

A SONG OF LOVE

(PART I)

'If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.' (1Corinthians13:1-3)

What can you say about love? Many, or I and you are among them who claim to have love for other people. You may say love can manifest by sweet words and beautiful statements. Others claim that love should be manifested by actions like giving and sharing things, helping and caring of people or by supporting and encouraging them. All these are right yet incomplete; not only to describe love but also to determine its true presence in the life of a person.

Love is not a talent. It is not inherited. Love is not only doing good work. Love is not perfection on the job or profession. Love is not your achievement in the ministry or work for God. For you can do good things without real love in the heart.

True love cannot be measured by the standard of this world and it does not depend on how much you are successful in life. You may be very diligent, looking smart and famous but don't have love, means you have nothing. Love is not having big name or to be a well-known person. Love is neither measured by size nor can be kept in stores. Love is richer than gold, stronger than steel and it is neither sold nor bought.

'Do you have love?' Your routine answer is 'yes', not because you have but because you desire to receive love. True love only comes from God. **"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."** (John3:16) You deserve punishment from God for the sin you are doing, **'But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.'** (Romans5:8)

Since you receive the truest love of God and the promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ's death on the cross, are you not obliged to share it to others? My dear and beloved: True love comes from God and biblically describes as: **'Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no records of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth it always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always preserves.'** (1 Corinthians 13:4-7) These words are the indicators of whether the true love of God is really present in your life:

1) Love is patient: How much can you wait for things that are supposed to come? Are you patient enough while waiting for Jesus to return and for God to fulfil all His promises? Are you patient with your spouse, parents, children, brothers, sisters, friends, strangers, or to the people you say you love? Only a few people have patience, but without it no human can

live. Without patience you cannot wait for seconds. Without love you cannot bear a weight of few grams. Without patience you don't excuse mistakes. And apart from patience you are never satisfied. 'Indeed, it is the source of peace and the clue to a joyful life.' Remember, Jesus was hanged for three hours on the cross with perfect patience to give you life.' **'Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains.'** (James5:7-8)

2) Love is kind: Kindness is easily recognized on the lips or in speech. Use kind words to encourage the people who are injured or wounded by the effects of life, and to all who are in need. But remember, needs are satisfied by the word of God. Therefore be kind to people by giving them God's word. Be kind enough not to omit a careful rebuke to those who deserve it for it is a part of your love and kindness to them. **'Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage-with great patience and careful instruction.'** (2 Timothy 4:2) Kind words should spring out from a mindful heart.

3) Love does not envy: An envious person does not like others to be better than him. His problem is seeing others higher than him. Love is never envying or jealous to others. Envy and jealousy may result in unpleasant actions and cause competition. Competition is trying to be always the first, but true love of God gives confidence and pleasure to what is received.

4) Love does not boast: The true love of God is not showy. Many times, achievement in a form of true story and right statistics is told as an encouragement or to build men, but branded as out of boasting. Boasting is not constructive to people; it is challenging the people in unhealthy way giving them a feeling of incompetence and being humiliated. Whenever the lord Jesus did miracles He was telling the people to be silent and tell no one. Speaking about your accomplishment may bring you on the surface and expose your abilities, but it gives Satan a foothold to attack the work and the children of God. **'Humility and the fear of the Lord bring wealth and honour and life.'** (Proverbs 22:4)

5) Love is not proud: If you are seeing yourself better than others, you cannot easily express the love of God that you have received. In the same way, if you are seeing others better than you, hardly share Jesus who died on the cross for you. The word of God says, **'Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position.'** (Romans 12:16) Whatever is your qualification and achievement if you are conceited God cannot use you as a noble vessel to reach out people. Surely, God will not use you, **'because God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.'** (1 Peter 5:5)

My dear and beloved: There are more scriptures and songs to share about love and we will soon continue. But on these words we will pause for sometime to find whether we have a real song of love in our hearts. **'Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.'** (Ephesians 4:2) As you agree to pray.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross to give me eternal life. Lord humbles me and mold me and give me more love to know you and to follow your words and to bring your love to other around me and to the lost souls. This is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.