

Resting in God
"The freedom to love and be loved"

Study 27

1 John 4:17-18 (Amplified Bible) In this [union and communion with Him] love is brought to completion and attains perfection with us, that we may have confidence for the day of judgment [with assurance and boldness to face Him], because as He is, so are we in this world.

18) There is no fear in love [dread does not exist], but full-grown (complete, perfect) love turns fear out of doors and expels every trace of terror! For fear brings with it the thought of punishment, and [so] he who is afraid has not reached the full maturity of love [is not yet grown into love's complete perfection].

As followers of Jesus we are to love as He loves. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Father God is perfecting that love in us.

Our kind of love is generally motivated by our need to be fulfilled. It is an emotional attachment to someone or something that delights our heart and fulfills some purpose for us. In this kind of love we have a need to take ownership. What we love needs to in some way respond to our love or we have little capacity to keep loving. Most of the time, our love is given only if we are loved back.

If our love is not returned in kind, we go on to the next object to fulfill our need or we quiet our hearts until we can find someone who will love us back. We minimize our outlay of love to guard our hearts from harm.

Christ's supernatural kind of love is the antithesis of our kind of love. His love is without restraint. There is no limit to His capacity to love. His love is beyond the demand of having it returned. In fact when it is not returned, He loves deeper. He loves beyond His own life.

That love is in us. It may be dormant at this juncture in your life but His love is in you because Jesus is in you. He has designed your new life to allow His love to flow through you as you surrender more and more to Him.

As a spiritual being living in a carnal world, we have been given the capability to hold His presence within us; to be containers of everything that He is. One of His major motivations is His desire to love through us. Stepping into His kingdom with Him allows His motivations to be our desire as we choose to be one with Him.

Matthew 11:12 (New International Version) From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.

There is no real, God-like, eternal love in either of the lower kingdoms. The kingdom of darkness is void of any kind of caring. Hatred for God and His ways is the motivation behind all that is done in this kingdom.

All love within the kingdom of this world is based on feelings, fleeting feelings. Seasonal, conditional, and temporary, what is called love is nothing more than fulfilling a need to be accepted or filling a personal void.

God's kind of love being lived through His people is so powerful that it destroys all strongholds from either of these kingdoms and advances His Kingdom with great force. It pushes aside any darkness. No weapon formed against it can prosper in any way. No false power can minimize its effect. There is no way to quiet its eternal impact.

Begin to ask God to teach you how to love His way. Ask Him to allow you to love without restriction. Ask him to teach you to love those who hate you and choose to harm you. Each step you take toward His kind of love, the love that drove Jesus to the cross destroys one more stronghold the lower kingdoms have on you or on anyone who see's that love in action. Love advances the kingdom of heaven more than any other way of living.

Hebrews 4:9-10 (New International Version) There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; 10) for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his.

Jesus loved so perfectly that He owned nothing, not His reputation, His rights, even His life. When He had the choice to either give His life or save it, He gave it away freely. In that way nothing could stop the love that brought the cross .

When we choose to allow Christ's love to flow through us, we can be at complete rest. Nothing can touch us. We are free from all worry, fear, and pressure because He is. No stronghold from either of the lower kingdoms can attach itself to us because He is Teflon to them.

Ask the Lord to show you how to love as He loves. Ask Him to show you how He perceives others. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal God's plan to you so you can distinguish it from the plans of the lower kingdoms and be free from them. Start today to rest in His love for you. Start today to wait on Him and for Him in everything.

For thought or discussion:

Now that you are secure in Christ, do you care that others are

Is there anyone who you like to see not make it