used.
 - a. **I Corinthians 1:26-29** – God purposely chooses what the world would throw away as worthless fragments.
 - b. **John 6:12** – Jesus said, “Gather up the fragments, that nothing be wasted.”
 - c. No matter what you have gone through or done, if you won’t reject yourself, Jesus will say, “Gather up the fragments, that nothing be wasted.”

II. Imperfections And Weaknesses

- A. **Numbers 11:14-17** – Moses said he couldn’t go on. He had reached his limit. We all have one; we just don’t like to admit it.
1. **We want to be SUPER SHEEP.**
 2. The problem is: super and sheep don’t even go together.
 3. You don’t have to hide your weaknesses. Remember, He knows all about them anyway – and probably more than you know yourself.
 4. **Psalms 139** – God sees in the dark as well as in the light. We cannot hide anything from Him.
- B. **Jeremiah 1:5** – Before I formed you in the womb, **I knew you!**
- C. Look at Jesus’ choice of disciples – and He prayed all night before choosing **them**.
1. Judas, the greedy betrayer

2. Peter showed tremendous fear, lack of comprehension, carnality, and pride. He was **unable** to pray with Jesus for even one hour.
 - a. **Matthew 16:18-19** – Yet, Jesus said, “Peter, you are a piece of the rock, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom; and whatever you bind shall be bound; and whatever you loose will be loosed.”
 - b. Peter was given a very large assignment for someone who had so many flaws.

D. Enter God’s rest concerning your faults.

1. Magnify (make larger) God, not your faults.
2. Don’t be like the ten spies who saw the giants as being bigger than God.

Numbers 13:33 – Their biggest mistake was **they looked at THEMSELVES instead of the GOD WHO SENT THEM.**

3. **Psalms 103:14** – God knows our frame and remembers that we are but dust.

Expecting perfection out of yourself brings a pressure into your life that can often be devastating.

4. **II Corinthians 4:7** – We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the exceeding greatness of His power may be shown to be of God and not man.
 - a. **I Peter 1:24** – Man described as withering grass
 - b. **James 4:14** – Man described as a wisp of vapor
5. **Philippians 3:9** – Be found and known as “in Him,” not having any righteousness of my own, but that which He gives.

6. **STOP BEING SO HARD ON YOURSELF – WE ALL HAVE FAULTS.**

- a. **Galatians 6:5** – Every person will have to bear (calmly receive) his own (little) load of faults.
- b. Are you calmly receiving yours?

III. We All Have A Limp.

A. **Zephaniah 3:14-17, 19-20** – Start singing.

1. God has taken away the judgments against you.
2. He has cast out your enemy (condemnation).

Revelation 12:10 – . . . *for the accuser of our brethren, he who keeps bringing before our God charges against them day and night, has been cast out!*

3. We don't need to experience fear any more.
4. Don't be depressed or discouraged.
5. The Lord is in you, a Mighty One, Who saves.
6. In His love, He will be silent and make no mention of past sins or even recall them.
7. He will deal with all those who afflict you.
8. He will save the outcasts and limping ones.
9. He gives honor where shame was.
10. He reverses our captivity.

B. **II Samuel 9:6-13** – Mephibosheth ate at the king's table, even though he was crippled in both feet.

- C. **Genesis 32:24-31** – Jacob wrestled with God. He came out with a limp and yet blessed of God.
1. God pointed out his weakness, he pressed in and faced his faults, and still had the nerve to ask God to bless him.
 2. **Hebrews 4:15-16** – Jesus understands our weaknesses; therefore, come **BOLDLY** to the throne to receive mercy and grace.
 3. **Mercy holds back punishment due and gives blessings that are not deserved.**
 4. Grace gives the believer, free of charge, the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish his task with ease, even though he is limping.
- D. If God can love you, even with your faults, then you should certainly love yourself.
1. “Love your neighbor as you love yourself.”
- If you don’t love yourself, your love walk can go no further.

Loving Others

I. There Are Many Things To Be Concerned With These Days.

A. Finances

1. It takes a lot of money to live comfortably these days – prices are going up all the time, quality is going down, and things don't last as long. Two incomes are usually required to keep a household going. Where should we invest? Are there any really safe investments? What about retirement? Will Social Security last long enough for me to collect it? How can I save for the kids' college with all the other expenses I have, etc.?
2. In addition to all this, I need money for my ministry. How can I do what God wants me to do without money?

B. Health

1. Almost everyone hurts somewhere or has something wrong with them physically. How can I feel better? What is wrong with me? Should I exercise more, eat less? Perhaps, I need more sleep. Should I take the medicine the doctor gave me or not? What about side effects? Am I really in faith if I have this operation? I am afraid of cancer; so many people I know have died with it. What about heart attacks? My cholesterol is high. Is it too many eggs or too much fat?

C. Children

1. Should I send my children to Christian school or public school? Maybe I should home school. Will they get in trouble with drugs? What kind of movies should I let them see? How should I allow them to dress? I hate the clothes they wear today. Should I let my daughter dye her hair blue and paint her fingernails black? Will my daughter get pregnant before she is married?

D. The World

1. Can we trust the government? Is anyone today honest? Will we have another world war? What about the end of the world, the Rapture, or the mark of the beast?

E. Other

1. Am I going to lose my job? Will I get laid-off? Is my marriage going to make it through the struggles we are having? Is my spouse running around on me? What will happen if my mother-in-law has to live with us? How am I going to take care of my elderly parents?

II. Signs Of The End

A. **Matthew 24:12** – Everything that is going on in the world will cause love to grow cold.

B. This is Satan's end-time attack.

1. He knows that walking in love makes us strong, and that a stronghold of cold love makes us weak.
2. It is the great body of Christ that he is after.

C. Instead of being concerned with all the things we have mentioned, let us be concerned like never before with our love walk.

D. **Matthew 24:10** – Many will be offended in the last days. This is another sign of cold love.

III. What Did Jesus Say About Love?

A. **John 13:34-35** (KJV) – *A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you . . . By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples . . .*

1. By this shall all men know.

2. How will they know about Jesus if they don't see us walking in love with each other?
3. A friend who is a pastor recently told me that he was so tired of pastoring that he was thinking about quitting. He said he was tired of the pettiness, the judgment, the strife, the lack of commitment, the lack of integrity, the associates who start a church down the street and take part of the congregation with them, the jealousy among staff members, etc.

B. **John 13:1-17** – Jesus washed His disciples' feet.

1. He **displayed** His love by doing for them what seemed to be a lowly task.
2. He told Peter, "If I wash thee not, thou hast no part in Me."
 - a. How can we say we are one body, all part of each other, if we never do anything for each other?
 - b. We must listen for needs and be ready to meet them.

C. Many people are willing to "wash feet" in the church as their ministry, but they won't do it at home for their families.

1. This attitude is ruining many marriages and other family relationships.
2. There is no such thing as love without service.

D. **Matthew 22:36-40** – Everyone finds his or her fulfillment in love.

IV. What Is Love?

A. **I John 3:17-18** – It is not theory or talk, but **action**.

1. **We have a heart of compassion because we have God's heart. But we can close it or open it. It is a choice.**

B. Even some people in ministry are so concerned about “**their ministry**” that they forget that **the MAIN THING is to let the MAIN THING be THE MAIN THING.**

C. **I Corinthians 13:13** – Now faith, hope, and love abide; but the greatest of these is love.

1. We need to teach faith, but we must keep it balanced with teaching on love.
2. Some people get selfish with faith. All they ever believe for is something for themselves.
3. **Galatians 5:6** – Faith works and is energized by love.

IF MY FAITH IS NOT WORKING, THE FIRST PLACE I LOOK IS MY LOVE WALK!

D. Love is mainly seen in how we treat people.

1. Especially people that cannot do us any good
2. I remember the old gentlemen in the doctor’s office who wanted to tell me all about his leg that was broken on the ice and how much this doctor had helped him. He wanted to tell me and tell me and tell me. I knew he was just lonely and wanted someone to talk to, but I was too busy being “spiritual” to mess with him. I wanted to read my Bible and pray in tongues.
3. Then God spoke to me! “Joyce, would you have time to listen to him if he was some popular preacher that you would like to be associated with or be able to say you talked to today?”

E. **I Corinthians: Chapter 13** lists eleven facets of love – ways you can see it!

1. Love endures long and is patient.
2. Love is kind.

3. Love is not envious or jealous.
4. Love is not haughty, conceited, arrogant, or inflated with pride.
5. Love is not rude (unmannerly).
6. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not self-seeking.
7. Love is not touchy and not easily offended.
8. Love does not pay attention to a suffered wrong.
9. It does not rejoice at injustice.
10. Love never gives up.
11. Love never fails.

V. Are You Properly Dressed For Battle?

- A. **Revelation 16:15** – Stay awake and keep your clothes on.
- B. **Colossians 3:12-14** – Put on love.
 1. “Put on” means to take action and do it on purpose.
 2. I have never stood in my closet and had my clothes jump off the rack and onto my body.
- C. I had recurring dreams for years of going to the pulpit in my pajamas.
 1. **God revealed to me that I was trying to minister, but I was not properly dressed. I had not put on love.**
- D. When you are fighting a battle, the only way to win is by not forgetting your love walk.
 1. **Galatians 6:9-10** – When you are weary from attack, be mindful to be a blessing to others.

2. **Psalm 37:3** (KJV) – *Trust in the Lord, and do good . . .*
3. **Acts 10:38** – *How God anointed and consecrated Jesus of Nazareth with the [Holy] Spirit and with strength and ability and power; how He went about doing good and, in particular, curing all who were harassed and oppressed by [the power of] the devil, for God was with Him.*
 - a. First, He used the power of God to be good to people; and secondly, He was able to cure people.
 - b. For years I wanted a big healing ministry – but I was not doing anything about my love walk except talking about it.
 - c. “I love you with the love of the Lord” gets a little old if we see no proof to back it up.

VI. Don't Ever Be Satisfied With Where You Are At.

- A. **Philippians 1:9** – Paul prayed for the church that their love would abound.
- B. **I Thessalonians 3:12** (KJV) – . . . *the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men . . .*
- C. **No matter how far advanced your love walk is, this is a call to come up higher.**
- D. **I Peter 1:22** (KJV) – . . . *see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.*
 1. **Fervently** (defined) – To boil, having or exhibiting great emotion or warmth. Ardent, very hot, zealous, with passion.
- E. **I Peter 4:8** – Above all things, have **intense** love for one another.

VII. If Self Is The Main Thing, Then The Real Main Thing Will Never Be The Main Thing.

- A. Selfishness is the greatest enemy of love.
- B. We should concentrate on what we can give, not what we can get.
- C. **Mark 8:34** – If you want to be My disciple, forget yourself, lose sight of yourself and all your own interests, and take up your cross and follow Me.

