

I am sure you can appreciate how the news of your faith and love greatly inspires me. I am so happy for you; my thoughts and prayers are full of you. I desire that you will draw directly from the source; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory ignites the spirit of wisdom and of revelation in you in the unveiling of his Master Plan. I desire that you know by revelation what He has known about you all along! ([Eph. 1:15-17](#)).

The source of Paul's joy is based on all that is true of those who believe in Christ and especially of the fact that they are sealed by the Holy Ghost and the faith they possess. In the Greek, Paul uses a word that gives the idea of not the INITIAL ACT OF FAITH WHEN THEY WERE SAVED BUT THE DAY BY DAY FAITH EXERCISED FOR DAILY LIVING. **In other words, being saved wasn't the one and only act of Christianity, but a faith practiced daily and that EXHIBITED ITSELF AS LOVE TOWARD ALL THE SAINTS.** FAITH HAD A TANGIBLE MANIFESTATION: LOVE. This love is "PRODUCED IN THE HEART OF A YIELDED BELIEVER BY THE HOLY SPIRIT." It is possible to have faith and not love as Paul wrote about in [1 Cor. 13:2](#). FAITH MINUS LOVE EQUALS PRESUMPTION AND ARROGANCE.

[1 Corinthians 13:13](#) (NKJV)

¹³ And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these *is* love.

Faith will no longer be required once He returns. Hope will no longer be needed once He returns. But love is eternal because GOD IS LOVE. I.e. to be as Christ was on the earth, we must LEARN LOVE.

[Matthew 22:37-40](#) (NKJV)

³⁷ Jesus said to him, "*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.*"

³⁸ This is *the* first and great commandment.

³⁹ And *the* second is like it: '*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*'

⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

The ability to love God comes from a heart yielded to Holy Spirit allowing Him to pour out the love of God by revelation. As your mind is renewed and you come into agreement with this reality, you will begin to see lesser degrees of fear controlling your thoughts and actions. TELL OF DR. LEAF'S EXPLANATION OF TWO SOURCES OF THOUGHTS AND ACTIONS: FEAR AND LOVE.

[John 14:23-24](#) (NKJV)

²³ Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

²⁴ He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.

YOUR IDENTITY MUST BECOME LOVE. It's an identity issue not an emotional issue.

The New Testament writers actually invented the word AGAPE, the Greek word for love. **No such word existed to describe God's love before Christ!** This means the ability to have this identity didn't exist for us BEFORE CHRIST. Agape is only available and accessible to those who are born again. It is described as "an undefeatable benevolence and unconquerable goodwill that always seeks the HIGHEST GOOD of the other person, no matter what he does. It is a self-giving love that gives freely without asking anything in return, and does not consider the worth of its object. Agape is more love by choice...than love by chance, and it refers to WILL rather than EMOTION."

There are a few key points we need to examine in this definition. Agape is different from phileo, another Greek word for love. It means "to be fond of, care for affectionately, take pleasure in, have personal attachment for. It is more centered in emotions than will. AGAPE LOVE REQUIRES CHOOSING TO LOVE IN SPITE OF THE PERSON OR WHAT HE OR SHE DOES **INCLUDING YOURSELF!** Unfortunately, most ARE OPERATING OUT OF PHILEO INSTEAD OF AGAPE AND NOT REALIZING IT. This was Peter's problem and almost caused his downfall. More on that in a second. But it

seeks the HIGHEST GOOD of the other person. This is crucial because the HIGHEST GOOD can sometimes require painful choices.

For example, let's say you know someone addicted to drugs. If you are operating in phileo, you will be more concerned about the emotion of love and you expressing it in that fashion and them expressing it back. So you will give them money knowing it will be used for drugs. Phileo love can be very selfish and often seeks the preservation of yourself even to your own hurt or the hurt of others. THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH PHILEO LOVE. God created us to love in this manner. BUT PHILEO LOVE IS INFERIOR TO AGAPE LOVE. **Agape love will refuse to enable a person to continue on a destructive path even risking the relationship completely.** THE HIGHEST GOOD OF THE OTHER IS MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU THAN YOUR OWN GOOD.

Peter was willing to defend Jesus to his own death. It sounded like phileo love BUT PHILEO LOVE OR AFFECTION FOR CHRIST BLINDED HIM TO THE HIGHEST GOOD OF MANKIND! THE ENEMY WILL USE PHILEO LOVE TO ATTACK YOU.

Luke 22:31-34 (NKJV)

³¹ And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift *you* as wheat.

³² But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to *Me*, strengthen your brethren."

³³ But he said to Him, "Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death."

³⁴ Then He said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know *Me*."

Peter did not understand nor could he grasp agape love until after he was born again ([Rom. 5:5](#)). He was doing the best with inferior phileo that he could, BUT HIS LACK OF IDENTITY IN LOVE AND HIS LACK OF REVELATION MADE HIM A TARGET.

John 21:15-17 (NKJV)

¹⁵ So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love (AGAPE) **Me more than these?**" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love (PHILEO) You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs."

¹⁶ He said to him again a second time, "Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love (AGAPE) **Me?**" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love (PHILEO) You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep."

¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love (PHILEO) **Me?**" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love **Me?**" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love (PHILEO) You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep."

Having affection or phileo for the love is a good place to start but is not the place to stop. Affection is great for the times of worship and prayer where you FEEL it for Him. BUT CHOOSING TO LOVE GOD AND OTHERS IS A HIGHER WAY. Peter learned this, which is why later, he penned, "...to brotherly kindness (PHILEO), and to brotherly kindness love (AGAPE)."

Another obstacle to love being your identity is the INABILITY OF LOVE YOURSELF. Remember the commandment is to love OTHERS AS YOURSELF. Many do not know HOW to love themselves and this makes them susceptible to abusers, manipulators, and poor choices. THOSE WHO DO NOT LOVE THEMSELVES ARE MOST PRONE TO HOLD ON TIGHTLY TO PHILEO RELATIONSHIPS AND REDUCE THEIR OWN WITH GOD TO PHILEO.

We are trained by people in our lives to NOT LOVE ourselves. Rejection. Shame. Abuse. Words. All of these things create in us a soul that is incapable of loving. BUT THAT ALL CHANGED WITH THE HOLY GHOST!

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.

Disappoint means "to make shamed." Expectation or hope for good things in God does not bring shame. Why? Because love is now in our hearts because Holy Ghost is in our hearts who is God Who is Love. The only way to love ourselves is to have a revelation by experience of the love of Christ, which passes mental assent and knowledge and fills us with the fullness of God! You have to RETRAIN YOUR SOUL to love. The process is:

1. LEARN TO LOVE GOD.
2. LEARN TO LOVE YOURSELF.
3. LEARN TO LOVE OTHERS.

Galatians 5:6 (NKJV)

⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

Working is "energeo" and means "TO BE EFFECTIVE." **The reason many people's faith is not effective is they have not learned love.** If you don't love yourself, you will not have confidence that God will answer your prayers. LOVE MAKES FAITH EFFECTIVE. You cannot get around it. Can you still do miracles without love? Absolutely. REVELATION IS POWERFUL. According to Paul, to do those things without love is to be a clanging cymbal, nothing, and to no profit. It is a waste of time (1 Cor. 13:1-3). The recipient of the miracle will benefit, but you will not. And as far as your revelation of love growing, it will be stunted and so will your identity MEANING THAT THE MOTIVE OF THE MIRACLES WILL BE TO FEED YOUR EGO AND EXALT YOURSELF.