

NEEDED TODAY!

A REVIVAL OF LOVE



A WORLD OF LOVELESS HEARTS

One of “the signs of the times” is the widespread deterioration of human love around the world. Ethnic conflicts, violence, terrorism, economic exploitation, trade wars, materialism, alcoholism, drugs, unemployment, poverty, family tensions, the decay of decency, ethics and morality are all producing a harvest of selfishness and lawlessness, and causing a breakdown of cordial human relationships.

The Bible prophesies concerning the brutal, loveless times at the end of the age.

The Lord JESUS, Y’SHUA the Messiah said:

“Most people’s love will grow cold... At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another . . . And brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child; and **children will rise up against parents**, and cause them to be put to death.” (Matthew 24:12,10. 10:21)

The Apostle PAUL wrote:

“But realize this, that in the last days difficult (perilous) times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.” (2 Timothy 3:1-4)

We have to admit, “We’ve arrived.” Examples of lovelessness are seen all around us.

IN THE FAMILY. The basic building units of society – families - are being seriously undermined. Brothers are rising up against brothers, sons against fathers; husbands and wives are screaming at one another, and at their kids. Domestic violence and abuse of children have become major social problems; and divorce is common as it is easier to opt out rather than to stay in and renew love and find healing. “Everyone” wants love, but for many, an alternative de facto relationship is preferred to marriage.

IN SOCIETY, hatred of restraint, and rebellion against legitimate laws, are being ingrained in younger generations. Promiscuity is resulting in foeticide and epidemics of

STDs (sexually-transmitted diseases). Ethnic rivalries, religious intolerance and political tamasha (nonsense) are producing deeply divided societies, communal riots, and bloody conflicts.

IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS it's either fanaticism, or commercial agendas that promote hostility. The lust for power and greed for wealth fans tensions and fuels terrible wars. Illegitimate business concerns, such as the vicious drug trade, the heinous slave market, the enormous pornography racket that twists human minds and produces schizophrenics, sadists, rapists and perverted beasts, all help to create a godless, loveless world of woe!

It's becoming an increasingly sick, sick world. It's not love-sick. It's **lack-of-love-sick!** Multitudes of people today have known virtually nothing of true love throughout their lives. They have been exploited and abused, and as a result, they have no concept of true love. To many, the word "love" simply means selfishness and sexual gratification. True love is non-existent in many relationships.

Many are homeless and friendless. Love to them is a dime, two rupees dropped into their outstretched paws. Others ache for love in the midst of their affluence. Love is what people need. A baby cries out for it. A teenager begins a search for it. A young adult thinks he has found it, but often he becomes disillusioned because what he has found does not measure up to his expectations.

The prophet MICAH spoke pessimistically of our days when he said:

“Do not trust in a neighbour;
Do not have confidence in a friend ...
For son treats father contemptuously:
Daughter rises up against her mother:
Daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;
A man's enemies are the men of his own household.” (Micah 7:5-6)

There's a saying, “A dog is a man's best friend.” That's not in the Bible, but if you had a word with Micah he might say, “Well that's kind of what I'm talking about!” Some people give up hope of human love, and they settle for the friendship of a dog, a cat, a pony, or even a parrot on their shoulder. But isn't it sad - humans who have such potential to love, have learned so little about it!

There's got to be genuine love, somewhere!! There's got to be a sincere response somewhere, to remedy the lonely heart and to fill the emptiness that makes one feel undone. A loving human response!

It's in the midst of this **lack-of-love world** that followers of Y'shua are called to manifest the life and love of their Master. The Son of God came to bring **light** to a dark world, and to bring **love** to very lonely people. And this is what He says to His disciples:

“By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” And, “You have heard that it was said, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR, AND HATE YOUR ENEMY.’ But I say to you, LOVE YOUR ENEMIES, AND PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PERSECUTE YOU.” (John 13:35. Matt 5:43-44).

LOVE,

THE HALLMARK OF THE TRUE BELIEVER

We are living in the last days, in perilous times, in loveless days, and the question is, “What type of people should we be?”

The apostle Peter says we should be holy and Godly, “looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God.” (2 Peter 3:11-12). If we are Godly, our lives will be a

manifestation of the love of God.

You have read or heard that “**God is love.**” That’s true, but it does not mean that God is sentimental. Our Heavenly Father, Yahweh, the Eternal One, is indescribable love. His love has no measure. You may measure the universe, but you can’t measure the love of God! It was that love that created us. It was that love that sent the Son to bring us redemption when we were bogged down in sin. It is the same love that is moving in the world today, offering salvation to all who seek Him.

But time is running out. The return of the Messiah is at hand!

“This same Y’shua (Jesus), who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.” (Acts 1:11)

And that day is drawing very near. What then should be our response?

It would be very easy to panic, or, on the other extreme, to be indifferent, like one pastor who commented: “Let Him come; we’re not bothered!”

The Bible does not call us to panic, but it does warn us of careless attitudes. The Bible calls us to live like followers of the Saviour ought to live! The Father has called us to share His life; and His immediate plan for us as individuals is that we should grow to maturity. This, of course, means a process; and as we grow, we learn the principles of God and how to operate as He does. The Father is longing to share His Godly qualities with each one of us. He wants to lift us up above our human operating plane, so that we can learn His divine qualities and principles. He wants us increasingly to **think**, to **speak** and to **work** as He does. His intention is that we should become like His Beloved Son!

At first this seems “too much.” We might say, “If I am a little bit like Jesus then I’ll be happy!” Yes, sadly it’s so often like that. A little bit holy; a little truthful; a little sanctified; a little godly; a little prayerful; a little zealous. We shouldn’t be fanatical, you know!

As you are aware, there is much failure in the Church. Believers are not always what they should be. And although we will not become absolutely perfect here on earth, we are exhorted to “perfect holiness in the fear of God.” (2 Corinthians 7:1)

Certainly we have not been called to apathy. We have not been called to carnality. And it would be a terrible mistake to settle down for something inferior to God’s perfect will for us.

Now let’s talk about the hallmark (“the trademark,” if you like) of the true believer, the follower of Jesus.

What is it about a believer that makes him different to anyone else - if there is indeed a difference? Of course, the name “Christian,” which should mean “Christ-like,” is sometimes a byword because of blemished testimonies, and because of the shame created by name-sake “Christians.” Sometimes people will challenge us and say, “What is different about **you**? You are no different to us - you’re not even as good as we are!”

That may be true. But it shouldn’t be! There is something different about a true believer - it’s the **love of God manifest in his life**. The hallmark of the believer is **love; love for God, and love for mankind**.

“If I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.” (1 Corinthians 13:2)

I’m sure this is not the first message on Love that you have heard. But I want you to think deeply about this essential characteristic, for love is **not an option**; it is a command. And it begins with love for the Heavenly Father.

“LOVE YAHWEH YOUR GOD!”

This is not one of the Ten Commandments, but it is central to God's *Torah* (instructions) to Israel.

“Hear, O Israel! The LORD (Yahweh) is our God, the LORD (Yahweh) is one!
And you shall love the LORD (Yahweh) your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.” (Deuteronomy 6:4- 5)

Loving God with **all** the heart is possible only when a believer is walking in fellowship with the Father and the Son. (1 John 1:3-9)

Such love for our Heavenly Father is not a lip service. It is a love that comes from a redeemed, cleansed heart. It comes out of a deep appreciation of the One we know as our Creator, and Saviour. It is an appreciation of both the **Person** and the **Work** of God. It is an appreciation of the ways, the principles, and the precepts of God. It is an appreciation of the Word of God, and a true love for **His Name**.

LOVE FOR THE NAME OF THE MOST HIGH

“For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and **the love which you have shown toward HIS NAME.**” (Hebrews 6:10)

“Your NAME is like purified oil.” (Song of Songs 1:3)

“I will sing praises to Your NAME.” (Psalm 18:49)

Our Father **does** have a Name. It is not “GOD.” That is a title. It is not “LORD.” That also is a title. It is not simply “FATHER.” That is an endearment title expressing relationship.

The Father revealed His Name, a long time ago, to Moses at the burning bush. And when the Voice within the burning bush commanded Moses to go to Egypt to confront Pharaoh, Moses said,

“Look! I am going to the sons of Israel, and I shall say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you.’ Now they may say to me, ‘What is His name?’ What shall I say to them?”

“And God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM’; and He said, ‘Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ And God, furthermore, said to Moses, ‘Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘YAHWEH, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ THIS IS MY NAME FOREVER, and THIS IS MY MEMORIAL NAME TO ALL GENERATIONS.” (Exodus 3:15)

In our English translations, you must remember, whenever the word LORD is printed in small capitals it means it is a **substitution** for the original, declared **Name** of the Father

Yahweh. The original Hebrew word is made up of four letters - יהוה - which are transliterated into English as YHWH. These letters are often printed and pronounced as Yahweh.

There may be differences in pronunciation from tongue to tongue, but the original Name should be used in **all** languages. There is no real justification for using substitutes; and corruptions, when discovered, should be eliminated.

The word “Yehowah” for example, is **not** a word found in the Hebrew or Greek texts of the Bible. It was a hybrid word that was created several centuries ago by priests who sought to vocalize the letters YHWH. Jehovah's Witnesses did not invent that name, but they built their religion on the name “Jehovah,” an anglicised form of Yehowah.

“But I've called God, Jehovah, nearly all my life,” some will say. “And we love to sing

the song about *Jehovah Jirah*.” Yes, I know. Me too! But we can always change! I now love to sing about *Yahweh-Yireh*.

But don't be fearful, my friend, I am not trying to convert you into a Hebrew. I'm simply emphasizing that there is an **original** Name of God, and that the original, by nature, is the most **authentic**.

You may ask, 'Does it really matter? It is just the different spellings in different languages!'

Well, my dear reader, **your** name is important to you, isn't it? And if I spell your name wrong, you will be quick to notice it; and if you are like most people, you don't like it being spelt wrong. Myself included! Just this week I received two letters, one addressed to Don Estantoni, and the other one to Done Station. The first expression makes me feel like a Spaniard with Italian blood (which I'm not); and the second name makes me feel like a delapidated railway platform. I'm not amused!

I'm sure the Almighty is neither amused, nor non-amused, by our wrong pronunciation of His Name. But I believe He **is** concerned when people start calling Him 'X', 'Y', 'Z'.

Shakespeare said, "A rose by any other name will smell as sweet." That's true! But it is **not** true that you can call the Heavenly Father by any name, and expect the name to fit. That is exactly what New Age philosophy does.

A correct form of a name is important. I might tell you all about Borj Gush, and the tremendous power He has. But I'm sure the man in the White House will not be impressed.

If you love your human father, you will love his name, and be proud of it; and certainly you will correct any corruption of his name even if there is only one letter wrong. Then why not use the correct rendition of **our Heavenly Father's Name**?

“GOD IS TOO BIG FOR A NAME”

One of our faults has been in thinking that the Father's "Name" is simply "everything that God is." We thought the Almighty was too big to have a personal Name. So we settled on calling Him, "God" and "Lord." But consider this verse:

“Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His Name or His Son's Name? Surely you know!” (Proverbs 30:4)

Many will reply to this question by using the common translation of most Bibles, in Isaiah 42:8: "I am the LORD, that is My name." But the Hebrew Bible says: **“I am YHWH, that is My Name.”**

Some people argue, "But we shouldn't speak the Name of the Father!"

That is the old Israelite belief; and that's why they speak the word **Adonai** instead of Yahweh. And that custom was carried over to most of our English translations where LORD has been printed instead of YHWH. This has happened, not simply in three or four places, but 6,855 times.

People were not afraid to speak Jehovah when that was a generally accepted name of God? And they are not afraid to speak the word HalleluYAH which contains the short form of the Father's Name – Yah?

“Extol Him who rides on the clouds – **by His Name is YAH** - and rejoice before Him.” (Psalm 68:4). The New King James version got it right in this verse!

It is not wrong to speak the Father's Name, if we do so reverently. Y'shua taught us to pray ...

“Our Father in Heaven, HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME.” (Matthew 6:9)

Hallowed does not mean eliminated. It means to be regarded with greatest respect and awe, and treated as holy. We must be on guard then, against using the Name of our Father and our Saviour irreverently or lightly. It is sacred. It is holy and it is to be revered.

Some will say, “Oh it’s too late in the day to change from words and pronunciations we’ve always used.” That thought however, is rather like an old man on the way to hell, who after hearing the truth, says, “Oh it’s too late to change my direction now!”

If you know the Truth, then adhere to the Truth, and proclaim the Truth!

My dear reader, I believe there is a revival of God’s Name under way; not simply a restoration of the original, authentic Names, Yahweh/Y’shua, but a deep, passionate **love** for these precious and beautiful Names.

But let us come back to the matter of **Love** - the love of the Father that was expressed supremely in the giving of His Son to be our Sacrifice, and was expressed so perfectly in the willingness of Y’shua to become “the Lamb of God” – and it’s that love that needs to be manifest in the followers of the Most High today.

Now back to Deuteronomy 6:4-5.

Israel was commanded to love, not merely “the Lord,” but specifically, **Yahweh**, with all their heart. Why do I make this distinction? Because the Father does, and because Moses by inspiration, wrote the word YHWH, not Lord. (There are, of course, hundreds of times in the Old Testament where Lord (Adonai) is used, and where it is not a substitution. But the substitution occurs 6,855 times in most English Bibles.

One compelling reason why a believer must uphold the true Name of the God of the Bible is because the words “Lord” and “God” can be vague, and can be misapplied, as there are many “lords” and “gods” in the world. In the Old Testament, Baal was also called “Lord,” just like today many call the “Maitreya Buddha” Lord. Many New Age people claim that Lord Maitreya is the Master of Masters, and Lord of all.

If we are Bible believers we must be very specific, when we use the words Lord or God, to show we’re talking about the Heavenly Father whose Name is **Yahweh – the Eternal One**. He is the One who transcends all nations; He is the eternal Creator who made us all.

LOVE WILL BE EXPRESSED IN WORSHIP AND OBEDIENCE

The Almighty Eternal One is worthy of worship; and worship is due to Him because of who He is. **Worship** is the continuous theme of Heaven.

“And whenever the living creatures give glory and honour and thanks to the One who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who is seated on the throne, and *they* worship Him who lives forever and ever, and *they* cast their crowns before the throne, saying: ‘You are Worthy, Oh LORD, (YHWH), to receive glory and honour and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they exist, and were created’.”

“And the four living creatures said, ‘Amen.’ And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshipped Him who lives for ever and ever.” (Revelation 4:9-11, 5:14)

And all earth is called to bow before the One who sits on the Throne of Eternity.

“All the earth bows *and* worships You; they sing praises to You; they praise Your Name.” (Psalm 66:4)

The Messiah Y’shua explained about worship:

“The hour is coming, and *in fact, it* has already come when the true worshippers will **worship the Father in spirit and truth**; for the Father is seeking such *people* to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:23-24)

Love for the Messiah will also be expressed in **obedience** to His will and directions.

Y’shua was not being a task Master when He said:

“If you love Me, you will obey what I command.” (John 14:15)

He was speaking about **the power of love**.

The apostle John understood the love of God very well, having spent several years at the Saviour’s feet. And after many years of living in fellowship with the Master, John explains to other believers:

“For **true love for God** means that we obey His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome - *oppressive and grievous*.” (1 John 5:3)

“And this is His commandment: that we believe in (*trust in, adhere to and rely on*) the Name of His Son, Y’shua the Messiah, and to **love one another**, just as He commanded us. Now he who keeps His commandments lives in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He lives in us - by the Spirit whom He has given to us.” (1 John 3:23-24)

LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER

Love for God will be expressed in love for other people. Listen as the apostle John continues his teaching on love:

“If someone says, ‘**I love God,**’ and hates his brother, he is a liar.” (1 John 4:20)

“Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought to **love one another**.” (1 John 4:11)

And of course, this was the command of the Messiah Himself:

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.” (John 13:34)

Friends, this is fundamental to godliness and to our Faith! If we don’t love our brethren, how can we ever love our enemies as our Master commanded us to do?

The need to love the brethren is reiterated in many passages. To quote a few:

“Through love serve one another.” (Galatians 5:13)

“Let love be without hypocrisy.” (Romans 12:9)

“We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren . . . Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another ... if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us... If some one says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God **should love his brother also**.” (1 John 3:16, 4:11-12, 20-21)

It is tragic today that often love does not exist among believers. Sometimes it seems that Christians are more known for their divisions than for their love for one another. Many of the problems amongst believers could be taken good care of, by the flow of divine love. As Peter says, “Love covers a multitude of sins.” (1 Peter 4:8)

I am sure you will agree that love can take care of minor faults and problems. But love will also take care of even **big** faults. Genuine divine love always recognises the reality -

that our Father always seeks the restoration and rectification - of His people, in particular. Divine love will lead to a spiritual reaction and a blessed solution. Non-love leads to carnal reaction with all its inevitable sorrow and harm. This does not mean that evils are merely overlooked, or that broken relationships should simply be ignored. But when there is love, there will also be a spiritual response that will lead to rectification and blessing in the lives of those concerned.

It is the law of the love of Christ. That love will help to restore those who have fallen. That love will bring forgiveness. It will eliminate the spirit of revenge. It will cancel the rivalries, the jealousies, the stubbornness and the pettiness. It will silence the condemnations, slander and gossip. The Apostle Paul says:

“Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another’s burdens, and thus fulfil the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:1-2)

The sad fact is that few believers will do this. It means that few are spiritual. Most of us are weak in spirituality, but strong in carnality. Could the Lord say to us – to you and me, “You are spiritual. Take care of my sheep. Go after that sheep that’s caught in the thickets, or fallen into a pit.”?

Why is there such **failure in loving**? Why does love not prevail? It’s largely because our efforts to love is of the flesh, and not of God.

LOVE IS FROM GOD

(1 John 4:7)

We are not talking now about **human** love, but something much more superior - **the Love of God**. And when our Saviour said, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another,” He was not telling us to summon up our most noble **human** love to shower upon our most beloved brothers and sisters. How could we love as He loved, with our **human-quality of love**?

No! God IS love, and love is OF God, and love is FROM God.

The Heavenly Father is asking us, commanding us, to do something humanly impossible. It’s like **loving Yahweh with all your heart**. That’s impossible - unless you have a supernatural type of love in your heart!

HUSBANDS, LOVE YOUR WIVES

Many human Christian relations break down because they are fuelled merely by human love. And Christian marriages can break down for this reason.

Our brother Paul makes another great demand. He commands: “**Husbands, love your wives!**” (Ephesians 5:25). How is that possible?

Some of my male readers will say, “I love **my** wife?”

I reply, “What, all the time?”

“Yes, sir!”

“Good for you, brother. You’ve found the secret! And what is it?”

“Love is from God.”

Right! And let’s not forget the rest of Paul’s verse which says, “... just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her.”

That’s the **quality** of love Paul is talking about. Our best human resources will never pass

the test. It will fail again and again. It will crack up under pressures. And that's the trouble with all of our human relationships.

Marriage breakdowns occur when human love declines and where there is no place for the love of God to sustain the relationship.

We do not despise human love, but we should not depend of human love. We need divine love to encompass our human love!

Problems in relationships often go very deep; but God's love is the solution. It may take time for two people to come to the place where they are both willing to surrender their lives to the flow of God's love. But that's where the remedy lies.

THE HOLINESS OF GOD PRODUCES LOVE

The Eternal One, Yahweh, is comprised of an indescribable quality called holiness. This is the very core and essence of His Being. It radiates glory and produces light, life, intelligence, righteousness and love. Like the rays of the sun, these divine attributes reach out continuously, permeating the physical as well as the spiritual universe.

God's love reaches to every person, everywhere, but not everyone surrenders to that love. Mankind has been so twisted in his understanding and spiritual comprehension that he is impounded in a state of blindness. And thus he remains - until the grace of God reaches him.

But to as many as receive Him, and as surrender to His life, is given the right to share the life of the Father. They have the privilege and right to "plug in" to the divine Power House, the divine supernatural Life that transforms the human life, and seals it as belonging to The Almighty. And this **life** produces **holiness**, which in turn produces true **love**. Sadly, many of us are like babies in understanding this basic essential.

I was feeling rather discouraged recently, when meditating on this matter. I had to admit that so often we believers don't always express the Life of Jesus - the Anointed One - in our lives. And Jesus said, "I am ... the **life**." (John 14:6).

Many of us claim that we are based solidly on the Word of God. We hold to "the Book" tenaciously, and we are forte-plus in preaching the truth. Like many staunch reformers, we will face any opposition, and stand firm for the truth till the enemies rob us of our breath. But we won't bless our enemies.

We don't have **love** when we regard it as a "fundamental right" to cut down anybody who does not agree with us. We pray for our enemies, sure - "Do thou Lord be pleased to crush them under thy almighty heal."

Oh our vanity! And bankruptcy! If we do not have love, a genuine love that prays for the salvation and spiritual progress of others, where is our **hallmark**? If we curse rather than bless, where is the **seal** that says we belong to God? Brother Paul, please speak up!

"If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a **noisy gong** or a **clanging cymbal**. And if I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing." (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

Oh, I might be a fundamentalist, a down-right Bible believer engaged in many charitable and "spiritual" works, but without Godly love demonstrated in my life, I am empty, vain and add up, spiritually, to a big **zero** (that's an inflated piece of space with a hole in the middle - O).

The love of God is reaching down to this world, and Y'shua said, "By this all men will

know that you are **My** disciples, if you have love for one another.”

This is a fundamental! This is our Saviour’s command!

I repeat, we will not be known as Jesus’ disciples by our **human** love, but through **God’s love** flowing through us. Human love will always be influenced by circumstances. It is biased. Divine love is above circumstances. As Paul says, love is patient, kind, and not arrogant. It does not seek its own; it endures all things and never fails. (1 Corinthians 13:4-8).

“LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF”

This is God’s command in the Old Testament (Leviticus 19:18), which the Lord Jesus quoted in Matthew 22:39.

Sometimes we find it much easier loving our neighbour’s pet dog than the neighbour himself. But the command of God is not, Love the neighbours that you like; or, Love these ones that are decent and who measure up to your minimum requirements to qualify as a neighbour to be loved.

And **who** is my neighbour? Y’shua answered this question by giving the account of the Good Samaritan. (Luke 10:29-37)

It is not a matter of who your neighbour is, but, **to whom you can be a good neighbour**. The Good Samaritan was the good neighbour, and he helped someone who was not of his own community, and at possible risk to his own life.

To fulfil the command, we must be a good neighbour to anyone in need - whether he lives in the house next door, or whether he lives in a neighbouring state or country.

There are devoted souls, as you know, belonging to charitable societies who go out of their way to find and help people in need. These “Good Samaritans” are not necessarily followers of Y’shua. But God bless them, for they are doing a good job!

But if a non-Christian can express love to the needy, what a shameful thing it is, if believers who have a much greater love potential within them - for they have divine love inside - if they fail to exercise **that** love!

This, my dear reader, is something we each one should seriously take stock of. We say we follow the God of immeasurable love who gave His only Son to deliver His **enemies**. But we ourselves are dwarfs in love. We’re very petty (I repeat, petty, not pretty), in the matter of love.

Now notice one other point about loving your neighbour. The command says, ‘**Love your neighbour as yourself.**’ That’s what you might say is a bit too much! How is it possible to love anyone else as much as myself? It’s impossible if we rely on our own limited **human** resources - the love we have learned from our parents or from society.

The Lord’s commands can only be truly fulfilled by divine love.

“... the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” (Romans 5:5)

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES!

This was not an Old Testament command, but it comes from the lips of Y’shua Himself:

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbour, and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, **love your enemies**, and pray for those who persecute you; in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:43-45)

If we try to love our **enemies** with our human love, we will inevitably fail, for human

nature will promote a spirit of resentment and revenge. There are, of course, people who, through a “positive attitude and philosophy,” are able to refrain from hatred when persecuted. Their response is one of **pity** for the enemy.

But the ability to pity your enemy and to refrain from a vindictive, hateful response, is not the same as “Love your enemies.” Loving your enemy is a positive desire, and a deliberate response that seeks only good for the enemy. Human love may strive to express “goodwill” to an enemy, but the resentment remains inside the memory and heart. To really love your enemies you need a supernatural type of love.

It may be that our enemy hates us because of our expressed faith. He may hate the Saviour we love. He may be embittered by the principles we stand for, and feels obliged to persecute us in the name of his religion, or for his personal convictions’ sake.

And as believers, we need to be on guard against a similar type of hatred in our response to people who teach something **we** don’t believe - no matter what they may be proclaiming. They may be satanists who blaspheme the Name of the One we love; but we cannot sink into a carnal, worldly, spirit of bitterness and loathing.

Yes, we need to proclaim the Truth - but we must do it in love and in humility. Love and Truth does not argue harshly and gloat with spiritual superiority. It does not harbour a spirit of vindictiveness and enmity.

We are **not** called to compromise the Truth, but, as the apostle John wrote:

“Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. We shall know by this that we are of the truth, and shall assure our heart before Him.” (1 John 3:18-19)

To love our enemies is a basic lesson we have to learn. Many of us don’t have bitter enemies. We mostly just have non-cordial relationships caused by incompatibility, or by disagreements and frictions. But sometimes we may have a really deadly enemy; an enemy who would seek to destroy us; an enemy who does not hesitate to slander us and to drag us to the court; one who vows he will see the end of us.

It is when we face such an enemy that we need not only to pray for deliverance from evil, but to learn to love and pray for that enemy. We must **bless** them that curse and persecute us.

Now you **know** that these precepts are in the Sermon on the Mount; they are commands of the Messiah, Y’shua. They are not merely lofty ideals. They are principles that we have to learn.

And yet, when it comes to putting it into practice, some will say, “It’s not possible to bless our enemies. It’s alright for Jesus to command these things. For Him it is easy. He’s God! I’m not! I’m an ordinary man!”

Yes, you may be an ordinary man (or woman). But you are **not** supposed to be an **ordinary** man or woman – if you belong to Y’shua the Messiah. You are supposed to be **filled with the Holy Spirit**. You are supposed to be **spiritual**, because you are joined to the very **life of God**.

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.” (1 John 4:7)

This verse does not mean that everyone who has some human love is born again. It does not mean a robber is born of God because he loves his robber mates. No, John is speaking of divine love that brings forth fruit in our lives.

I knew a Tibetan Buddhist lady who was such a loving person. She would do anything for you. Does it mean she was born again? No. But sometimes the human love of such a

person far outshines the counterfeit thing some believers parade as “spiritual, divine love.”

The next question is, “How can we learn to love with divine love?” How does it “work” in our practical lives? What is the secret?

There are no “secrets” beloved. But what you might call “secrets” are actually **divine principles** which you have right in front of your eyes if you are reading the Sacred Scriptures.

The Christian life begins with the new birth. When we receive the Lord Jesus as our personal Saviour, the Spirit of God implants the **life** of God in our spirits. This is **the beginning of a whole new life**. This is a new life in which we progress more and more in the principles of the Father, the principles of His kingdom.

Two **key** words for the spiritual life are **surrender** and **abide**. The Apostle Paul says:

“For from Him (Yahweh) and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen. I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice**, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 11:36 12:2)

This means a surrender of our lives to the Father so that He might fill us with His Holy Spirit. It was our Saviour, the Lord Jesus, who taught the second “secret” - **abiding**.

“**Abide in Me**, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for **apart from Me you can do nothing** ... If you **abide** in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you. By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples . . . This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.” (John 15:4,5,7,8,12)

The Apostle John takes up the subject in his epistle:

“If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us ... God is love, and the one who **abides** in love **abides** in God, and God **abides** in him. By this, love is perfected with us ... because as **He is**, so also are we in this world.” (1 John 4:12,16,17)

To abide in the Father and the Son is to **live** in Him, and to **live on Him** - to draw **life from Him**, moment by moment. This comes to the very heart of our relationship to Him. It is not simply believing all about Jesus Christ. It is fellowship, and life in Him, and through Him, and of Him.

To **abide** in Christ we need two essential things: **fellowship** and **faith**. Our Fellowship with the Saviour is maintained through **listened** and **talking** to Him - listening to the Word of God, and talking to Him in prayer.

Faith is a deliberate response to the life of God poured into our hearts. Faith is a continuous **trust** and **dependence** upon Him. It is **believing God**, and acting on that belief.

The true spiritual life is a process; and as we **continue** to **abide**, and **continue** to **surrender** our lives to His life, the Father conforms us to the image of His Son, and we grow in faith, and experience more and more the ways of God.

So when we read, “Put on love,” (Colossians 3:14), it involves this process. Love is not

something you can put on like a garment. It is divine attribute that is implanted in our hearts at the New Birth, and which must express itself in our behaviour; that is, if we are indeed children of the Father, and disciples of the Messiah.

Why don't you pray right now, and ask the Heavenly Father to fill your life with His divine love?

END