

The force of love

"And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are but the beginning of birth pains... ..And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another... And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved." Matt. 24:6-13

August 15th 2007, Lima Peru. Last night, the ground rippled, the walls shook, the furniture moved. It was my first experience with an earthquake, better yet a 7.8 on the Richter scale. The Lord took me to this scripture, and as devastating as an earthquake is, He showed me that it is nothing compared to the greater danger creeping and sweeping over the Church.... The love of many has grown cold!

My heart has been stirred up and grieving as I witness a lack of warmth and love in the church. I see people starving for the personal contact of a pastor. Shouldn't a shepherd smell like a sheep? Where did the concept of the unreachable superstar pastor come from? I see people cross each other in the hallways of the church but yet never say *hello* or smile at each other. I see a tragedy hit a family, yet it remains "their" problem!

Thousands might perish in a genocide or flood, yet we remain untouched and callous. I also see young missionaries and ministers who give their life for the Gospel being used, abused and neglected. **This has caused me to look at my own life and cry out to God "Please Holy Spirit teach me how to love!"**

For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 1 John 3:11

He who loves another has fulfilled the law. Rom. 13:8

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself." There is no commandment greater than these." Mark 12:31

Love is more than a feeling or a duty, love is a force. It is a force that guided and always motivated Jesus.

When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. Matt. 14:14

"I have compassion on the crowd because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. and I am unwilling to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way." Matt. 15:32

What compelled Jesus to heal the multitudes and multiply the bread? The force of Love...

The same force that was in Jesus is residing on the inside of everyone who is born of the Spirit... *Rom. 5:5* declares that the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. The fruit of the spirit is love, joy peace, ... *Gal. 5:22*

Of course, just like an apple or pear, love comes in a seed form and it is up to us to grow it. Love is like a muscle, it produces power but it must be exercised in order to grow. Every time we yield to an opportunity to walk in love, our love grows.

By continually training our flesh, we can then come to a place of maturity where love becomes a guiding and motivating force. Have you ever felt a surge of love and compassion for someone, and it had nothing to do with you? You saw someone you didn't even know and a flow of compassion flooded your heart? When you feel this kind of love, you feel God, for God is love. No, it's not **just you**... it is God prompting you to minister to that person, and as you do, God shows up, maybe with healing, or a word of knowledge, or simply with comfort and encouragement. Any act of kindness will be a reflection of God to that person. And when love becomes perfected in us there will be no fear... no fear to step out by faith and reach out to the hurting...for perfect love cast out fear!

If we want to see more miracles, more gifts of the Spirit, more people coming into the Kingdom, then we will have to be willing to yield to that force of love. I believe that when we follow love, we follow God... His will, His anointing... for GOD IS LOVE

"... This is the commandment, as you have heard from the beginning that you continue to walk in love, guided by it and following it." 2 John 6 Amp.

*"Earnestly desire the best **spiritual** gifts. And I will show you a more excellent way... **Love** 1 Cor. 12:31 (bold added)*