

The Gift of God that's Within You

Part 7: Touched by His Love (part 4)

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Full Text (for reading on your own)

Testimony: Authority in Christ

About a month ago, Debra was feeling very scattered and cried out to God to help her take authority over her life. Around that time she got really sick - and was totally "laid out" by that sickness. Renee prayed for Debra when she was sick and part of her prayer was for Debra to "be able to take authority over that illness and that God would show her ways to do that."

About a week later, Peter had the opportunity to pray for Debra and anoint her with oil like James 5 speaks of. Before he did that, he felt like he had a revelation that the oil was representative of 1 Samuel 16 where King David was anointed with oil - to take authority over Israel. Peter said "this oil is representative of you taking authority over this illness - and every area of her life." Peter prayed and then Debra made a declaration about taking authority over her life.

In just the last two weeks since this prayer, Debra has been able to stop "dragging her heels" about taking care of her finances, personal organization, and time management! In fact, on that day that Peter and Debra prayed, she wasn't feeling very well, and was heading to the doctor's office ... yet by the end of the day she had the opportunity to share the gospel with 3 people ... with 2 of them receiving the Lord! One person called Debra that day saying "I want to turn my life around, and you are the person in my life who I'd like to share the gospel with me." Praise God!

Debra had been intending to take an important exam for about a year but had been struggling to schedule it. Just this Friday she actually called, set it up, and paid for it - and will be scheduling it for about a month or two from now. That's actually something she had been putting off for over a year.

Debra feels like the authority of Christ is taking over her life and has become engrained in her brain. Since receiving prayer she feels like "I can do these things!" And she does them and is taking action where she couldn't before. Another example of this is Debra was able to do her painting in front of others at the Friday night prayer night recently. While she is an artist, she does not like to do art in front of people, yet just this Friday she was able to "let herself go" and paint even though others could be watching.

Authority of Christ (aka ... "In Jesus' Name")

That night, when Debra got up to share at the prayer night, I (Peter) wasn't looking and thought "who's voice is that? Her voice sounds different!" When Debra was at women's group recently, Lois (not knowing anything about the prayer Debra had received) said "there's authority on you!" The authority of God is not conceptual - it is a spiritual reality with physical manifestation!

When Debra called to ask me for prayer, she said "isn't there something about the elders anointing with oil?" She was referring to James 5:14-16 *"Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the **elders** of the church, and let them pray over him, **anointing him with oil** in the name of the Lord. And **the prayer of faith will save** the sick, and the Lord will raise him up."*

Notice that it is the PRAYER offered in FAITH that heals - not the oil. As I was waiting for Debra to come outside to receive prayer and started thinking about the oil - how oil was used in the Old Testament to anoint the priests and kings. So I started thinking about James 5 differently.

It started to dawn on me that James is calling for the elders (who are operating in the authority they have in Christ) are praying in faith for the believer who has a sickness that has come above the authority of Christ in their life and they are anointing them with oil in the authority of Christ to put the authority on them so that they can take authority over the sickness ... to break that cycle of powerlessness!

Remember that Peter said in Acts 3:6 *"Silver and gold I do not have, but **what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.**"* There is a difference between *dunamis* power and *exousia* authority in the Greek. There is something "in addition" to faith. You speak to the mountain - in faith - but there is actually a position you can hold and it is called AUTHORITY.

Authority is *exousia* in the Greek. "By what authority do you do these things?" they would ask Jesus. It was AUTHORITY that Jesus sent His disciples out with. This will revolutionize your prayer life! If you can add a revelation of your positional authority to faith, you will step into a whole new territory.

*"And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' **Heal** the sick, cleanse the lepers, **raise** the dead, **cast out** demons. Freely you have received, freely **give.**"* (Mt. 10:7-8) Those are AUTHORITY commissions! He didn't say "pray," He said "heal, raise, cast out;" those are authority commissions!

Jesus modeled this. About Him, they said "He doesn't talk like the scribes - He has authority!"

Authority is positional. All authority is delegated. Do you know why? Because God's in charge! All authority is delegated. That's why we read in Romans 13 that authority is from God and is given for your good - to bless you ... yes, even the boss that you don't like is a delegated authority from God

to bless you and if you would submit to that authority (despite their failings), God will bless you because of it. At some point, God might tell you that it's time to go get another job, but you do that because God told you to - not because you got sideways with the authority that God placed in your life to bless you. Their skill set is not why you get blessed by submitting to them.

This also goes with wives with their husbands. The skill set or perfection of your husband is not why you get blessed ... when you submit to him, you get blessed because God told you to. You're doing what God said to do and His blessing flows through that.

Rebellion is as witchcraft and it does not produce good results in your life - with your boss, with your husband, or with whomever has been placed in leadership in your life!

You need to function in an attitude of submission. Submission is an attitude of the heart, whereas obedience is action. You don't obey a boss that asks you to go steal \$5,000 from someone. There's a difference between submission and obedience - you get the idea.

The point is that authority is always positional. As a believer, you are in WHO? Christ! That means that you are in His authority!

Remember the parable of the prodigal son in Luke 15? What was one of the things the prodigal son received when he came back? A ring! Why? So that he could do transactions on behalf of his father.

You have the signet ring! When you pray and say "in Jesus' Name" you are NOT using vain repetition as the heathens do. You are not heard because of many words. "IN JESUS' NAME" is a statement of KNOWN AUTHORITY.

Known authority thinks like this "I am in Christ. His will in this situation is _____" and therefore speaks like "demonic spirit LEAVE in the Name of Jesus" or "sickness GO in Jesus' Name." That's authority.

Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God, AND you pray out of a certain position when you pray in the Name of Jesus. You pray with His signet ring! It means you pray with all of His rights and privileges. Our part is to stay in His love - to stay in His will - and then He can get behind it because you have the ring and you are operating according to His will.

Set Your Mind on Things Above

Colossians 3:1-3 says *"If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. **Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.**"*

There is a spiritual realm over the earth. The Bible talks about “the third heaven.” That means there must also be a second heaven. There is a demonic spiritual realm over the earth and there is heaven as we think of it. You have been given spiritual antennas. You can hear things from either spirit realm. That’s why we set our minds on things ABOVE. You have to make a choice. You have to tune into a certain frequency!

If you get into a place of negativity and complaining, do you know that the flies that satan has charge over - that are attracted to rot and decay - will come and speak to you?

You need to set your mind on things above. This took me a while to learn and it is particularly important for anyone who is prophetically wired. If you sense and perceive things and tend to see 12:12 on the clock and say “what does it mean!?” this is particularly important for you. Others sitting next to you say “it’s 12:12 twice a day!” Both “wirings” are good!

If you are the person who says “it’s 12:12 twice a day” you can quench the Spirit if you are not careful. If you are the person who says “it’s 12:12 ... what does it mean!?” you can get a little flaky sometimes if you’re not careful - so you just stay in the Word of God and know that not everything means something :)

So especially if you are prophetically wired and naturally wonder what 12:12 means, you need to be careful that you don’t hear the 2nd heaven. You have spiritual antennas to hear what’s going on in the spirit realm. You need to “pop up” and set your mind on things above - where Christ is.

How can you set your mind on things above? Read the Word! Recite a memory verse! Speak about the things of God with another believer! Worship God! Or you can break out your secret weapon for heavenly-mindedness ... praying in the Spirit - praying in tongues!

Start quoting a scripture or start praying in tongues until you feel your mind “pop up” out of negativity or circumstances or that weird funkiness you picked up from the last person you met with for an hour.

Remember that as believers we can discern spirits. Sometimes you can literally feel the spirit that is on someone you are around. We need to learn to be wise and discern what we are discerning! Is it you or is it something you are picking up from someone else?

I can actually feel anger in my body. If I start feeling anger, I think “nope, I’m not giving into anger at all.” In your anger do not sin. It’s not sin if I have anger; it’s sin if I act on it. So I need to be sensitive to that and get it out.

We need to set our minds on things above!

Praying in tongues is a big part of how you can “bump up” into the things above. Our intellect gets in the way of God’s will. God even said we are stupid. *“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.”* (Isaiah 55:8-9) You might be smart compared to someone around you, but that’s not comparing to much. God’s a lot smarter than you. If you want to operate on God’s plane ... if we want to receive the higher revelations, you’ve got to get your mind out of the way!

You can’t catch the things of the Spirit by the strength of your cranial cavity. He gave us our brains and we should use them! If you are a genius by the world’s standards, your brain can get in the way of the move of God! God’s not interested in the legs of horses, or the strength of a man or his intellect. None of those things have ever saved anybody! You need to bump your thinking into the heavenly things!

Keeping Yourself in the Love of God

Praying in tongues is a major way to keep yourself in the Love of God. Jude 20-21 *“But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.”*

Notice that you are called “beloved.” You are not just loved by God - your identity has become that of one who IS LOVED ... “beloved.”

When you pray in the Holy Spirit we actually build ourselves up in our most holy faith. What does it mean to pray in the Holy Spirit? 1 Corinthians 14:14 makes it clear *“For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays.”* When you pray in the Holy Spirit, it means to pray in a tongue.

Not only does praying in tongues build you up in your most holy faith, but you also KEEP YOURSELF IN THE LOVE OF GOD!

This is a profound revelation that can dramatically affect your daily love walk with God. When you pray in tongues, you keep yourself in the love of God! Here is a way you can keep yourself in the love of God - pray in the Spirit!

I learned this from Joseph Prince ... according to Jewish tradition (not the Bible) on Yom Kippur when the High Priest was accepted before the presence of the Lord in the Holy of Holies, the High Priest would begin speaking in an unknown language. In other words, the High Priest began to speak in tongues because they had been accepted before the Father.

Every time you pray in tongues, it is evidence of the love that God has bestowed up on you - it's evidence of your perfect acceptance before God. When you pray in tongues you are therefore inherently keeping yourself in the love of God!

Now, I know that some contend praying in tongues, but simply see what the Word of God says about speaking in tongues:

- “*He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself*” (1 Cor 14:4a)
- Paul said “*I wish you all spoke with tongues*” (1 Cor. 14:5)
- “*For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays*” (1 Cor. 14:14)
- “I will *pray* with the spirit, and I will also *pray* with the understanding. I will *sing* with the spirit, and I will also *sing* with the understanding.” (1 Cor. 14:15)
- “ I thank my God I speak with tongues *more than you all*” (1 Cor. 14:18)
- “*do not forbid* to speak with tongues. Let all things be done decently and in order. (1 Cor. 14:39-40)

It is my opinion that Paul was not talking about “do not forbid to speak with tongues” in private. For you could never know if someone was speaking in tongues in private anyway. If a tree falls in the wilderness and no one is there, does it make a sound? Of course you don't know because you weren't there!

Paul was saying that we should not forbid speaking in tongues from public church service. BUT everything should be done decently and in order. That's why Paul was saying that it would be good for the pastor to be instructive while he is speaking ... BUT it is not a sin that he spoke in tongues in front of everyone for 10 seconds to demonstrate speaking in tongues as part of his sermon!

Likewise it is not a problem for the worship team to sometimes sing in the Spirit ... or for your pastor in the front row to sing in the Spirit. Sometimes I just don't know what to say because I am stupid but God knows what to say so I let the Spirit pray through me or sing through me! But ... decently and in order.

The Missing Piece of the Armor of God

Let's also look at the armor of God “Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of

God;” (Eph. 6:14-17). That’s the armor of God, right? Well there is one problem: that’s the perfect armor of God and He gave it a “flesh” number of 6 pieces? God is specific in His numbers! How is it that God who can handle all levels of specificity would give us a perfect armor of God with only 6 things? Now, if there were actually only 6 pieces of the armor listed in Ephesians 6, then I would be fine with their only being 6 elements, but it’s NOT all that’s there!

We stopped at the end of verse 17 because that is what is commonly done but there is NOT A PERIOD at the end of verse 17! How can we think that the armor of God ends there without a period!?! There’s a semi-colon! ***“praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit.”*** Praying in the Spirit is the 7th piece of the armor of God! It is what takes what could otherwise be an armor that we try to administer by the strength of the flesh and brings SPIRITUAL power to it!1

Starting your Day with God

2 Corinthians 13:14 has been my morning meditation for about a month or two. How you start your day can do wonders for your day. First impressions are everything. Invest early - when you are young so you will be wealthy later. The things you do first have more bang for your buck! Starting your day with God is a powerful thing!

Now if you end up having to have a quiet time in the evening because you missed your time in the morning, don’t get bent out of shape, just declare blessings over your day in faith and have an awesomely blessed day. God’s not flaking out on you - He’s patient!

But if you can start your day with God, it’s powerful. One way that you can start with God - even before you open up your Bible, even before you get before Him in prayer, or anything else - you can have a declaration in the morning - a specific verse that you are declaring to shape your thinking before you let your mind go to anything else. Don’t turn to the news or open up Facebook or your email. Wake up and declare your destiny according to His Word and Will for your life!

So here’s what I’ve been declaring recently: “I have received the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness; I reign in life through the One Jesus Christ. Jesus, I receive your grace today. Father, I receive your love today. Holy Spirit I accept your invitation to commune with You today. I invite you to lead my day, bless my day, and be with me today!” (Rom. 5:17 and 2 Corinthians 13:14)

That’s what I do in the morning. I am not going to do that same declaration for the next 20 years, but that’s what I am doing right now. Do you have a morning declaration? If not, try this: find a verse that God has been highlighting to you. Look at the verse. How can you personalize it? Write it out in the first person. That’s your declaration. It’s that easy! Memorize it so that you don’t need a sheet of paper or your phone to start your day. When you reach for your phone ... hold on! Gather your thoughts and make your declaration first in faith!

Encountering the Trinity

Let's look a bit further at 2 Corinthians 13:14 *"The **grace** of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the **love** of God, and the **communion** of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen."*

When I encountered God's love on the beach in Cleveland I thought "I've known God's grace, but now I know the heart behind that grace because I've received His love!" Look again at 2 Corinthians 13:14 ... when you receive the grace of the Lord Jesus, it positions you to have an encounter with the love of the Father!

Then, if you are driven by the love of the Father ... not by trying to prove yourself, be pleasing to the world, or amass a lot of stuff to try to make you feel better about yourself, but truly driven by the love of the Father ... all of a sudden the communion of the Holy Spirit comes on your strong!

These three things I believe are in a divine succession. It's His grace that positions you for His love and it's His love that positions you for His communion!

Remember when Jesus was baptized in Matthew 3:16-17. The Holy Spirit (as a dove) came upon Jesus with a special ministry - to help Him receive revelation of the Father. The Father's voice then comes forth "this is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased!"

Jesus came to that baptism and John was saying "I can't baptize you; this is a baptism of repentance and you have no need of repentance." Jesus said that it was "fitting that all righteousness should be fulfilled" in other words that it would show that He is perfectly righteous.

When you were baptized, you were AS CHRIST! You had already put your faith in Christ which had made you righteous. You were not baptized to be made righteous. You got baptized because you were made righteous by faith! By nature of having received Christ, you received grace by faith and were made perfect in Him before the Father.

Jesus, standing at the river, is the position you were in before you were baptized. He was standing there sinless. You were not baptized into the baptism of John. Remember the problem in Acts ... "oh you guys only got baptized into the baptism of John? Let's baptize you into Christ." You stood there perfect because you were already righteous in Christ and then you were baptized and you come up and the Father says to you "you are My beloved child, in whom I am well pleased." He's speaking it over you!

So there's not only the revelation of His love, but also of His pleasure in you. God spoke to me recently "my pleasure in you is going to wrap you up like a cloak of many colors." Joseph was a favorite and you are a favorite. He doesn't just love you; He delights in you. You are the apple of His eye! It's not just His love. He is so pleased with how He made you and He wants your soul to know

full well! (Notice ... Joseph is one of the few old testament saints that NEVER recorded as having FELL despite some very dire circumstances in his life! Could it be that the revelation of his father's distinct pleasure over him kept him from all manner of temptation?)

About 6 weeks ago, I was sharing some of these things with Megan and she said "enough! We have to meet with God!" So I am sitting there at the base of our one couch and I start using my imagination to invite God to meet with me. My friend Brian Orme says something that I think is very good ... that our imaginations have been given to us to help us explore our unity with Christ. So I start imagining in my mind's eye and can see / sense Heaven. It's not like I was taken to Heaven, I could just see it / imagine it.

Then I saw the Father get off the throne and He comes and sits next to me at the base of the couch. I object and say "God, you're on the throne, you don't need to come sit next to me, this seems like it's against your nature." I wanted to weigh everything with scripture. It's important. You don't just go and have encounters and not weight it against scripture. Joseph Smith will teach you that. I'm serious; if an angel of light comes and gives you something different than what scripture says ...

So I am weighing it against scripture and saying "Lord this doesn't seem like you ..." and God says this "it's totally within my nature to step off My throne and humble Myself and come down to be with man!" I said "You're right about that!"

So now I have the Father sitting on my right side and I am sitting next to Him and there is so much love here ... it's incredible. Then in my mind's eye Jesus is now on my left sitting next to me at the base of the couch as well. I then get this revelation that it's the grace of the Lord Jesus that's allowing me to be present here in the love of the Father. In other words, I had an invitation. His Son invited me to come into His presence. He bid me come. It's His grace that got me there, but in there in His love. BUT I am no longer just a visitor. I'm no longer just a visitor. I am there in Jesus' Name. I am there in Christ, but I am fully there. I am no longer just a visitor.

So I am there with the Father and the Son and I now have a new objection with God ... "God, Jesus is supposed to be on Your right hand, but He's on my left hand." I'm weighing it against scripture. I am having this encounter. It seems like it's God, but I don't want to make stuff up. So the Father is on my right and Jesus is on my left and all of our backs are against the base of the couch and I say "God, Jesus is supposed to be on Your right hand" and He shows us forming a circle and He says "He is."

God's right hand comes around and grabs Jesus and Jesus is on God's right hand. I say "OK!" I thought "God, this is incredible!" Then the Lord spoke the most beautiful thing to me ... He said "Peter, when the three of us are together ..." (meaning the Father, the Son and me) He said "the Trinity is here." I said "Oh my God, you are right, because the Holy Spirit is on the inside of me."

Then I shared this encounter / revelation to Megan after we are done having this time and she says “wait wait, there’s a verse!” John 14:23 says *“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.”* That’s what that means!

Holy Spirit is in us. The Father and the Son are knocking on the door of your heart and they want to come in and dine with you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

Our Destiny is Found in Responding to His Love!

These are invitations. Let’s look at 1 Corinthians 2:9 *“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”*

My eyes have not seen, nor my ears heard, nor entered into my heart what God has prepared for those who love Him. When you build a wall, the strength of the wall comes when everything gets stuck together. It’s the same way with scripture ... one verse by itself is powerful, but when you start to cross reference it (cross brace it) it becomes so much stronger yet.

So, if we combine 1 Cor. 2:9 with 1 John 4:19, we could accurately say *“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into my heart the things which God has prepared for me as I respond to His love.”* As I respond to God’s love towards me, I will love Him and when I love Him, 1 Cor. 2:9 opens up to me. So, the key to 1 Cor. 2:9 is actually found in responding to His love! In short, my destiny is found in responding to His love.

Sometimes there is revelation buried in a verse that is not there at face value. The religious complained about Jesus allowing people to worship Him to which He said *“Yes. Have you never read, ‘Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected **praise**?’”* (Mt. 21:16) The trouble is, that’s not what Psalms says. Jesus mis-quoted the Old Testament - because He had a revelation! Psalms 8:2 (which Jesus was quoting) actually says *“Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants you have ordained **strength**.”* Jesus said it, so guess what? There’s a connection between strength and praise that Jesus had a revelation of. There’s a connection there. Someone go find out what it is!

The point is that it can sometimes be hard to explain how you got a revelation from a specific verse!

Your destiny (the things God has planned for you) is found in responding to God’s love! If we realized this we would so value responding to His love because we would realize that our entire destiny lies in encounter and responding to His great love!

*“For I know the **plans I have for you**, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you **a future and a hope**.”* (Jer. 29:11, ESV) Again 1 Corinthians 2:9 says that God has prepared things for you ... that means He knows the plans He has for you! His plans are to give you a future and a hope. In other words, we can see that what 1 Corinthians 2:9 is talking about is HOPE.

So 1 Cor. 2:9 talks about the things God has prepared for those who are responding to His love - because they will be the ones that love Him. And in that verse He is talking about these hopeful things that God has prepared for you. Now, Romans 5:5 says “*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.*”

Hope actually comes from knowing, experiencing, and responding to God’s love. I remember many years ago I was telling someone “I just know that hope comes in the presence of the Lord!” Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give / impart to you the desires of your heart. Psalms 27:4 says that David specifically asked questions in the presence of God. He’s going to direct you with His eye. When you are near to God, when you are face-to-face with God, He directs you. He gives you hope.

Much of what the world classes as hope is not hope. It’s lust. Bigger, brighter, fancier, and sexier is not it. In other words “I have a gapping need for an encounter with the love of God in my life” (1 Jn. 2:15-16). If I have an unmet need to be beloved and well-pleasing I will do everything I can to position myself to somehow gain that from something in this World - from some person.

All the scandal that’s been exposed recently ... these are people (all the way around) that need the love of God! They are searching, searching, searching! And if woman 39 didn’t do it for them, woman 40 isn’t going to give them that thing they are looking for either. If 4 sports cars didn’t do it, the 5th won’t do it either. If the 3000 sq ft. house didn’t do it, then the 9000 sq ft. house won’t do it either. If the 5th island you bought didn’t do it, the 6th island won’t do it either. REMEMBER God delights in the prosperity of His servants so if you have money for an island, buy an island! But don’t buy an island to be beloved or well pleasing.

Hope like that (women, cars, houses, islands, things) is the worldly sort of hope and that’s the sort of hope that disappoints! Romans 5:5 “*Now **hope** does not disappoint, because **the love of God** has been poured out in our hearts...*” That sort of hope always ends in disappointment. These are the people, wealthy and famous but inwardly bankrupt. One of them, I read recently, said as their last words “so much wasted time.” These are people that sought after things that didn’t satisfy - they never satisfy ... but come to Me all who are thirsty! (Isaiah 55)

Those sort of hopes disappoint. But hope does NOT DISAPPOINT ... when??? Because “***the love of God** has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*” You can have hopes from Heaven once you have the love of God because the love of God satisfies all the desire for significance! It satisfies all the desire for being lovely. It satisfies all the desire for being well pleasing. And you stop trying to please through everything else. And all of a sudden you can have His sort of hopes. Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires (hopes) of your heart!

His sort of hopes come to pass and there is a great satisfaction in it! “Well done good and faithful servant.”

So when we have the love of God poured out in our hearts by Holy Spirit, our hope stops disappointing us. He delights in the prosperity of His servants but we are never going to be well pleasing because of something we bought. Jesus said that life does not consist in the abundance of things.

OK, so we've connected hope and love based on the scriptures. Now, let's look at how faith and hope go together. Hebrews 11:1 "*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*" (By the way, the more you are in the Word, the more raw material you provide the Holy Spirit to cross-reference and connect things in your thinking as you read the Word).

So, hope is found in responding to God's love. Hope does not disappoint when it is the sort of hope that is coming from a place from the love of God being shed abroad in your heart. Now faith is the substance of things hoped for.

So we see that love is actually driving hope and hope is the impetus for faith. Now we read Galatians 5:6 (KJV) "... ***faith which worketh by love.***" Love drives hope and hope is the impetus of faith. Faith works by love! Ephesians 6:23 "*Peace be to the brethren, and **love with faith**, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*" Faith is actually a tag-along with His love!

And here's one more! 1 Cor. 13:13 "*And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*" Why? Because you cannot have hope or faith from God without His love! Love truly is the greatest because it releases hope, which leads to faith!

Calling a Fast

What did Jesus do after He got a revelation of the Father's love in Matthew 3:16-17? He went and fasted in the wilderness. The idea of doing a corporate fast in the new year has been growing in my heart over the past month or so.

It's a voluntary corporate fast. No requirements, OK. It will be corporate fast if at least one other person does it with me. Revival is always personal revival leading to corporate revival.

Worth a note ... remember that both the impartation and faith school of thought for healing are right. There is potential weakness to both truths if they neglect the other truth. Similarly, there are two schools of thought about revival that both have a point. The one says "we need a revival!" The other says "revival is always available for us ... it's called the normal Christian life!" They are right.

So we don't really need to say that it's revival because it's just the normal Christian life as seen in Acts. That's helpful because if you focus on revival too heavily you can get into a mindset that thinks "it has to be a very special, sovereign move of God that may or may not be available right now." I'm

saying IT'S AVAILABLE! And ... if you talk to people that have been in revival they often say that there was something of His sovereignty to the move.

On the other hand, if we say "it's just the normal Christian life" the trouble is most of us and our brothers and sisters don't like saying that we live a sub-normal Christian life so we may not be hungry for more.

Revival is totally available to us, but there is something to us stepping into it!

With this fast, you're going to have to do what you have faith for. Anything done apart from faith is sin. Faith does come by hearing and hearing by the Word of God so I am going to teach from the Word of God on fasting!

Upcoming DATES

- Dec. 17th (11:30am) - Main Service (Love)
- Dec. 24th (4pm) - Christmas Eve Service
- Dec. 31st (11:30am) - Main Service (Fasting)
- Jan. 7th (11:30am) - Main Service (Fasting)
- **Jan 7th - 21st - Voluntary Corporate Fast**
- Jan. 13th (12-10pm) - TheCall / Revival Man
- Jan. 14th (10am) - House Church (Fasting)
- Jan. 19th (7-9pm) - Worship Night @ church
- Jan. 21st (11:30am) - Main Service (whole service worship)
- Jan. 28th - House Church (testimonies from / reflections on fast)

Short Summary

Authority is positional. As a believer, you are in Christ! That means that you are in His authority! You have the signet ring! When you pray and say “in Jesus’ Name” you are NOT using vain repetition as the heathens do. You are not heard because of many words. “IN JESUS’ NAME” is a statement of KNOWN AUTHORITY.

Colossians 3:1-3 says *“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. **Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.**”* We need to set our minds on things above! How can you set your mind on things above? Read the Word! Recite a memory verse! Speak about the things of God with another believer! Worship God! Or you can break out your secret weapon for heavenly-mindedness ... praying in the Spirit - praying in tongues!

Praying in tongues is a major way to keep yourself in the Love of God. Jude 20-21 *“But you, beloved, **building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.**”* Notice that you are called “beloved.” You are not just loved by God - your identity has become that of one who IS LOVED ... “beloved.” When you pray in the Holy Spirit we actually build ourselves up in our most holy faith. Every time you pray in tongues, it is evidence of the love that God has bestowed up on you - it’s evidence of your perfect acceptance before God. When you pray in tongues you are therefore inherently keeping yourself in the love of God! In fact, praying in the Spirit is the 7th piece of the armor of God! (Eph. 6:18)

If you can start your day with God, it’s powerful. One way that you can start with God - even before you open up your Bible, even before you get before Him in prayer, or anything else - you can have a declaration in the morning - a specific verse that you are declaring to shape your thinking before you let your mind go to anything else. Don’t turn to the news or open up Facebook or your email. Wake up and declare your destiny according to His Word and Will for your life!

Let’s look a bit further at 2 Corinthians 13:14 *“The **grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.**”* And John 14:23 says *“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.**”* As we experience the grace of the Lord Jesus, it invites us into the love of the Father which as we encounter His love for us and pleasure in us, draws us deeper into communion with the Holy Spirit! Holy Spirit is in us. The Father and the Son are knocking on the door of your heart and they want to come in and dine with you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

Hope actually comes from knowing, experiencing, and responding to God's love. (1 Cor. 2:9 and Rom. 5:5) Hope does not disappoint when it is the sort of hope that is coming from a place from the love of God being shed abroad in your heart. Faith is the substance of things hoped for. So we see that love is actually driving hope and hope is the impetus for faith. Put together, we see that faith is actually a tag-along with His love! And here's one more! 1 Cor. 13:13 *"And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."* Why? Because you cannot have hope or faith from God without His love! Love truly is the greatest because it releases hope, which leads to faith!

What did Jesus do after He got a revelation of the Father's love in Matthew 3:16-17? He went and fasted in the wilderness. The idea of doing a corporate fast in the new year has been growing in my heart over the past month or so. It's a voluntary corporate fast. No requirements, OK? It will be corporate fast if at least one other person does it with me. With this fast, you should do what you have faith for. Anything done apart from faith is sin. Faith does come by hearing and hearing by the Word of God so I am going to teach from the Word of God on fasting!