

The perfect love of God is not yet

Hope is for tomorrow. *'Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.'*
Heb 11:1

A happy life, even by the world's standards, was stolen from me at my birth because of the total corruption of sin in the world.

Before I was 2 my brother and sister and I were in an orphanage. Our mother and her family refused to allow our dead father's Christian family to provide support because they denied Christ.

From then until my conversion life was one misery after another due to my own sin and the sin of others.

Every hope to know the reality of love we shattered again and again.

The hope I clung to as a young Christian at 38 years old, was that when God chose me in Christ for salvation through the sacrifice of His Son, I would have a true family that actually loved one another according to the scriptures which were written for the edification of God's children to live according to His Holy character.

'what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.'
1 John 1:3-4

The fellowship of the Father and the Son is what we are to be included in, this is real communion in the life of God.

But repeated experience of sin and painful trials endured in the church and amongst her people has to some degree shattered that hope because of the corruption of sin that remains in everyone. It would appear that the ideal loving fellowship of communion in the family of God revealed in God's word is not completely available on earth before Christ returns. The reality is that we are at war and don't know it.

'For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.' Eph 6:12

'Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.'

1 Peter 5:8-9

Every church, regardless of how reformed it may be, and every Christian, regardless of how sanctified they have become, are to some degree or other, still unable to live the ideal expression of God's love because of the imprint of the sin that remains unsanctified to deny the reality of God's love in man. Regardless of anyone's assertions to know all that is required, no one knows all that needs to be known in order to love as God loves.

However, in spite of the stain of sin limiting the expression of God's love in us and others, we who live for Christ are resolutely compelled by His love poured into our hearts by the Spirit, to go on to be true to our calling to live according to His divine image imparted to us by the same Holy Spirit. This is the grace of God made available to us in spite of the war of the world in sin.

This divine undertaking we have from God we do as much as we are able through our commitment to personal sanctification and holiness.

"So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure." Phil 2:12-13

The fulfilment of the love of God in Christ will only be fully realised in us when the Lord returns and we all realise who we really are when we see Him face to face as we inherit His New Heaven and Earth.

For now, we have the promise sealed in us by the Spirit of God, then, we will have the manifestation of the glory of Christ who is the fulfilment of all the promises of God for us who have been chosen in Him.

Until then we don't dare deny the promise of God because of the weakness of the flesh we are sometimes shocked to discover in ourselves and others.

God is our loving Father who is faithfully working all things together in heaven and earth for our good so that we are ultimately transformed into the image of Christ on His return. So, don't give the devil an opportunity to rob you again. Our Lord reigns even now.

"He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father— to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen."

Rev 1:6-7

The 2 year old's hope is still often shattered when he looks for what he needs from people, but now he sees a reason to rejoice in the presence of Father God who he believes loves him in Jesus Christ the Lord.

Pain is still pain, but the love we have from God covers a multitude of sins in the lives of others and ourselves.

'The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.'

Rom 8:16-17

At the centre of glorifying God in all things is that all mankind is to love Him with all our heart, minds and strength; and to love our neighbours as ourselves.

This is not the love of natural man but the love that only comes from God. This is sacrificial love seeking the holiness of others to the glory of God.

When we see love failing in others, we must use that sad experience to make sure love is not failing in us. And we can only do that when we die to self to live for Christ.

In order to live for God and know the reality of His love, we must die to self through the sacrifice of His Son, and in joining Him on His cross we can follow His example of how to live for God by loving Him and others.

Unfortunately, this divine love will not be a complete reality in us until the Lord Jesus Christ comes and joins us to Himself.

Our failure to love should be our motivation to complete the dying to self we have begun by believing in Jesus Christ to be our Lord and Master.

'Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.'

James 5:16

'And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.'

Eph 6:18

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