



God's Resources for Life and Healing

Part 7E: Love

We have spent a number of issues of *Prayer Matters* looking at the enormous gift of God's love for us and how it enriches our lives and informs the plans that He has for us from eternity past to eternity future. In this issue I want to look at how His love is able to transform our lives into His very image—if we allow it to do so.

God's love brings us into an incredible, spiritual relationship with Himself. Not only do we enter into His family as His own children (John 1:12; Eph. 1:5; 1 John 3:1), but we share the spiritual heritage and position of Jesus Christ Himself in the heavenlies (Rom. 8:17; Eph. 2:4-7). Both of these positions provide direct access to God and allow us to receive from Him everything we need to live triumphantly through the turmoils of earthly life with the potential to experience many rich spiritual blessings of the heavenly realm as well (John 10:10b; Eph. 1:3; Heb. 10:19-22; 2 Pet. 1:3).

The Holy Spirit plays a key role in this as He unites with our own spirit at salvation (1 Cor. 6:17). This not only connects us to the rest of the Godhead but *brings God right into our being* with the ability to transform our lives from the inside (Gal. 5:22-23; 2 Peter 1:4). How different this is from the Old Testament saints, who could only attempt to live holy lives by obeying external commandments! The dynamic of the indwelling Holy Spirit fulfills God's promise to put His laws within us and to write them on our hearts (Jer. 31:33). The Holy Spirit doesn't contradict the Old Testament Law but provides a totally different way to fulfill it (Matt. 5:17-18; Rom. 8:3-4).

If only we could fully realize the treasure that is within us in the form of the Holy Spirit! Too many Christians have not experienced the transforming power of the Holy Spirit within them because they have not developed the necessary disciplines to bring this about. If we live our lives consumed by what is occurring in the Satan-drenched circumstances of earthly life, we gain no benefit from God's presence in us. Only when we deliberately turn the attention of our minds and our hearts from that which we can see in the earthly realm to that which is unseen, but just as real, in the heavenly realm can we move from living in the flesh to living in the spirit. This step is absolutely necessary to be able to connect with the divine resources and transforming power of God, *who is in us* (Gal. 5:16; Col. 3:1-2). Doing this will greatly change our perspective and bring us a new level of supernatural peace, comfort, assurance, and even courage.

The more we allow ourselves to experience this, the more our understanding of, and love for, God will grow as well as our faith in His never failing presence and adequacy for our needs. To have our character transformed at the deepest level, however, we must not just drink in His love externally but also surrender our hearts and all that we are to Him. This is the act that will allow us to be filled with the fullness of His Spirit and to experience the highest, broadest, and deepest dimensions of His love (1 John 4:16-17; Eph. 3:14-19; 5:18; Col. 2:9-10). This allows His internal presence to so overshadow our souls and spirits that it brings them into harmony with His own Spirit, resulting in the natural outflow of His holiness and divine love from our lives (Rom. 12:1-2; Gal. 5:22-23; Phil. 1:9-11).

God's ultimate goal for us, as expressed in the previous edition of this newsletter, is for us to be completely "like Him" and to share in all that He is throughout eternity (1 John 3:2). Bringing ourselves into union with the fullness of the Holy Spirit within us and surrendering wholly to Him brings us the closest we will get to sharing in God's very presence and nature here on earth. *The more we live in this state, the more we will be transformed into His likeness* (2 Cor. 3:18).