

# That's The Power of Love (Bible Study) – Righteous Change in Christ

(Start to introduce some light humor, because today's topic will be spiritually challenging. We want everyone to come back for the remaining two studies, because the Lord has something He wants to teach **everyone**.)

Last week we studied **The Secret Place**, and how **it's a place of love**. If you weren't here, ask to borrow someone's notes. This week we're going to study how to actually make changes into righteous living. If you've went to church anywhere for any length of time, you've heard preachers and teachers telling you don't do this, don't dress like that, this beer drinking is a sin, that name calling is displeasing to God, stop this, quit doing that or else.... you're living in sin and going to be punished by God. So, how do we deal with this? How do we change and not go back? Sometimes their scolding is far more clearly understood than their help! The answer is simple... **you don't, He does**. Write that down: We don't change, God changes us. This is where people accidentally miss it; live life with the struggle of change, *"You'll always struggle with a particular sin."* Emphatically, no!

But first.... Homework!

- Did anyone say out loud and tell others, *Love is joyfully choosing to take the best action to promote the welfare of others?*

- Did anyone receive any additional revelations this week? ... Always expect them! The Holy Spirit will build onto what we learn here.

- We don't want to get into personal business announcements, but who received some personal direction this week?

**Back to what I said...** because by the time I get to righteous change in Christ, you won't remember what we're talking about... **We don't change; God does it for us!**

You might be thinking, *"What? You want me to pray He changes me? It didn't work!"* No, you don't really pray for it at all. If you ask and do nothing, you'll receive nothing. If you ask and try to do the changing, then you receive the glory and not the work of Christ, the work of the Holy Spirit, or The Father. You can glory and boast in yourself.

**Most people have a path to tell you how to change**, *"Read your Bible more. Pray more. Go to church. Put on praise and worship music. Read Christian books. Do everything you can."* What's the real answer to righteous living? Today, you'll clearly know! Here is the simple answer...

Essentially, you need to feed on love. When you feed on love, you will produce love. Love, which is the substance of the anointing, breaks through the darkness (or destroys the yoke). Love is electric in the spiritual realm; faith works by love. The anointing is God's Love Power. Let's look at a couple love scriptures really quick....

**1 Corinthians 13** is the love chapter of the Bible. I encourage you to make time to read it after this study. For time's sake, we'll just read...

**<sup>4</sup> Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; <sup>5</sup> does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; <sup>6</sup> does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; <sup>7</sup> bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.**

Godly love affects your soul and how you view life. It's part of being spirit ruled. Do you see that? That's a big key to change. Your spirit man is born again and he is ready to believe God, quote scripture, pray all night, run outside and tell everyone Jesus is Lord. Remember what Jesus said to Peter on The Mountain of Olives in

**Matthew 26:41** NKJV

**....The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak**

Yes, the flesh is weak, but the soul is worse. Your flesh will nap, but your soul will complain up a storm!!

(Tell a lightly amusing story about someone walking out of love because they're using their soul's will)

There is a woman that reads her Bible and can quote many large portions of scripture. Her deep God-given wisdom on Bible interpretation is very astounding. But she will complain up a storm from hell that makes everyone want to run away. That happens to her, because she won't yield her soul (mind, will, emotions) to the Word. She literally saw her boss as Napoleon and refused to stop posting about "*Napoleon*" on Facebook. She had so many problems with him daily, because she saw him through the eyes of her soul (her mind, her thoughts, her way). If she saw her boss through the eyes of God's love, she would have focused on his good qualities and their interactions would have been more positive. **We automatically respond to people negatively when we feel like they're being a *Napoleon* to us, as opposed to being a blessing.**

Remember what we looked at last week, when we walk in love God can bless our words to heal, for favor, or whatever He needs to accomplish His work. Now we know how it works. You pour love in and listen to The Holy Spirit and your born-again spirit, because your spirit is "*indeed is willing*" to follow Jesus.

Let me read that again...

**<sup>4</sup> Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; <sup>5</sup> does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; <sup>6</sup> does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; <sup>7</sup> bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.**

Your soul is happy to take the job over of being mean, envying, prideful, rude, selfishness, provoking, evil, believing in whatever, hoping in whatever, and well quite frankly often refusing to hope.

Did you ever meet someone that is happy to boast about their list of pet peeves, things that bother them? Ok.. well, that's like them saying, "*Hey, I'm proud of being soul ruled and flesh ruled too!*"

One more scripture...

**Galatians 5:22-23** NKJV

**<sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,  
<sup>23</sup>gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.**

Love is the first fruit mentioned. The remaining fruit (detailed study in the fruit series), is a mature form of love. Let's go through it quickly....

Without love, you cannot have God's joy.

**Nehemiah 8:10** NKJV

**....for the joy of the Lord is your strength.**

Simply put, if a Christian is robbing people of their joy (walking out of love and/or stealing their joy), the Lord isn't going to give you His joy, which is HIS strength. It's literally the strength of God HIMSELF. Let's look at the entire passage.

**Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."**

He didn't tell them to rest; He told them to party!! He didn't tell them, "*I'll empower you to be strong.*" He told them to **enjoy themselves by having a party**, which is His joy, and **that would cause Him to work** His Strength for them. You indulging in the joy of the Lord causes His muscles to go to work for you, workout whatever needs worked out.

**1 John 4:18** NKJV

**There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.**

Made perfect in love, in other words, grow fruit. The reason you can order a pizza, watch a movie, and eat ice cream when a situation looks impossible is because you grew in love and you're working The Joy of The Lord. While you're pizza partying, He's moving the mountain. Does everyone see this? We need to move on for time's sake.

Out of the pizza party of Holy Joy, comes peace, peace from the Lord. Peace is also listed by Paul as your sandals. It's supposed to also be on your feet, because, think of a stride, it's before you and behind you. Peace seems to be something Christians and non-Christians are constantly seeking. When you read through scripture peace is mentioned many times. It's fruit, it's sandals, and freely given by God. Jesus said...

**John 14:27** NKJV

**Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**

Why can't Christians seem to hold down peace in their life? Because, back to the fruit list, you must **love**, use **The Joy of The Lord**, and the **peace** comes naturally. It will just be a matter of choice, an easy choice.

After peace, comes **longsuffering** or patients. People pray for patients all the time, or claim God is trying to teach it to them by making them suffer. That's not the case. We are to cultivate the fruits, not God!! It's our responsibility.

**James 1:3-4** NKJV

**<sup>3</sup> knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. <sup>4</sup> But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.**

When you pray for patience, you're praying for a testing. The Lord isn't the tester or tempter. You're praying the tester or tempter come and put you through a trial. That's not how we properly grow. There are many testimonies out there of people saying, "*Don't pray for patience, every awful thing will happen! Hahaha*" It's not funny. You invited the enemy in to play evil games. The Lord wants us to grow in patience by walking in **love**, **The Joy of The Lord**, **peace**, and then the **longsuffering** will easily kick in to help you glide through whatever issue you're facing. We are NOT told to suffer it out so we can grow, we're told to work the fruit to grow the easy way!

We're going to have to move faster through these... Does anyone remember today's topic? .... How to change the easy way in Christ! See, I told you that you'd forget!

**Kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control**, will all come easily growing in that order.

Goodness means, when you study it in Hebrew, blessed to be a blessing. Growing the fruit will make you trustworthy to God to handle money to bless others.

This fruit is God's very nature, God's Breath of Life, breathing through you, and that is how God, Yahweh, uses love to break up the darkness. Like we studied last week, it also makes you abide under the Shadow of The Almighty, so you can't be touched by the enemy. That's how you dwell in The Secret Place. You're hidden in His Breath, His Love, His Light, and His protecting shadow and wing of Psalms 91. ***I'm so excited about this!! Can you see the mystery revealed to us today?***

Producing fruit, or better said maturing in the spirit realm, is what will automatically produce the change into righteous living! Love is both the ground and first fruit (see The Fruit series for an explanation). **When you pour love in, the love ground in your heart will begin to break up the ground and vomit out the stones, bad seeds, and weeds living there; more easily said break up the unrighteous living.**

I'm going to use someone talking about coastal dirt, because it works the same with our spirits:

I moved here to the coastal area, and the ground here does something weird that I have never seen happen before. A good heavy rain will purge the ground of random things planted in it. I bought cheap bags of local dirt at the store, and I was super excited about it. After a good hard rain, cigarettes started coming out, pieces of plastic, and metal came up. I never bought those stupid cheap dirt bags again!! Is this phenomenon normal? It

spit out my perlite and even spit up green onions in another area I was told the lady living there before me planted the year before. HOW IS THIS EVEN POSSIBLE?

I wanted you to hear this, because it works the same way in the spiritual realm. A good hard rain of love will cause your ground to purge, but you'll remember vomit better, out the junk that you can't see. **Once you get your good hard rain of love, then The Holy Spirit (not you!) will get your conainer in working order.**

Love is so important. **We have to take walking out of love very seriously.** The internet has made it cute. If you get on Google, you can find the saying, "*I love Jesus, but I cuss a little,*" on mugs, travel mugs, t-shirts, stickers, coasters, digital art, and even a pillow. Think that's bad? *I love Jesus, but I drink a little,*" is on all that plus socks, drink holders, Christmas tree ornaments, and wall art. What those types of sayings mean is, "*I love Jesus, but I don't feed on His love.*" That's exactly why God uses a depiction of fruit. **You have to feed your love ground love so it produces love fruit.** Just like your dog is supposed to eat dog food. Your dog will eat cat food, but it's too high in fat for them. Most dogs are willing to taste any pet food! Your dog will happily eat human food, but what you and your other pets eat isn't always nutritious or healthy for them, matter of fact grapes are highly toxic to most dogs and can cause death. What you're feeding on can be toxic to your love ground.

And finally... what today's topic is actually about...

**How do you change unrighteous living into righteous living?** Pouring love breaks up the ground, pouring more love will purge (or cause you to vomit out) the cussing, gossiping, manipulating, self-importance, unrighteous judgments, and other ill-mannered behavior. **We're not doing the changing, because we'll struggle or even fail. We're letting Elohim, God in 3 Parts, do the work on us.** Here's some great news! It's easy. You already have the ability to love.

Let's look at some scripture...

**Romans 5:5**NKJV

**Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.**

If you have the Holy Spirit, God's love is already in your heart. It's "*has been poured out*" not will be. **All the loving you ever need is already there.** What happened? Well, you take steps every day in love or in hate. Your boss or a coworker treats you poorly. You think, "*I wish they'd fire you.*" That's hate! You're driving and someone cuts you off. You say, "*You idiot!*" That's hate. Someone steals from us... I'm not even gonna say out loud what some of you might say! When we're wronged, we start talking! We're pouring something out into our ground every day; love or hate.

Now that we understand the Biblical process... How exactly do we pour love out on ourselves and tap into this love in our heart? These are the ways that you can feed yourself.

**Reading your Bible.** Simply put the Bible is God's love revealed.

**Praise and Worship.** Pouring your love out on God, will in turn cause Him to pour His love back out on you.

**Listening to sermons or reading books from ministers who walk in love.** Not all ministers walk in God's love. Some need healing from wounds and some haven't yet received a revelation on love. Doesn't matter if we like the "*telling it like it is...*" We need to feed on love!

**Corporate Praise and Worship.** Matthew 18:20 says, "*For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.*" Get in the midst of God, His glory will change you!

**Choosing Love.** This is how you get love flowing out of your spirit. When you choose love, love starts to flow. God is a God of increase. If you use His love, He's happy to help supply more love.

But with that being said, you might be thinking that's confusing. You just said you have to pour love in, but God will give it to you. Yes! This is how the Holy Spirit brought the explanation to me....

Being born again is like a pond. God's love being "*poured out in our heart*" is like having fish put in that pond. Fish will reproduce and make more fish, just like God's love can generate its own flow. But when you fish in that pond multiple times a day, you're using up your supply of fish faster than they can reproduce. You must add more fish to your pond by spending time with God, so when you need the fish, they will be there. Does that make sense? I'll keep going to make sure we get what the Holy Spirit is teaching...

Some people say when a person is newly saved, "*They're on a honeymoon with Jesus, wait until reality hits them!*" It's always followed up by some type of cynical laughter. What happens when "*reality hits?*" **Their love pond was emptied out.** Some ministers like to describe this "*love pond*" like a bank account. You can't keep making withdraws without deposits. You're going to run dry. But I like what the Holy Spirit gave us, because different fish can be put in the pond! Reading small bits of scripture will give you bait fish, but reading and feeding on larger portions will give you bigger fish like a whale shark. When you're done with your whale shark, it can be put back into the water because its full potential wasn't used up. Those bigger fish won't get away easily. Let's look at scripture...

**Psalm 68:19** NKJV

**Blessed be the Lord, who daily loads us with benefits, The God of our salvation! Selah**

Daily loaded with benefits! DAILY LOADED! Love is one of the benefits we're daily loaded with by God. When you think about...

**1 John 4:8** NKJV

**He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.**

We already read love has been poured out in our heart. It's easy to see love is one of those daily benefits. So now that we understand how to work God's love in our life so we can *easily* live righteously, let's get to the constrictor.

**2 Corinthians 5:14** KJV

**For the love of Christ constraineth us...**

How do we get our constrictor working? That's easy. If you're pouring in love, and flushing out the bad it will work on its own. It's automatic. When someone cuts you off in traffic, and your normal is to shout "*Are you blind?*" Before you speak, you'll feel something inside rise up empowering you to not act the same. You can blow through it or yield to it; it will be your choice. The more you choose the love rising up inside you, the easier it gets. Because... **The love of Christ does the constricting, the heavy lifting, the work!** Can't believe it's that easy? That's the power of love! Let's look at one more passage of scripture before we end for this week.

**Matthew 11:28-30** Original Hebrew Translation

**<sup>28</sup>Let all those who are troubled and oppressed come unto me, and I myself will help you. <sup>29</sup>And carry my yoke upon you and learn from me, that I am humble and restful of heart, and you will find rest in your nephashot (soul) <sup>30</sup>for my yoke is restful and my burden is easy.**

That is from the Original Hebrew Translation. Religious people want to make everything hard and difficult. We don't have examples of that in scripture. Our examples are easy and restful. What's the requirement, LEARN FROM ME. What do we need to learn? Learn to love like Christ loved. **It's easy and restful**, because the Holy Spirit is living in you. He wants to do the heavy lifting! Let Him.

We can supercharge the *loving process* by submitting to God. I'll give you a sample prayer, but please feel free to pray from your heart at home or in the car tonight.

Lord, break me of my unrighteous ways. I submit myself to Your changes. Please mold me and shape me, and make me who You called me to be. Give me Your eyes to see and Your ears to hear not only what The Holy Spirit is trying to teach me, but also to hear and see people as You hear and see them. I'll yield to the love that rises up in my heart. Holy Spirit, I can't do this without you! Thank You, Father, for changing me and being patient with me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Next week will be talking about humility, and see mind blowingly good revelations from the Holy Spirit. I hope the revelations so far have been just as eye opening and exciting to you as it has been me.

### Homework!

- Read **1 Corinthians 13**, the love chapter of the Bible
- Talk to The Holy Spirit about the progress on your fruit
- Pour love out on yourself this week, a very heavy pouring, and pay close attention to the effect it has on you

### Prayer Points

- Thank You, Father, for opening up Your Word to us and giving us a deep understanding
- Keep explaining Your love to us this week as we mediate on what we learned
- Please grant us the grace to make all the changes You want us to make in our lives
- Holy Spirit please continue to remind us, even if it's in dreams, to pour love out this week
- Lord please grant us more grace and repair our love constrictor if it's broken
- Holy Spirit, please wave a HUGE red flag with the love constrictor so we don't miss it
- Thank You for loving us and changing our lives to be completely pleasing to You

In Jesus' Name, Amen