

Call of Grace Ministries

Come unto Me. . . I will give you rest

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“ . . . And yet I show you a more excellent way.”

1 Corinthians 12:31 (NKJV)

Spiritual gifts. God uses them through you for the building of the Body: His church. They are so useful and important to the Body of Christ that the Holy Spirit grants every Believer at least one. The Reason? That every Christian would have a role for use by the Lord in building this current Kingdom we call the Church. Paul speaks to the gifts and their importance. Yet, as he continues in the Spirit, he illuminates a vital truth. *Love surpasses every gift.*

Why would this be true? Because love (agape) is about an attitude that is both a motive and catalyst for action. Consider the following verses (all are NKJV).

Revelation 1:5–6

. . . To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood. . . to Him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Galatians 5:13

¹³ For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not *use* liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

Ephesians 5:1–2 (NKJV)

Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. ² And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God. . .

Colossians 3:12–14 (NKJV)

¹² Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*. ¹⁴ But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

1 John 4:8–11 (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. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

1 Corinthians 16:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Let all *that* you *do* be done with love.

It is the love of God that made mercy available to us through His manifold wisdom. It was the action of Christ, God Incarnate, who humbled Himself “even to death on a cross” that displayed the depths of God’s love for us. And it is the Holy Spirit who brings the truth of this type of love into our lives so that, as we come to understand God’s love, the transformation of our minds regarding true love would become the motive and catalyst for all we do. Without the expression of such love, we will never live the life Christ died to give us. We will never know the fullness, the completeness, we are meant to realize when we attempt to live the Christ-life without the expression of love toward God and others. For if love is not the driving force of our worship/service/ministry, our lives are but a poor semblance of the reality that can be (1 Corinthians 13:1-3).

What is the life that can be? Paul begins to describe that life as he continues in 13:4. It is a life lived with the agenda of “others” rather than “self”. Such a life mirrors the example of our Lord; our lives become a profession of love for God as others become the recipients of His love through us (John 14:15, 15:12) and the Law is fulfilled (Romans 13:10, Galatians 5:14, James 2:6).

Love. It is to shape our thoughts, fuel our compassion, and drive our actions. Love weaves together our new nature as Christians in a way that highlights all that we are for His Glory. Lavishly bestowed upon us by God, love is to be freely given to others. For it is love, the more excellent way, that truly reveals to the world you are His.

“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 13:35 (NKJV)

May the life you live be one that is motivated by and displays the very love that allowed you to become the Lord's child to all that will see.

Cindy and I finished our bell ringing for last year on the 17th of December. Please remember to pray for those who received the Gospel message through the ~6,000 tracts that were distributed. As always, we were blessed in serving our Lord in this way.

Through this past year, I have been blessed to come to know a dear Brother on the other side of the world. Brother Zachariah is a pastor in Kenya. He had found Call of Grace online last February and reached out to me. As we have conversed over the months, I have come to know Bro. Zachariah as a humble man of God who rejoices in serving both our Lord and the people the Lord has placed in his care. Cindy is also communicating with Zachariah's wife, Sister Agnes, and I am confident that this will be a blessing for both of them.

About two months ago, Zachariah asked me to speak to his congregation via Zoom. This finally happened on the Last Sunday of December. What a privilege! I have never put on a suit and preached at 2 AM before! And what an opportunity to see the Lord work! I was concerned, regarding working with a translator (it has been years). I became more concerned when the technical difficulties started (which was almost immediately). Looking back in my mind, I picture the Lord chuckling at my concerns. Brother Zachariah said the message was “easily understood”, “impacted many souls”, and that our Lord drew seven to Himself in salvation! I rejoice in what God has done and that He has given me another Ebenezer stone to look back on and remember (1 Sam 7:7:12). Please be in prayer for your new Brothers or Sisters, Pastor Zachariah, his wife Sister Agnes, their congregation, and their mission for the Lord in Kenya.

Also, be in prayer for Matt, who trusted in Christ and became God's child recently during a Bible study Cindy and I were facilitating. The topic? The need to be humble before God and where that must begin.

The **Mission to Mardi Gras** will begin on February 27th and continue through March 4th (Fat Tuesday). Please be in prayer for the people, the mission, and the missionaries. I have added some prayer requests for you to consider to the end of this newsletter. I thank you in advance for your intercession.

We request your prayers for the following:

- Pray the Lord will heal our land (2 Chron 7:14).
- Pray for the peace of Israel.
- Pray for our nation's leaders at every level.
 - May those who know Him govern with godly wisdom.
 - May those who are lost be drawn to honor the Lord with their lives.
- Be in prayer for all the saints. (Eph 6:18).
 - Pray for Brothers Francis Chipukunya, George Chitseko, and Paul Jackson Chisale as they share the Gospel in Malawi.
- We ask that you pray for the ongoing ministry of Call of Grace

Is there something we can pray for you? If so please let us know.

Thank you for your prayers and support. Everything the Lord calls us to do is done with your help and we are thankful to the Lord for your service to Him with us. If you or your church believe we could be of service to you, please contact us.

Until Jesus comes,

Dennis & Cindy

~Cindy's Bottom Line~

Love is the very core of God's being. And when we love others, we act in alignment with God's will. Love is a response to His grace and mercy. Scripture declares the two greatest commandments to be:

“. . .you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. . . You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Matt 22:37, 39 (NKJV)

Mission to Mardi Gras 2024: Feb. 27th – March 4

Please be in prayer now for the mission

Civil Authorities

- Pray God's blessing over the police and EMS services.
 - Pray for the health and safety of all civil servants.
 - Pray the Lord will prompt them to ask questions regarding our presence, that we might share Christ.
 - Pray for the medical gifting of the Paramedics and EMTs.
 - Pray that the police will act wisely in every situation.
- Pray that the Lord would convict the civic leaders of the evil that is inherent in Mardi Gras, that they might choose not to condone it regardless of economic gain.

The Crowd

- Pray for the health and safety of the people.
- Pray that the people will be receptive to the Lord's ministry to them through His ministers.
 - Pray that the people will take a tract.
 - Pray that the people will read the tract with understanding.
 - Pray that the people will respond to God's word as it is preached.
 - Pray for conviction and repentance through the Holy Spirit's ministry to them.

The One-on-One

- Pray that the Lord would protect the conversation from distractions.
- Pray that those on mission will speak as the Lord directs in the conversation.
- Pray that the Lord will overcome barriers to communication.
- Pray that the Gospel will be received with understanding when shared.
- Pray the Holy Spirit's conviction will lead to brokenness and bring them to repentance, resulting in salvation.

Those Who Go on Mission

- Pray for the wives of those who go: that they will rest in the Lord's comfort and peace while the two God made one are separated.
- Pray God's protection over the family, both immediate and extended, and the households of those who go.
- Pray that we will submit to the Lord's conviction to remain a clean vessel.
- Pray that we will listen for the Holy Spirit's guidance at all times.
- Pray that we will respond in all situations with grace.
- Pray that we will be bold and compassionate in sharing the Gospel.
- Pray that we will be obedient to be a blessing in all situations.
- Pray that we will rest in the obedience of going.
- Pray for our health and safety from the time we leave until we return home.
- Pray that we will be changed by the mission to the Glory of the Lord!

***Pray it is the Lord's Time for a Great Harvest
in His Field called New Orleans!***