

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...

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## The Art of True Power

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

**Matthew 20:25 - 28 (NKJV)** <sup>25</sup>But 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. <sup>26</sup>Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. <sup>27</sup>And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— <sup>28</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>Love 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. <sup>18</sup>There 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)** <sup>5</sup>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

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## **The Art of Power: Being present to Love in the moment**

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**Text: 1 John 2:24 (NKJV)** <sup>24</sup>Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.

### **Scriptures:**

**1 John 2:3 - 11 (NKJV)** <sup>3</sup>Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. <sup>4</sup>He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. <sup>5</sup>But whoever keeps His word, truly **the love of God is perfected in him**. By this we know that we are in Him. <sup>6</sup>He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked. <sup>7</sup>Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard <sup>£</sup>from the beginning. <sup>8</sup>Again, a new commandment I write to you, **which thing is true in Him and in you**, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining. <sup>9</sup>He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. <sup>10</sup>**He who loves his brother abides in the light**, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. <sup>11</sup>But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

**1 John 4:16 - 21 (NKJV)** <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>**Love 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**. <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>We love <sup>£</sup>Him because He first loved us. <sup>20</sup>If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who

does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? <sup>21</sup>And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.

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## **Introduction**

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- A. Being Present to Love in the moment: WWLD (What would Love do?)**
- This is a recipe for the miraculous!
  - There is no more powerful stance you can take in any situation than this.
- B. 1 John 4:16. "Know", "believe" and "abide" in the LOVE: entrance into the supernatural!**
- Three steps to a life in the true power of God: know, believe and abide in the love God has for us
  - Jude 21
- C. To live a life of love requires us to train ourselves in paying attention to Love's directives.**
- God's love is inside us at all times looking to GIVE and Move towards abundance in all things.
  - Rom 5:5
- D. Love is released by being present to it.** The only place we have to love is here in this moment. And here is where miracles begin to take shape.
- Love is always in a motion towards FULLNESS: to fill the object of your love with all you have to give.
  - Rom 8:32 – give us ALL things!
- E. John calls us to the "perfection" of Love: 1 John 2:5; 4:17.**
- We can be made perfect in love. John calls us to aim for this height.
  - Love can develop in us so that "As He is, so are we in this world."

**F. To flow in the supernatural activity of God we have to be PRESENT to Love in the moment.**

*Ground: Love releases God's Presence.*

*Path: Being present to Love each moment...*

*Fruit: we discover God's activity in our current situation.*

**How to be present to Love...**

**1. Realize your dynamic spiritual Identity: you are made of true Love**

**1 John 2:7 - 8 (NKJV)** <sup>7</sup>Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning. <sup>8</sup>Again, a new commandment I write to you, **which thing is true in Him and in you**, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining.

**Ephesians 4:24 (NKJV)** <sup>24</sup>and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

- A. **1 John 2:3-11 (Esp v.7-8). Walk in the command of Love because it is your true spiritual nature.**
- John is saying, "I am telling you to walk in what you have heard from the beginning (To love!) because this true light is in you as it is in Him. Live what you are! You can't help but be this way if the truth is in you."
  - Don't accept the excuse that you are just not a loving person. That is a lie in the face of your new birth.
  - You can be aware of love because it is born in you at regeneration.
- B. The commandment of Love is as true in you as it is in Him: "**which thing is true in Him and in you...**"
- We have faith in the former but not the latter part of this verse.
  - Until you believe that UNION with Christ is REAL and what is true of Him is true of you, you have not even stepped into New Testament Christianity yet.
- C. **You are born again with God's Love-Life in you. Love is your spiritual birthright. Love is your new nature!**
- When you discover love within yourself, you can see it in others.
- D. **Love is the "true Light" shining.**
- 1 John 2:9-10
  - Eph 5:8 - *For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)*

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## 2. Love resides in your spirit at all times.

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**Galatians 5:22 (NKJV)** <sup>22</sup>*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,*

- A. **If Christ is in you, Love is in you.**
  - Rom 8:10
  - 2 Cor 13:5
  
- B. **How the fruit of the Spirit is the root of love.** (Gal 5:22-23)
  - In greek there is no punctuation. These are inserted by translators.
  - Gal 5:22 could very well read with a colon after the word love: **"But the fruit of the Spirit is love: joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,**
  - Biblical basis for? : Col 3:14 – love is the bond of all other perfections
  
- C. **In every reaction you have the choice of response from the Love in your spirit.**
  
- D. **Three pre-requisites to Love being free to flow out of your spirit: 1 Tim 1:5**
  - **1 Timothy 1:5 (NKJV)** <sup>5</sup>*Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith,*
    - **Pure heart**
    - **Good conscience**
    - **Sincere faith**

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## 3. Set your mind on the things of the Spirit

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**Romans 8:4 - 6 (ESV)** <sup>4</sup>*so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.*

- A. **"...those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit."**
  - This is the only way into the Spirit and into a life of Love: set our minds on the THINGS of the Spirit
  
- B. **To "set" the Mind on the spirit is a daily discipline and the only way you will learn to walk in love.**
  - "Set" is *Kata* = to set something purposely down in place and time: to set my mind on my spirit at this present moment with purpose.
  
- C. **Setting the mind on the Spirit is learning to think through or with your spirit.**

- You already know how to set your mind on your emotions, your memory, your desires, your imagination, etc.
- Learn to do this with your spirit, in prayer, in the word, in worship.

D. **The more you read the word, pray and worship the more you will learn to know your spirit and be able to discern it.**

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#### **4. The Heart must be Purified.**

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**1 Peter 1:22 (NKJV)** <sup>22</sup>Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,

- A. **What stands in the way of minding your spirit is your HEART.** *(The mind has to pass through the heart to get to the spirit).*
- B. **Fervent love flows from a heart purified with truth.**
- C. **Obeying God's word, through the Spirit, purifies the heart to walk in love.**
- D. **The biggest problem to walking in love is our heart being captured, cluttered and closed because of so many other things we are distracted with.**

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#### **5. Stay in Love and stay in the freedom of the Light of God.**

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**1 John 2:10 - 11 (NKJV)** <sup>10</sup>He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. <sup>11</sup>But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

- A. **When we abide in love we are in spiritual light: there is nothing that will make us stumble.**
  - *He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.*
  - *1 john 1:7 "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin."*
- B. **Minding love is FREEING because it keeps us in the Light of communion with God who is Love.**
- C. **The MORE you mind love, the MORE light you get, the MORE clear it is to see MORE Love to walk in...**
  - This is how you get perfected in Love: 1 John 2:5
- D. **A step out of love is a step out light and into darkness.**

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## 6. Love will draw you to Loving actions that release the Lord's redemptive activity.

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**1 Corinthians 13:4 - 7 (NKJV)** <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.

- A. **Love is conceived in the spirit, understood with the mind and released in actions.**
- Love not put into action will die unborn in your heart.
  - Love has good manners: polite, generous, kind, giving, etc.
  - 1 Cor 13:4-7
- B. It is when love is translated into action that the Light of God and the miraculous is released into situations.
- C. We have no idea how much power is in a single action or word or attitude of love: it is a seed with God's activity in it!

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## 7. Be Present to Love and...

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1 Peter 4:8 - <sup>8</sup>And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

Let us look at some examples in Jesus' life when He walked in love....

1. **Love will release the Lord's abundant provisions** (*Story of feeding the 5 thousand: Matt 14:13-21*)
  - Matthew 14:14 (NKJV) "And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick."
  - Minding Love led Jesus into healing ministry
  - Minding love led to feeding the five thousand
  - Love multiplied the loaves and fish!
2. **Love will give people a chance to touch Grace.** (*Story of woman caught in adultery: John 8:1-11*)
  - Love will cause people to "drop their stones"
  - It will silence the voice of the accuser and open people to the Lord's Grace.
3. **Love will restore the Lord's gifts.** (*Luke 7:11-17 - Story of raising the widows dead son*)
  - "When the Lord saw her, His heart went out to her..."
  - Love raised the dead son and returned him to his mother.

4. **Love will give us a heart that is poured out to the Lord.** (*Luke 7:36-50 – story of Mary pouring out everything to the Lord*).

5. **Love will cleanse the “leprosy” of life** (*Mark 1:40-45 – Story of love leading to cleanse a leper*).

## Conclusion

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### ***Christ in my heart***

What distractions are keeping my heart from focusing on walking in God’s love?

### ***Christ in my eyes***

If I am not regarding the directives of love what am I looking at life with? Fear? Pleasures? Selfishness? What is the dominant motive of my life?

### ***Christ in my hands***

If there is one place in my life right now that needs me to mind God’s love where is it?

### ***Christ in my feet***

Who can I take God’s love to in my life right now?