

Earnestly contend for the Faith

Session 4: Keep Yourself in the Love of Jesus

Jude 1:1 sanctified by God preserved in Jesus,

Jude 1:2 *Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.*

Jude 1:21 *keep-(guard) yourself in the love of God*

Looking for (accepting) the mercy of God

Do You Know How Much God Loves You?

Do You know how much God loves you?

What you know about God's love for you will affect every area of your life.

It will affect how you respond to God and to situations that arise in your life.

It will affect how you respond to people.

God's # 1 priority in your life is

that you understand how much he loves you, not how much you love him.

1 John 4:9-10,16 1 John 4:19

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 Though you have all gifts and understanding, if you don't know how much God loves you, you are nothing.

If you don't know the Love of God ...Ask Him

"God, will you show me how much you love me."

You can experience God's supernatural provision and protection and yet remain outside of his rest.

The ultimate proof (prueba maxima) of faith is not the experience of the supernatural, ...

but understanding love that produces rest.

Rest: experiencing life and circumstance depending on God

1 Corinthians 13:4-7, 13, John 8:12 When you understand how much God loves you, you don't feel threatened and you respond to others with patience and kindness in adverse situations.

Now abides faith hope and charity, the greatest is love.

If you understand how much God loves you, you will have faith and hope.

If you don't understand how much he loves you, you cannot have hope or believe in the midst of adverse circumstances.

We are His children and we are in His Kingdom. Where is the Kingdom?

Luke 17:21 What is the Kingdom principle that governs the kingdom?

Rom 14:17

Paul tells us in **Ephesians 3:16-19**

Believe-Be rooted in love-comprehend it- experience it

Knowing the full extent of Gods love surpasses knowledge

And enables you to be experience life in its fulness.

How do we become rooted in the love of Christ? Eph 3:20

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us

Most Christians are not rooted in love because they are rooted in the power of their flesh.

Jude 1:4 . .turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness

Carnality- trying to live a spiritual life by the power of the flesh

Inspired by the God of this world (flesh) because it is a failure

formula that will not allow you to experience life in its fulness.

Romans 8:6-7

1 Corinthians 2:12-14

Romans 5:5 And hope never disappoints us because Gods love has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Ghost.

Galatians 5:6 faith is activated and energized by understanding how much God loves you.

Galatians 5:6 Amp *For [if we are] in Christ Jesus, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith activated and energized and expressed and working through love. **7** You were running the race nobly. Who has interfered in (hindered and stopped you from) your heeding and following the Truth? **8** This [evil] persuasion is not from Him Who called you [Who invited you to freedom in Christ]. **9** A little leaven (a slight inclination to error, or a few false teachers) leavens the whole lump [it perverts the whole conception of faith or misleads the whole church].*

Faith-being persuaded by God that he will supply your needs
Spirit faith (inside out) or flesh faith (outside in)

2 Peter 1:3 He supplies everything-

Ephesians 2:8-10 We are His workmanship.

Circumstances reveal what your faith is rooted in. When an offense or circumstance comes what manifests itself?

Fruits flesh **Galatians 5:19-21** strife, envy, hatred, heresies, adultery, (They which do such things won't inherit kingdom of God-righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost)

Fear-**1 John 4:18-19** he that fears is not made perfect in love because fear has torment

Fruits Spirit **Galatians 5:22-23** love joy peace (**perfect love casts out fear**) patience, gentleness,

What powers your faith? Law (flesh) Spirit

When an offense (**occasion to fall or sin**) comes- Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees

Matthew 16:5-12

Leaven-ferment, as if boiling up

And they reasoned - deliberate, think, consider

The leaven of the Pharisees is guilt, condemnation and accusation that produces torment because it connects you to the performance of the flesh.

Jesus was not concerned that they forgot the bread- He was concerned with the torment that came because they forgot it.

Matthew 16:12 *Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.*

Instead of placing their focus on his provision, they placed their focus on their lack in the circumstance. Jesus had always provided bread before. How often do we do that?

Hebrews 4:14-16 when an offense comes -do we boldly run to him or do we add leaven to it?

Jude 1:3 **Contend for the faith! Keep your eyes on His provision.**

Carnality-trying to live the Christian life by the power of the flesh

2 Timothy 3:5 having a form of godliness but denying its power

Galatians 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Galatians 5:17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

Romans 7:18 To will is present, but how to perform it I find not!

BEWARE! Earnestly contend for the faith

ungodly men, turn the grace of our God into lasciviousness [carnality], and deny [contradict] God, and Jesus Christ.

We need to develop a spiritual exercise program! We need to become skillful in righteous! We need to become experts in discerning when the law is trying to creep in.

Hebrews 5:13 *For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 14 But strong meat belongs to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

Our faith is powerfully active when we are acknowledging that we are sanctified by God and when we acknowledge that we are preserved in Jesus. We need to say what God says about us, not what the circumstances say.

Philemon 1:6 That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.