

Commanded To Love

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One day God began to deal with me about how cancer never killed anyone. Disease was taken care of on the cross. It was fear, usually the fear of death that was causing them to die. In fact, He instructed me to bring them a revelation of heaven and, at first, I thought, "Now they are going to think that I believe they are going to die!"

I cannot remember a time when the love of God has meant so much. I know that, as far as the Word is concerned or should I say the Gospel's obligation to Christianity, we should love one another. In fact, Jesus said we are to love one another as He has loved us.

As much as I tried to fulfill this obligation in times past, the whole thing always seemed to come out sort of plastic. It was not that I did not want to love! I WANTED to understand the love of God and to operate in more and more of its' fullness.

But I may as well tell you, it seemed so impossible at times. Because, when a person begins to flow or should I say lets the love of God flow through them, then you are approaching a place in God where there is no such thing as lack, failure, torment, or fear and I still had some of these feelings.

Now to keep your understanding flowing in the right direction, I am not talking about God's love FOR you. There is absolutely nothing you could do that would make Him love you any more than die already does. God IS love!

But what I am talking about is how much of that love you will let flow THROUGH you because, when your life takes on this kind of meaning as to become a channel, then your life also becomes an uncontrollable force that is incapable of being managed by the devil.

The devil is going to resist your walk of love. If you were the devil, wouldn't you attack with everything in your power the efforts of a person who is about to enter into something that is going to give him a walk with God that is more powerful than anything he could imagine. Something that would make him complete in God. Something so powerful as to bring him absolute peace and make failure a thing of the past.

I have sat by the bedside of some who were consumed with cancer, wracked with pain, watching them, praying with them, feeling so helpless as I watched them slip away clutching their Bibles so tightly their knuckles turned white while confessing the word and hurting, and I hurt.

It is this sort of thing that has shaken more faith churches. Most people finally leave it with God and say, "I do not understand it but I am going to trust God anyway."

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believe they are going to die!"

But this was not the case at all. God, in His incredible love, has prepared a place for us that is so complete that there is no lack, not even a sense of lack. People live and fellowship there. The very love of God permeates every ounce of space. All of our loved ones who have gone on before are waiting there. And, in case you are interested, one of the best books on heaven I have ever read is called "Paradise, the Holy City and the Glory of the Throne" which you can obtain through my office.

Once we bring this revelation of heaven to people they begin to lose their fear of death and dying because perfect love casteth out all fear.

"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love" (I John 4:18).

You see, it is not the disease that kills a "believer", it is the FEAR. Whatever circumstances you find yourself in at this moment, if I can help you to take this first step to banish fear, things will have to change.

If it is a battle with disease, it will have to change.

If it is a battle with finances, it will have to change.

If things are already good for you, then they will get even better. Things will have to change.

The first phase has to do with the flow of God's love TO you for the purpose of growth and edification. And the second phase has to do with the flow of God's love THROUGH you for the building up and ministry to others.

Unfortunately, the devil has most of us pinned down somewhere in the first stages of phase one of trying to receive and understand God's love to the degree that our fears and torments are lost in His peace and the security of His person which is love.

So, at any cost, the devil cannot afford to let you even get close to the second phase. He must stop you in phase one while you are still experiencing God's love TOWARDS you and learning how to trust.

If the devil cannot stop you in the first phase when you are inexperienced, then he knows that hell does not have enough torments, worries, and fear to cause the destruction of your foundation in the second phase when your life becomes a channel.

And, if he cannot stop you, then you have the capability of becoming his worst nightmare, an unmanageable believer who has built himself up above all these things in the love of God and is ready for phase two which is a place in God where the same love that has stabilized your life is ready to afford you a foundation that you can move forward from and do exploits for the Kingdom of God

with no fear of failure.

So, first of all, let's take the cover off of Satan's most effective weapon when it comes to the management of your life and that is CARE.

In order for God to exalt you, you must deal with the root causes of care. Because, if the devil is going to devour your life with care and consume you with disease, poverty, or failure, then the one thing that he must obtain from you is your permission. And the way he gets that is through fear. Fear acts as a catalyst that empowers the devil to mix your life with failure.

This is why I Peter 5:6-9 says: "*Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, ...*"^o

So the reason God told us to get rid of the care is because it is the care that makes us devourable. If you can somehow manage to cast all of your care over unto Him, then you will have exercised one of the highest forms of resisting the devil there is, because when it comes to warfare, you are up against a tactical genius whose most powerful weapons are deception and care. To show you just how deceptive he is, he knows that you know that he is involved in things like drug addiction, prostitution, and gambling, and that you will probably stay far away from those things.

But, when it comes to fear, worry, torment, and care, he will march right into a person's home and take over. Because it is hard for us to believe that to resist the care is to resist the devil.

Whenever we see someone destroyed by drug addiction or a discarded alcoholic sleeping in a gutter, we shake our heads thinking how horrible! But when it comes to care, worry, and fear, we let the devil in, sit him down, and, if that's not enough, go on to entertain him.

There is nothing the devil would like more than to keep us involved in a head on battle with circumstances revolving around the daily affairs of this life. But, the real battle is never won by fighting the SYMPTOMS of the problem but the problem itself.

As long as the devil can keep us tied up fighting with the problem on a surface level, then we are easy to manage because, believe me, he has enough problems in store for us that we can easily worry ourselves completely to death.

Right here is where a person needs to launch his war. Here is where person needs to expend his energy. In Hebrews 4:11, it says: "*Let us LABOUR therefore to enter that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.*"

Our fight is not with the devil. He is not our problem. The problem is whether or not we have given him authority over our lives through the taking on of care, worries, or fear and by not having fought our way through to enter into the rest. In John 14:30, Jesus said the same thing only this way: "*Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and HATH NOTHING*

IN ME."

Let me put it this way. Not long ago, I was reading an article on a barking collar. Having raised a bunch of boys, believe me, I know what it feels like to have kids and pets. Every once in a while the kids would get hold of a dog that must have believed his whole reason for living was to bark and bark and bark. He barked at everything! Have you ever noticed that this kind of dog always works the night shift? Preferably between one and four in the morning?

When I saw this article, I was tempted to buy one because it was guaranteed to break your dog from barking. The way it worked was it had a small electrode built into the collar that ran on batteries and every time the dog barked, it activated a sound switch and shocked the dog. Believe me, it does not take very long for the dog to come to the conclusion that it is not in his best interests to keep on barking.

That is the way it is with the devil. He will put a faith suppressant collar around your neck designed to break you from using faith. The way it works is every time you try to use your faith, the devil will activate three little electrodes mounted in your faith suppressant collar and shock you with care, worry, and fear until your emotions tell you it is in your best interests to give up this faith business especially to the point of becoming an overcomer.

So you see, the devil is not your problem. He can only control you as long as you will wear the collar. Take the collar off and he will lose his power over you. This is what Jesus meant when he said the prince of this world, meaning Satan, cometh and has nothing in me because there was nothing, no kind of collar at all, that the devil could use to gain control over the life of Jesus.

Whenever I tried to understand the love of God and how it worked in me, I thought it was more of an emotional attitude of well-being towards other people knowing that you are supposed to be willing to do anything for them for the sake of the Gospel and love.

But God began to deal with me. I began to know that perfect love casts out all fear, because fear has torment, and he that has fear is not made perfect in love.

In fact, if you were to reach down on the inside of your spirit searching for that love, the thing that would identify it for you would be how much peace and contentment you are walking in. The love of God is not an emotion but a live and vibrant force that exerts itself in the life of a believer as peace, contentment, joy, and patience. And the reason love never fails is because, when you are walking in love, the devil can throw all hell at you but not destroy you because you are not giving him anything to destroy you with.

Like most people, for many years I fought the good fight of faith on the wrong battlefield and suffered many losses. But now, I can guarantee you where you really need to launch your war and that is by doing everything you can to enter into that love and peace. You should meet every crisis by confessing what Jesus has said about peace, such as John 14:27: "*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*"

Instead of expending energy worrying about the problems and the circumstances, you should expend that same precious energy laboring and contending to enter into the rest.

No matter what it is you are facing, meditation and prayer can open the door to the part of us where the storm is raging and, when we open that door, Jesus steps through and says, "PEACE BE STILL!"

I have some good news for you! The storm WILL cease on the inside and, when the storm ceases on the inside, it will not be very long until the storm ceases on the outside. And the next thing to follow will be a change in your circumstances.

But, as long as the devil can keep you in turmoil through circumstances, then as long as you are in this world you are going to be full of worry, torment, and fear.

You need to attack the real problem not the symptom. Start changing your circumstances by reading through the New Testament and writing down every scripture that pertains to God's love and every scripture pertaining to peace such as Isaiah 26:3 which says: *"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."*

Remember, most of our problems did not come on us overnight. It may take a while to overcome them.

Set your goal for the next six months. Compile your list of scriptures. Write them down and carry them with you. Read them into a tape recorder. Play them back as often as you can but particularly when you are facing a situation involving pressure.

Play and read them until they are running through your spirit so you can meditate on them any time you need to - day OR night!

When the storm is raging around you, you will find these scriptures to be a refuge, a solace of peace and comfort.

And while you are listening and meditating on these verses, when you can pray quietly under your breath in the Holy Spirit for Isaiah 28:11,12 says, *"For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people."*

To whom he said, THIS IS THE REST wherewith ye may cause the WEARY TO REST; ..."