



LOVE! What really is Love? Of course there are unnumerable writings, movies and songs on this subject, but what is Love?

Could it be a *substance*? In scripture there is a passage that tells us, **“Now faith is the *substance* of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen!”**¹

There is a similarity between *faith and love*, for both have *substance!* When one has true love and faith it can only be seen by their actions, yet we cannot see the *substance* that is the cause of their deeds. The person who has *true faith* which they act upon and *true love* which shows charity in those acts are the peacemakers as Jesus was.

So what is the *substance* Hebrews speaks of that gives us both *love* and *faith* which work together and are one in the same? A married couple that has love also has faith! Faith that is shown by commitment and trust which creates desire to love and nurture one another.

Love builds desire and love builds trust and confidence, a willing heart which is true faith! “Give and it shall be given.”²

In the book of Proverbs we read, ***“I love them that love me, and those that seek me early shall find me.”***³ This passage is speaking of *substance*, that is; *love and faith!* For as we read from vs 17 to 22 we see that in Agape Love is riches and honour, durable riches and righteousness. Fruit that is better than gold, even fine gold.

The revenue that comes to us in return is ***God’s Love*** which is more valuable than choice silver!

“I lead in the way of righteousness”, therefore the *love* of God gives us the *faith* to follow Him into the midst of the paths of judgment. In the righteous judgment of God is where we learn about His mercy, compassion, long suffering, patience, protection, correction and *true love!* He helps us put on His divine Nature and removes from us with loving care our filthy rags of pride, selfishness, envy and jealousy. And why does He do all this? ***So we might inherit SUBSTANCE!*** ***“The Lord possessed *substance* in the beginning of His way, before His works of old.”***

Many come to God in prayer seeking the *substance of this world* ,(which was offered to Jesus by the devil) things that pertain to their selfish personal human needs without even humbling themselves enough and offering unto Jesus acceptable praise so that He will allow them into His presence to worship Him i.e., ***Love Him.***

They have no understanding of the All Knowing God in their spirit who knows our every need before we even ask! They come to take and not to give anything let alone love. These are spots in our feasts of charities, clouds that have no water! ***These are the ones in the church and the world that are the tares having no fruit (substance) of God’s Spirit.***

And the warning came from the Apostle Paul!

“ Beloved, while I was giving all diligence to write unto you of our common salvation, I was constrained to write unto you exhorting you to *contend earnestly for the faith* which was once for all delivered unto the

¹ Hebrews 11:1

² Luke 6:38

³ Proverbs 8:17-22

saints. For there are certain men crept in privily, even they who were of old set forth unto this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Now I desire to put you in remembrance, though ye know all things once for all, how that the Lord, having saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not. And angels which kept not their own principality, but left their proper habitation, he hath kept in everlasting bonds under darkness unto the judgement of the great day. Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them, having in like manner with these given themselves over to fornication, and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the punishment of eternal fire.

Yet in like manner these also in their dreamings defile the flesh, and set at nought dominion, and rail at dignities. But Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing judgement, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

But these rail at whatsoever things they know not (having no Substance): and what they understand naturally, like the creatures without reason, in these things are they destroyed. Woe unto them! for they went in the way of Cain, and ran riotously in the error of Balaam for hire, and perished in the gainsaying of Korah.

These are they who are hidden rocks in your love-feasts when they feast with you, shepherds (pastors) that without fear feed themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; Wild waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the blackness of darkness hath been reserved for ever.

And to these also Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, Behold, the Lord came with ten thousands of his holy ones, to execute judgement upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their works of ungodliness which they have ungodly wrought, and of all the hard things which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their lusts (and their mouth speaketh great swelling words), shewing respect of persons for the sake of advantage.

But ye, beloved, remember ye the words which have been spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; how that they said to you, In the last time there shall be mockers, walking after their own ungodly lusts. **These are they who make separations, sensual (walking in the council of their own 5 senses where satan can dwell), having not the Spirit.** But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, **keep yourselves in the love of God**, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

And on some have mercy, who are in doubt; and some save, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

Now unto him that is able to guard you from stumbling, and to set you before the presence of his glory without blemish in exceeding joy, to the only God our Saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and power, before all time, and now, and for evermore." Amen.⁴

Jesus asked a very important question; ".....**when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?**"⁵ A published article in Huffington Post May 1st 2014 lamented the decline of Christianity (the falling away which brings the Lord for His bride to spare her from great tribulation) and the increase and rise of

⁴ Jude 1:3-25

⁵ Luke 18:8

Satanism in the USA today.

There is lots of religion having a form of godliness but no power, that is, *substance*! Except we fulfill the first and greatest commandment, we can never have the *faith* Jesus is looking for. “*And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.*”⁶

Without being intimately involved with Jesus, that is, (“*he that is joined to the Lord is one spirit*”)⁷ we can never have the *kind of faith* that He desires! **And what does God desire most? *Love; for God is Love!***

My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver. I walk in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgement: *That I may cause those that love me to inherit SUBSTANCE, and that I may fill their treasures.* The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.⁸

Fall in Love with Jesus and He will lift you up out of the valley of despair and hopelessness. The following is a wonderful chorus that we sang in Sunday School when I was just a little boy.

***LOVE LIFTED ME, LOVE LIFTED ME
WHEN NOTHING ELSE COULD HELP
LOVE LIFTED ME***

Jesus will say to some; “*depart from Me ye workers of iniquity, I never knew you*”!⁹

Dr. John M. Strome, Adm.D., Th.D.
By the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ

⁶ Mark 12:30

⁷ 1 Corinthians 6:17

⁸ Proverbs 8:19

⁹ Matthew 7:23