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What would it be like to live in a world without fear? The world gives us a view of power through fear: authority, control and manipulation. We are under the pressure of controlling agendas from almost everywhere in life. But Jesus Christ demonstrated the true art of power when He came into the world with God's freeing agenda of Love...

The Art of True Power

(Walking skilfully and mindfully in the love of God shed abroad in our hearts)

Matthew 20:25 - 28 (NKJV) ²⁵But Jesus called them to Himself and said, *"You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them.* ²⁶*Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.* ²⁷*And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—* ²⁸*just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."*

A. Jesus contrasts two very different "systems" of power: Domination through Authority vs Service through Love.

- *"You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them."*
- The world's idea of power is CONTROL through power.
- Along with CONTROL is someone's AGENDA for your life.
- We need to become AGENDA – FREE, except for the Loving agenda of God: to love us into freedom!
- *"Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant."*

B. The world wields power through the domination of Fear.

- The world has nothing to give the spirit of man, so it has to control outwardly through fear!
- Fear is a SPIRIT
- Uses power to control, manipulate, agenda-ize.

- God says that in love there is no "fear of punishment"
- **John 4:16-18** *"And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment ("punishment" – NIV). But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.*

C. God demonstrates power through serving in Love.

- God fills our spirit with Himself as Love and this inward RESOURCE enables us to live as God would.
- John 3:16 – God's Agenda is to LOVE the world back to restoration through His Son.

D. We are called to walk in the ART of Jesus's kingdom Power: LOVE

- John 13:34-35 – *"A NEW commandment I give..."*
- Jesus came to demonstrate God's True Power to the world: LOVE!
- This is the true mark of His Kingdom people! (v. 35)

E. Our Greatest Stewardship with the planet: God's Love is shed abroad in our hearts!

- **Romans 5:5 (NKJV)** ⁵*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.*
- **We can live as a new breed of people in the earth! Live the agenda of God's love!**
- **"Love never fails"** – 1 Cor 13:8a

Boundless Love

Cultivating the Depths of God's Love

Ephesians 3:18 - 19 (NKJV) *that you, being rooted and grounded in love,¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

A. We are called to Root and Ground ourselves in the *width, length, depth and height* of Christ's Boundless love!

- Eph 3:18-19
- To place ourselves in the power of who God is and how He operates!
- I awoke to Love's presence: God is not "out there", Everything is within Him. I am within the Love.
- Psalms 139:5-10 – His presence is everywhere.

B. The ONLY true source of happiness is the Boundless Love of God.

- Song of Songs 1:2 (NKJV)² *Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth— For your love is better than wine.*
- Song of Songs 1:4 (NKJV)⁴ *We will remember ~~£~~ your love more than wine.*
- Song of Songs 8:7 (NKJV)⁷ *If a man would give for love All the wealth of his house, It would be utterly despised.*

C. But our culture is obsessed with possessing OUTWARD THINGS for obtaining happiness.

- Luke 12:15, 16-21
- "And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."
- "Things" can not contribute to our soul.

D. At the root of that obsession is an IDENTITY CRISIS.

- The problem with filling the heart with temporal things is that the soul of man was made for the Love of God.
- We think this temporal life is all there is to us. We do not see the spiritual dimension.
- The heart is a deep thing that ONLY God's love can fill:
- **Proverbs 25:3 (NKJV)**³ *As the heavens for height and the earth for depth, So the heart of kings is unsearchable.*
- Our heart has a height and depth to it only God's love can fill.

E. As believers we need to discover the DEPTHS of our Inner Being: The place in which we are JOINED to GOD'S LOVE in CHRIST.

- **1 John 4:9 (NKJV)**⁹ *In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we **might live through Him**.*
- Living through Christ you will discover what is inside you that is timeless and boundless.

F. If we develop FAITH in the depths of God's Love inside us, we will become the most powerful force on earth.

- Romans 8:37 (NKJV)³⁷ *Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.*
- God's Boundless love for us and in us conquers all.

G. Work on your inside identity: "This is My Beloved Son".

- **Matthew 3:17 (NKJV)**¹⁷ *And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*
- **1 John 3:1**

H. If we want our love to be a powerful force, we have to nourish Boundless love within us.

- **Philippians 1:9 (NKJV)**⁹ *And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,*

How to Cultivate Boundless Love

1. God's Love completely surrounds you in Christ: REST your faith in it.

Eph 3:18-19 "... what is the width and length and depth and height—¹⁹to know the love of Christ..."

Psalms 145: ⁸The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, Slow to anger and great in mercy. ⁹The LORD is good to all, And His tender mercies are over all His works.

- A. **Your life is surrounded by, enveloped in and covered with the Love of God.**
 - God's love is everywhere, generally; But it is concentrated specifically with depth in the Person of Christ.
 - When God puts you into Christ, He puts you in *the width, length, depth and height* of His own Love!
- B. **His tender mercies hover over you!** (Ps 145:9)
- C. **In Love we live and move and have our Being.** (Acts 17:28)
- D. **Whatever you are "in" (trouble, trial, etc.), you are "in" His love wider, longer, deeper and higher!**
 - The love is deeper than your fears worries and troubles.
- E. **Rom 8:35-39.**

- F. **Learn to Rest into the Depths of Love in you.**
 - Deut 33:27 - ²⁷The eternal God is your refuge, And underneath are the everlasting arms;
- G. **Have Faith in God's Boundless Love.**
 - 2 Chron 5:13-14
 - 2 Chron 7:
 - 2 Chron 20:22-24, 25 – Jehoshaphat
- H. **The reason we are not satisfied with our Christian life is that we never get down into the depths of it in God's Love. Psalm 42:7**
 - ⁷ "Deep calls unto deep at the noise of Your waterfalls; All Your waves and billows have gone over me. ⁸ The Lord will command His lovingkindness in the daytime, And in the night His song shall be with me...."
 - The deep things of God is about His love!

2. RECIEVE God's Love to be Filled with God's Fullness.

Ephesians 3:18 - 19 (NKJV) *that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—¹⁹to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

- A. **How do we get filled with all God's fullness? Know the Love!**
 - My answer used to be related to works: pray more, fast, read the word,
 - Then God straightened out my thinking with Grace: Know the LOVE of Christ!

- B. **What kind of “Knowing” is called for here?**
- Eph 3:19 - *to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*
 - “Know” = *ghin-occe'-ko* = allow, be aware (of), feel, (have) known, perceive, be resolved, be sure, understand.
- C. **Everything God has done for you in Christ has, at its root, the energy of Love.**
- To receive your forgiveness, justification, gifts of the spirit, use of the Name of Jesus, etc... means receiving the love BEHIND it. If you don't feel God loves you, why would you feel that you can receive these things?
 - *"God so loved the world that He gave...."* Love is behind God's giving us all things in His Son.
- D. **Receive by believing and confession God's Love for you.**
- How do you know someone love's you? Believe their words and actions towards you. You receive it.
 - You will never grow beyond your confession.
- E. **"Rooted" and "Grounded" implies going deep and remaining there.**
- Are you a tumbleweed or a tree planted in the Love of God?

3. REJOICE in the Energy and Capacity of the love put inside you.

(God's Love wants to expand, fill and have Dominion over all things)

Romans 5:5 (NKJV) ⁵*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.*

- A. **It is God's Boundless Love for us that is poured out inside our being.**
- That love belongs to you.
 - It is wed to your spirit in Christ and can no more leave you than you can leave you.
 - It is a truth shining in Him and in you: 1 John 2:7-8
- B. **This Love is not static, but alive and abounding.**
- Rom 5:5 – *"The love of God is poured out into our hearts..."*
 - The Greek word means, *"to pour, to gush forth, to spill out, to run over."*
 - The implication is MOVEMENT and ACTIVITY and ABUNDANCE.
 - It is a motion to Abundance in every way.
- C. **If we yield to its activity it will GROW and ABOUND more and more.**
- Phil 1:9 – *"And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment...."*
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- D. **The Love inside of us has unlimited capacity.**
(Tune in to the boundless aspect of your spirit).
- **Colossians 2:9 - 10 (NIV)** ⁹*For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, ¹⁰and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.*
- E. **Don't look for outward things to complete you. Look to the Love inside you.**

4. RECLAIM Your Position of Forgiveness with God

(Love grows bolder each acceptance of God's full forgiveness).

Luke 7:47 (NKJV) ⁴⁷Therefore I say to you, her sins, *which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little.*"

- A. **Jesus said if we are forgiven little we love little; forgiven much, love much.**
 - Luke 7:40-47
 - Receiving God's forgiveness and righteousness makes know we are worthy of His love.
 - If we feel guilty, condemned, unrighteous – we will not receive God's love
- B. **Tap into your Forgiveness and be thankful: love will grow.**
 - *Rom 8:33-35*
 - See here how our justification and receiving His love are connected.
- C. **In any relationship offer forgiveness and love will grow.**
- D. **Remain in your God-created place of righteousness in Christ and let God's love flow.**

5. RESIST the forces that diminish Love.

Matthew 24:12 (NKJV) ¹²*And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.*

- A. **Jesus said that mounting negative pressures in the earth will cause men's hearts to grow cold.**
 - Wickedness, lack of faith, fear... these things choke out love from our life...
 - 2 Tim 3:1-5
 - Prov 4:23 - Keep your heart with all diligence!
- B. **We live in an age where fear abounds and attempts to crush God's love out of our hearts.**
 - Fear and Love are opposite forces... they cannot operate at the same time in the same heart.
 - God wants you to develop love to the place where it is the dominate motive of your life and casts fear out.
 - 1 John 4:18 - ¹⁸*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.*
 - Fear is the calling card of satan to rob you of the blessings walking in love will bring you.
- C. **Love cannot thrive where fear-thoughts abound.**
 - Mark 4:40 – Fear chokes out love and faith and hope from our hearts when we entertain fears.
- D. **To cultivate love, we have to drive fear out of our life. (2 Tim 1:7)**

6. REFOCUS on God's Love by beholding your Identity in Christ.

1 John 3:1 (NKJV) ¹*Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of ⁴God!*

A. Behold the Love of God contained in His making you His Sons!

- God's Love for us is seen and realized by our faith in what He has made us: HIS SONS!
- Don't look at what the devil is doing, look at what God HAS done in Christ for you.
- Behold "THE MANNER OF LOVE"

B. Rom 8:16. Get the witness of the Spirit!

- The Spirit's Job is to witness to your identity in Christ. In this way He is the Spirit of LOVE.
- Love = acceptance, understanding, participation. This is what the Spirit does with s.

C. 2 Cor 5:17. See nothing except your new identity and you will have faith that God loves you.

D. Eph 4:22-24. Be renewed in the spirit of your mind as to your Identity.

E. There is nothing but Love in the work of our New Birth!

- Eph 1:4-6 - ⁴*just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him **in love**,* ⁵*having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,* ⁶*to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.*

7. REMAIN in the active Realm of God's Love: Fellowship with Christ.

1 John 4:9 (NKJV) ⁹*In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.*

2 Corinthians 13:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.*

A. God's love is MANIFEST in a specific realm: Christ!

B. God's love IS given: we have a stewardship with it to live in and through Christ.

C. Live THROUGH Christ, not yourself! (And you will discover God's love for you constantly)

D. 1 Cor 13:13. God loves us. It is actualized in the grace of Christ and experienced in the communion of the Holy Spirit.

E. Jude 21. "Keep yourself in the Love of God..."

➤ **Christ in my heart**

- *Do I believe the LARGENESS of God's Love for me in my heart? Am I diligent to not entertain or harbor in my mind thoughts of doubt about God's Love for me?*

➤ **Christ in my eyes**

- *Are there fears in my life that I entertain and maintained by looking at them rather than looking to Christ? How can I magnify Christ and His love for me and minimize my fears?*

➤ **Christ in my hands**

- *If Christ's love is so Boundless, am I living a life that demonstrates it? How can I be a better steward of God's Love within the relationships I currently have?*

➤ **Christ in my feet**

- *What is the most important place right now in my life for me to take God's Boundless love?*