A Truly Repentant/ Reconsecrated Heart

(Commits To Love As God Loves Us)

(JOHN 15:12)(1 JOHN 4:21)

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We should want to offer special praise notes for the way God is working in the lives of His people, everyone who (on a profession of repentance), has surrendered their self-will to do God's will in their life, (as inspired by divine love in their heart). Everyone in whom God can possibly find the opportunity to work with us, God is doing that for us as He promised. That is because He loves us (as Jesus said), as much as He loves Him. That is a perfect love!...and it is almost unbelievable that God loves us as much as He loves His only Son. And, the Bible says, that we should love each other as much as Jesus loved us. (He even went to the Cross to die in our place).

There is only one possible way that we can truly love each other. In and of ourselves we could not possibly love one another as Christ loves us. We could not (of ourselves) take the first step toward doing so. We have to get that ability to meet each other right (in the true Bible way), and so be enabled by God's Spirit to love each other as Jesus loved us.

We have to begin (by our freewill choice) to abide in Christ and continue to abide in Him (in a life of faith), until we are developed by the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit into His image. Just to the extent that we willingly abide in the image of Christ (and desire to do His will only in our life), to that extent we will act like He did. We will be inspired and enabled to love as He loved, when our repentance is sincere, and our commitment is real and final. It could not be otherwise, because God is a Master workman and a great teacher for any surrendered and willing soul.

Jesus told us the soul-saving story in (John 15:), (and He gave us God's whole plan for our heart to be transformed into having a Christlike love within). (1-2) *"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vine-dresser."* (To be the vine-dresser means that God personally tends to each branch of the vine so we can grow in faith and prosper in the Truth, because He does not want any soul to perish). *"Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit."* (We only have to make our choice to repent, a final surrender of our life, and be willing to do God's will,.. and He will do the rest). (4-5) *"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me."* (Abide in, means to continue). Another rendering of verse 4, says, *"Continue in me, and let me continue in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself—that is, if it does not continue in the vine—so neither can you if you do not continue in me."*

(The branch that separates from the vine can bear no fruit, but Jesus said(verse 5), *"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides (or continues) in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without(or apart from) Me, you can do nothing."*

For us to abide in Christ begins with real repentance and a whole-hearted surrender, placing ourselves in God's hands just as a scholar places him/herself under the direction of a teacher, or an apprentice places himself under direction of an employer. Then our love for God (and for each other) can be made perfect. God loves us so much that He will do His very best to train us and to teach us. It could not be otherwise (than for Him to do His best for and with us).

There is really nothing strange or different about the way God will teach and train us to love one another, as He prepares us for Eternal Life. If we will just commit ourselves into His hands to be taught and trained by Him (to live a life of faith on His Son and the power of His resurrection), God will abide in us as we abide in Him. Our faith in the resurrected Christ should cover every thing (and situation) that confronts us in our life. God will enable us to understand that, as He also perfects our love for Him (and for our fellow man).

Only God (through His Holy Spirit) can bring us to that place of trust on His Son, and to a realization of the power of His Atonement

Blood(shed in our behalf). It is God's new covenant plan for all true believers, (for Jesus said), *"This cup is the new Covenant ratified by my blood which is to be poured out on your behalf."*

We must come to the place that we truly comprehend God's new Covenant plan, and what Jesus really meant in saying that His blood would be poured out on our behalf. The power of His Atonement Blood covers everything in a life of faith on God's Son, and faith on what His resurrection to Life really means and has accomplished for us.

Jesus said that His Father is the vine-dresser (or gardener) and any branch that bears any fruit at all, He works with it and prunes it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

He also said (7-8), *"If you abide(or continue) in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples."* That text (rightly understood), means that if you continue in the hands of God (to abide in Christ or in union with Jesus the Christ), and, the Bible teaching of His Word continues to develop within you, you will come to the place where you will know how to pray right (and with right motives), and to know how to meet God's easy conditions to receive from Him. You will be brought to the place where (as Jesus said), you can ask for anything you need, and it will be done for you. That means spiritually, for our family, for our body, our financial affairs, and everything else. It is our divine privilege and a blood-bought right to have every prayer answered. If we meet God's easy conditions, He will answer that prayer made in faith.

The fact is, there is not a Scriptural prayer offered that is not answered, and since God knows our heart, then He knows our motive for making our request for those things that we need or want. However, everything that we need would be a Scriptural prayer to be answered. The only question is, the answer getting in on the receiving end.

When a delivery person brings goods to your home and comes to your door with what you have already paid for, the only question that remains would be the receiving (or the accepting) of the goods. Every thing that we need or every Scriptural desire, every answer to our prayer, and the grace to receive it, has been knocking at our door, and waiting for us to accept it. That is how definitely we should believe that our prayer is already answered. And our prayers have been answered through the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world).

It is not any new thing, that we ask for and receive from God, no matter whether it be spiritually, for our bodies, for our homes, for money, for deliverance out of trouble, (or anything else). We are to believe that our prayer has been answered when we pray, and that we are receiving something that has been on deposit with God for us. Every thing that we need (or Scriptural desires we have), has been knocking at our door. That is very important for us to understand!!! God has placed those things there through the great work of Jesus Christ. His presence with us (as our great Teacher), is to enable us to see how to receive every need that has already been provided for us. We need to be taught how to enter into every Atonement right in Christ (and how to receive it by faith).

Of themselves, a person is ignorant of these facts (which is a serious condition to be in), a condition that is made so because of listening to the lies of the devil. (2 Cor.4:3-4), *"If, however, the meaning of our Good News has been veiled, the veil has been on the hearts of those who are on the way to perdition, in whom the god of this present age has blinded their unbelieving minds, so as to shut out the sunshine of the Good News of the glory of the Christ, who is the image of God."*

But God has revealed the meaning of the Good News to the "believer" by His Spirit (vs.6) *"For God who said "Out of darkness let light shine" is He who has shone in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory which is radiant on the face of Christ."*

The believer must remember that the Holy Spirit does not enter any life that is not willing to follow God's Word and is not willing to accept it as their rule of life. God gives the Holy Spirit to all those who are willing to obey Him, and God and His services are a free gift. We have a blood-bought right to have the Holy Spirit to guide us, (and God is infinitely more anxious

for us to have that guidance than we are to receive it). The power of God within us (His enlightenment, His strength, and His ability), enables us to enter into these great gifts, because "God has revealed them to us through His Spirit".

That means people who gave their life back to God to receive the Spirit, because Scripture says (1 Cor.2:11-12) *"Even so no one knows the things of God, except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God."*

The Spirit's presence in our heart inspires us with divine love for God (and for each other), which opens the way for God's power to work for us, and the Spirit is freely given to all who will repent, surrender their life to God, and believe for that Spirit.

We ask God for wisdom to know whether it is His will for us to have or to get something. If it is not His will then we should not want to have it in the first place. When we pray for the Spirit's guidance, we are to believe that He will make known His will for us. The Spirit gives us a feeling of ownership so that "we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God."

Ownership is a great foundation for faith (even in human affairs) for it means that anything that you know is yours, and that you have a lawful right to have, you can ask for, believe, and receive it. We are not asking God to give us something that does not belong to us (like a creditor asking from a bank). Rather, we go to God in prayer because Jesus paid for it, and it is already ours, ..(like a depositor going to a bank positively sure that they can get that which is already in their account). The banker is only the custodian.

It is the same with every Scriptural need from God because it is already ours. A fabulous price was paid for it through Jesus' Blood, and God, Himself would not keep it from us, if we have faith to take receipt of it. We have a legal Blood-bought right to have every need and Scriptural request, because it is already paid for (and is on deposit for us).

Aside from that, we have God's great love for us, which is infinitely more eager for us to enter into our inheritance, into God's righteousness, His peace, health, protection, and needed finances, .. than we are to receive it. Any problem with the believer taking receipt of something that is already their inheritance through Christ, is always on the receiving end.

God is doing His best to train us how to receive by faith, and He is using every circumstance of life that we meet with each day, to teach us. There is not a moment that God is not using something to teach and develop us in our Christian life of faith.

We have to be alert and aware, that there may be a suggestion of Satan in our mind, trying to get our attention to deceive us, to get us on the wrong track, and away from faith to receive our inheritance in Christ. In our case, it may be a circumstance that is very annoying or unpleasant to us. It could be in our household, the workshop, neighborhood, or elsewhere(which is permitted by God for our spiritual good). However, God's presence and guidance is promised to those who will believe and obey Him, and He uses every circumstance in our life to teach us how to meet it right, (and thus, enable us to grow and develop in faith.)

Every time we have any trouble or question of any kind, and we go to God and get a deliverance from Him, our faith is greatly increased, our spiritual light and strength is developed, and we are brought nearer to the image of Christ (and nearer to being prepared for Eternal Life).

We all have to be rid of the last human thing of any kind that we have depended upon (for things that we desire). God will bring us to that place if we allow Him to do so. It is having the self-life removed from our heart, and that is something that we must allow the Holy Spirit to accomplish within our heart (for Him to prepare us for Eternal Life). This will mean that we would rather die than to trust in anybody but God, or to disobey His Word. *"If you love me, you will obey my commandments."(*John 14:15).

God's Word is like a wilderness as far as human help is concerned. It teaches us to trust in God alone, just as wandering in a wilderness taught the Israelites. It eliminates every human plan for help, and that is very important. You

could search the Bible from beginning to end, and you will not find one place for a human effort (plan or power). The Word of God, presents the living God, as our only helper.

The greatest gift of the Atonement (and, the most valuable gift), is the presence and power of God, Himself to guide us. (Think of it), the Maker of Heaven and earth, everything that is in them (rocks, trees, ocean, mountains, cold and heat), and the creation of human life (the most wonderful of all His creation). The God who made all of these things has promised to guide us (if we will allow Him to do so). (John 16:13), *"But when He has come—the Spirit of Truth—He will guide you into all the truth."*

God has proved to anyone who will listen, that regardless of the difficulty that Adam plunged us into, or what dangerous a place we may find ourselves, He can deliver us out of it (if we will repent). He will not only deliver us, but He will teach us how to 'receive our victory by faith'. That is what God can do for any willing and believing soul!!

God proved that He can do anything for us (beyond all shadow of doubt), by the resurrection of Christ from the dead. Man's greatest enemy the devil (all the opposition and power of God's enemies in the world, flesh and the devil and death in itself), tried to hold God's only Son, Jesus Christ, in death in the grave. However, without any difficulty (almost instantly), God raised Him from the dead (to Life).

Well, if God delivered Jesus Christ from such a place as that, there is not anything that could happen that God could not deliver us out of. And, to turn it into a blessing for us as He did for His Son.

All that God's Word ever teaches, is that we are to trust in God alone. Trusting God would be obeying Him, and it would prove that our love for Him and His Word is being made perfect(while He also inspires us with a love for each other). The Bible says that we should love each other as much as Jesus loved us, because (Jesus said), that God loves us as much as He loves Him. That is a 'perfect love'! .. and we are to be like Him.

When the image of Jesus Christ is developed in our heart, it enables us to take a correct and right attitude of love toward God and to our fellow-men. Our believing God's Word about His Son (our repenting, and, having a willingness to learn about having divine love in our heart), allows us to receive the 'gift of the Holy Spirit' to lead us to our goal of Eternal Life. 'The goal to which God is working (if we will allow Him), is to bring us to that place where we will be rid of every source of human help (and every human thing we are depending on), until we are fully dependent on the living God alone.

That is being made into the image of Christ, which would surely inspire divine love within our heart. And it will mean our full Atonement inheritance in Christ, perfect happiness here, and best of all it will mean our preparation for 'Eternal Life'.

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