

“Christ Liveth in Me” Pt. 3 (conclusion)

Sermon By John G. Lake

From “Spiritual Hunger”, Chapter 3 by Gordon Lindsay

MANKIND’S SUPREME NEED IS LOVE:

There is one great thing that the world is needing more than anything else, and I am convinced of it every day I live.

Mankind has one supreme need, and that is the Love of God.
The hearts of men are dying for lack of the Love of God.

My sister who lives in Detroit came to Milwaukee to visit us for two or three days at a convention there. As I watched her, I said, “I would like to take her along and just have her love folks. She would not need to preach to them.”

It is not the words you say that are going to bless them. They are in need of something greater - love. They have to receive it. THEN their soul will open and there will be a divine response.

Give it to them; it is the Love of Christ.

You have seen people who loved someone who would not respond. If there is any hard situation on God’s earth, that is it - to love someone passionately and find no response in them.

I was present at the marriage of an English friend of mind. Some years later he and his wife came to visit in our home. He was the cold type of Englishman, and his wife was the warm type. One day as they started out for a walk, I noticed the passionate yearning in her soul. If he would just say something tender, something that would gratify the craving of her nature for affection. But he seemed to be completely unconscious of the need.

I was sitting on the front porch when they returned from their walk. After the lady had gone into the house I said, “Hibbs you are one old stiff. How is it possible that you can

walk down the street with a woman like your wife and not realize that her heart is crying out for you to do something that shows you love her?"

He said, "Do you think that is the difficulty? I will go and do it now."

What is it men are seeking?

What is it their hearts are asking for when they are seeking God?

What is their soul crying for?

Mankind is separated from God. It may not be mountains of sin between you and God. It may just be that your nature is closed and unresponsive. But when the real Love-touch of God is breathed into your soul, what a transformation takes place! There is probably no more delightful thing on earth than to watch a soul praying when the light of God comes in, and the Life of God fills his nature, and that holy affection we seek from others finds expression in Him.

That is what the Lord is asking from you, and if you want to gratify the heart of Jesus Christ, that is the only way in all the world to do it.

*The invitation is not, "Give me thine head."
The invitation is, "My son, give me thine heart."*

THAT is an affectionate relationship, A REAL LOVE-UNION IN GOD.
A REAL LOVE-UNION WITH GOD.

Think of the fineness of God's purpose:

He expects that same marvelous spiritual union that is brought to pass between your soul and His own (He expects that) to be extended, so that you embrace in **that union** every other soul around you.

That is what the Scripture means when it talks about being baptized in One Spirit....
Submerged,
enveloped,
and enveloping (others) in One Spirit of God.

THE CASE OF THE INSANE GIRL:

While in Milwaukee recently, I went out one morning with the Rev. (Cyrus) Fockler to make a sick call. We stepped into one of the most distracted home I have ever been in. A strange condition had developed in one of the daughters, and the household was distressed. She had tormented that household. Nobody could get near her.

They were German people, so Brother Fockler spoke to them in German. I just sat back and watched. Presently I noticed their faces begin to relax, and the strain was gone. The girl that was apparently insane came down the stairs and stood outside the door where she could not be seen except by me. He continued to converse with the family and as their souls soften and their faith lifted, the girl's eyes began to change.

She was moved upon by the Holy Spirit until her nature responded too, and in a little while she stepped into the room. She slipped up behind Brother Fockler's chair and stood with her hands on the back of the chair. After awhile she rested one hand on his shoulder. Then after a little while she put the other hand on the other shoulder.

When we left that home some 15 or 20 minutes later, there was as much difference between the attitudes of those dear souls when we came and when we left, as between heaven and hell.

If hell has a characteristic, it is that of distraction.

If heaven has a particular characteristic, it is the presence of God, the calm of God, the Love of God.

There were days when the church could club men into obedience by preaching hell to them, but that day has long since passed. The world has outgrown it.

Men are discovering there is only one way, and that is the Jesus way.

Jesus did not come with a club, but with the great loving heart of the Son of God....He was 'moved with compassion'.

This morning I lay in bed and wrote a letter, an imaginary letter to a certain individual. I was getting ready, so when I came down in the morning I could dictate the sentences that would carve him right. One of the phrases was, "You great big calf, come out of it and be a man."

As I lay there, I got to thinking, "If Jesus were writing this letter, I wonder what He would write?"

But somehow the words would not frame themselves. My soul was not in an attitude to produce such a letter.

So I came downstairs, called Edna and began to dictate. I was trying to dictate a letter *in the Spirit of Jesus, but it sounded more like a lawyer*. After she had it written and gave it to me to sign, I read it over and saw it was not what I wanted to write at all. I laid it aside and went in to pray a little while.

After I had been praying for twenty minutes, the telephone rang. It was the man to whom I had just dictated the letter. He wanted me to come down and join him at the Davenport Hotel. I joined him and we had three of the best hours of fellowship together!

We boast of our spiritual experiences, *but* it is only once in awhile that we find ourselves in the REAL LOVE OF GOD.

The greater part of the time we are in ourselves rather than in Him.

This proves just one thing: THAT CHRIST HAS NOT YET SECURED

- THAT PERFECT CONTROL IN OUR LIFE,
- THAT SUBJECTION OF OUR NATURE,
- THAT ABSORPTION OF OUR INDIVIDUALITY,
- **so that** HE IS ABLE TO IMPREGNATE IT **AND** MAINTAIN IT IN HIMSELF.

We recede.

We draw back.

We close up.

We imprison our Lord.

THE SECRET OF A GOSPEL MEETING
IS
THAT IT ASSISTS
MEN'S HEARTS TO OPEN.

They become receptive, and the Love of God finds vent in their nature for a little while and they go away saying: "Didn't we have a good time! Wasn't that a splendid meeting?"

REACHING YOUR FAMILY THROUGH LOVE:

I wonder if there is anything that could not be accomplished through the Love of God?

Paul says there is not: "Love never faileth...."

Try it on your wife.

Try it on your children.

Try it on your neighbors.

I sometimes say that I believe I had the hardest boys to handle that were ever born. They were strictly like the old man. After awhile I saw there was only one way under God's earth to handle them.

One day I went off to pray, and I said, "Lord God, help me to love these boys regardless of what they do or say."

I had to love them in some dreadful places, some awful circumstances. They tried me to the limit on that prayer. Then the other day they all happened to drop into Spokane while we were away, and in a few days I received a letter from Edna. She said, "Dad, your ears must be warm. The Lake clan got together and we sat all night discussing you. And you would not have to apologize if you heard it."

There is only one way to tie your boys to you.

There is only one way to tie your girls to you.

There is only one way to be a blessing to them.

But it takes so much of the grace of God, and we sometimes despair and break down.

One day I said, "God, I have prayed for these fellows until I am prayed up, and I just take the whole bunch and hand them over to You. I give the whole outfit to You. They are too much for me."

And you know, my troubles somehow dissolved. They began to disappear.

Sometimes we need to comprehend the bigger Love, the greater heart of God's Love.

It is a good thing to detach your soul.

Do not hold people.

Do not bind people.

Just cut them loose and let God's Love have them.

Sometimes we hold people with such a grip when we pray for them that they miss the blessing. Then your humanity is exercising itself, and the Spirit is being submerged.

Let your soul relax and let the Spirit of God in you take over.

There is no substitute for the Love of God. You have the capacity to love.

All the action of the Spirit of God has it secret there.

THE HEALING OF THE DYING WOMAN:

I once stood by a dying woman who was suffering and writhing in awful agony. I had prayed again and again with no results. But this day, something happened inside of me.

My soul broke down, and I saw that poor woman in a new light. Before I knew it I reached out and gathered her up to my own soul. In a minute I knew the real thing had taken place, and I laid her back on the pillow.

In five minutes she was well.

God was waiting on me,
until He could give to my soul
the sense of tenderness that was in the Son of God.

That is the reason His Name is written in imperishable memory,
and the Name of Jesus Christ
is the most revered name in earth or sea or sky.

And I am eager to get
in that category of folks
who can manifest the real Love of God
ALL THE TIME.

