

THE HEART OF THE ART

Dec 15, 2010 – Kevin Porter

Love never fails. 1 Cor 13:8 NKJV

A young person submits himself to a master craftsman to learn a trade. This apprenticeship can last several years as he learns, not just technical proficiency, but the intangibles like the love of the art form, the attention to detail and the commitment that produces the excellence of the master craftsman. The commitment and mutual faith of the disciple and the master produces an impartation of the masters own heart. This is especially true when the Master is the Holy Spirit, and we, as His disciples, are seeking to learn to imitate His heart in the operation of the gifts of the Spirit.

Now concerning spiritual (PNEUMATIKOS: things of the Spirit) gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant: 1 Cor 12:1 NKJV

If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord. 38 But if anyone is ignorant, let him be ignorant. 1 Cor 14:37-38 NKJV

Chapters twelve through fourteen in 1 Corinthians make one complete whole, dealing with the subject of PNEUMATIKOS, things of the Spirit, such as the gifts and ministries of the Spirit in the Body of Christ. At the center of the context is the great teaching in 1 Corinthians 13 on walking in the love of God. The real love of God is at the heart of the art of walking by the Spirit, and walking in great power.

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love. Gal 5:6 NKJV

The spiritual gift of faith is energized effectively by the love of God in our hearts. Now, all of the gifts work this way. Some people love to prophesy, so they become very effective in the gift of prophecy. Some people love to minister healing, so they become very adept in the gifts of healing and working of miracles. Love attracts that which it loves. When we understand that pure, unselfish love is the heart of the art of walking by the Spirit, we become very effective in the gifts of the Spirit.

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. 1 John 4:18 NKJV

Some people say, "How can God be a God of love if He doesn't answer my prayers, meet my needs, heal me, etc.?" Jesus taught that the responsibility for answered prayer lies solely with the person praying. He said, Be it unto you according to your faith (Matthew 9:29). And, Whatsoever you shall ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive (Matthew 21:22). We try to

understand God's love in light of our human, emotional love, but they are two very different realities.

The LORD reigns; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad! Clouds and darkness surround Him; **righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.** A fire goes before Him, and burns up His enemies round about. His lightnings light the world; the earth sees and trembles. The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth. The heavens declare His righteousness, and all the peoples see His glory.

Ps 97:1-6 NKJV

The love of God is the very character of His nature. People say, "How can a God of all love send people to hell?" He can punish those who reject Him because of righteousness and justice, where one gets what they deserve. Emotional, human love argues that all should be forgiven and forgotten. But that is not just! The Lord, in His justice and mercy, must be just to Himself, to the devil, and to all mankind. Man sinned. God, in His mercy sent Jesus to redeem man. Then, He extended the invitation to receive Jesus as man's sacrifice for sin to all men, an invitation men could accept, reject or ignore. On the basis of man's reaction to Jesus is whether a man goes to Heaven or hell. That's justice...and that's the love of God!

He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel. Ps 103:7 NKJV

A great key to the love of God is to learn to see people the way God sees them. As you spend time with the Master, He opens the eyes of your understanding. Moses, as the Lord's apprentice, got the understanding that the others missed. They all could have had it, but they had not apprenticed themselves as Moses had.

Decide for yourself, and commit yourself to Him, to learn the love of God. Keep your eyes on the Master Craftsman as He teaches you to walk by the Spirit. Learn the love of God, for it truly is the heart of the art of walking by the Spirit!

Remember, dear ones, we must be about our Father's business...